

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS COURT OF VAN ZANDT COUNTY  
9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2024**

The Commissioners' Court of Van Zandt County met at the above-named date and time in the County Courtroom in the Van Zandt County Courthouse in Canton, Texas. Members present were County Judge Andy Reese, Commissioner Pct. #1 Chad LaPrade, Commissioner Pct. #2 Cliff Williams, Commissioner Pct. #3 Keith Pearson and Commissioner Pct. #4 Brandon Barton. Notice was given by posting in compliance with Section 551.041 of the Government Code on all the following before the Court for consideration:

**CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE QUORUM.** 9:04 A.M. All present.

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.** County Judge Andy Reese recognized Jill Dutton and Brent Money. State Representative Jill Dutton gave a presentation and recognized Commissioner Pct. 1 Chad LaPrade and Commissioner Pct. 3 Keith Pearson.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY).** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED ROUTINE BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION.*

*THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS THE COUNTY JUDGE, OR A COMMISSIONER REQUESTS AN ITEM BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.*

**A.) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER DISPENSING WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING(S) OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT AND APPROVAL OF SAME FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2024, DECEMBER 4, 2024, AND DECEMBER 11, 2024.** Corrections need to be made in the minutes for the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**B.) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RATIFYING OF COUNTY'S BILLS AS SUBMITTED**

**C.) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY2025 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**

**D.) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND APPROVAL ENTRY OF SAME IN THE COURT'S MINUTES AS A MATTER OF RECORD.**

**E.) DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PIPE AND/OR UTILITY LINES**

Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Keith Pearson. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTING JACK EVANS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE VAN ZANDT COUNTY SARAH NORMAN LIBRARY REPRESENTING PRECINCT 4 FOR A 3-YEAR TERM TO START 01/2025.** Presented by Emily Manning. Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and seconded by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A POSITION OF YOUTH DIVERSION COORDINATOR IN COMPLIANCE WITH HB 3186 WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$40,425 WITH THE COUNTY INITIALLY FUNDING UP TO \$50,000 OF THE PROGRAM BUDGET WHILE GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE MADE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE PROGRAM FUNDING.** Judge Shinn, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 spoke. Motion to approve by Commissioner Chad LaPrade and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND APPROVE LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS RELATED TO THE CREATION AND FUNDING OF THE YOUTH DIVERSION COORDINATOR POSITION.** Judge Shinn, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 spoke. Motion to approve \$47,950 in funding by Commissioner Cliff Williams and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE CREATION OF YOUTH DIVERSION BOARD TO OVERSEE YOUTH DIVERSION COORDINATOR AND YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM.** Judge Shinn, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 spoke. The board will have representatives from Class C 9 courts JP, Law Enforcement, Legal, Municipal Judge and a Commissioner Court member. Commissioner Brandon Barton will serve on the board. Motion to approve by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXCEEDING 25% OF BUDGET FOR LINE ITEM 132-560-454 (AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE).** Motion to approve by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EXCEEDING 25% OF BUDGET FOR LINE ITEM 131-512-450 (JAIL).** Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Keith Pearson. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR JUDGE REESE TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR BI-ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE PURGE FAN SYSTEM AT THE VAN ZANDT COUNTY JAIL BY CONSOLIDATED REFRIGERATION TECHNOLOGIES.** Motion to approve monthly fee of \$93.33 by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PURCHASE OF SHOP EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT FROM ARPA INTEREST FUNDS.** Motion to approve equipment for roughly \$55,000 by Commissioner Chad LaPrade and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER EXTENDING BUILDING LEASE FOR THE USE IN THE RADIO PROJECT IN WILLS POINT FROM ARPA INTEREST FUNDS.** Commissioner Keith Pearson will contact Charlie Ellis to inform him that Van Zandt County will extend the building lease to the end of March 2025. Motion to approve Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTING COMMITTEE FOR INTERVIEWING FIRE MARSHALL POSITION.** Motion to appoint Chad LaPrade, Cliff Williams and Bobby Phillips until December 31<sup>st</sup> by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF VAN.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Keith Pearson. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SUBDIVISION VARIANCE FOR SCOTT MCGRIFF IN PRECINCT 3.**

Motion to approve variance tied to the legal property of 150 acres located at 299 VZCR 3611 to be used as an Event Center along with 12 RV sites with no long-term leasing by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. After discussion Commissioner Keith Pearson amended the motion to read Exempt the property at 299 VZ CR 3611 Edgewood TX 75117 from the RV Park plating requirements for so long as lots are leased only in conjunction with events conducted at the location second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DOMANCE GLAMPING PLAT LOCATED ON VZCR 3816 IN PRECINCT 3.** Motion to approve for filing purposes by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WOODCREEK ESTATES, PHASE II PLAT LOCATED ON VZCR 4106 IN PRECINCT 3.** Motion for a public hearing on January 29<sup>th</sup> and withdrawal of prior approval by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR ESD #1.** Motion to appoint Andrea Pickens and Samuel Spencer by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR ESD #2.** Motion to appoint Bobby Colacino, Steve Erwin and Lance Mayhugh by Commissioner Cliff Williams and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR ESD #3.** Motion to appoint Brian Cummins, Heath Morris and Sue Baugh by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR ESD #4.** Motion to appoint Ray Thomason by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE (1) 6 MONTH LEASE AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT CONCERNING BELLY DUMP TRAILER FROM BRAZOS TRAILERS FOR PRECINCT 3.** Motion to authorize Judge Andy Reese to sign the lease agreement and approve the payment by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Chad LaPrade. All voted in favor.

**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MEETING WITH POTENTIAL FINANCIAL ADVISORS AND BOND COUNSEL BOARD.** Motion to appoint Tonda Curry to select bond council and to set a workshop to be held in executive session to be followed in open session on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 A.M. A workshop to consider a professional service agreement with Brandon Barton & Tonda Curry as a financial advisory company to be held on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and legal/bond council by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:** in compliance with Section 551.0725 of the Texas Government Code, to conduct a closed meeting to deliberate business and financial issues relation to a contract being negotiated. Closed session entered at 10:30 A.M. began at 10:38 A.M.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:** to consider action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session. Reconvened 11:14 A.M. actual start time 11:16 A.M. Motion to table item(s) from the Closed Executive Session to January 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chad LaPrade. Motion dies due to lack of second.

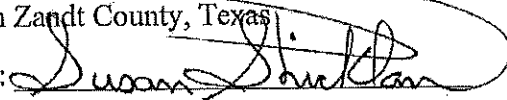
**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO SIGN CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 1930 TRADE DAYS BLVD, CANTON, TX AND AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF \$60,000 FOR EARNEST MONEY.** The county will have 75 days to do an evaluation of the building. The price of the building would be 1/3 of a new build. Motion to table by Commissioner Chad LaPrade and dies due to lack of a second. Motion to approve by Commissioner Cliff Williams and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor except for Commissioner Chad LaPrade.

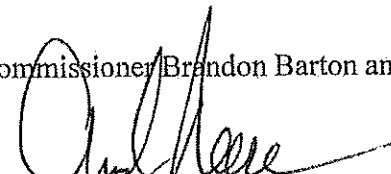
**DISCUSS AND APPROVE LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS RELATED TO THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1930 TRADE DAYS BLVD, CANTON, TX 75103.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

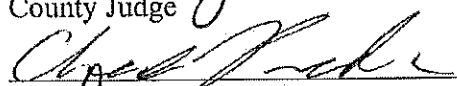
**DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COUNTY'S BILLS FOR PAYMENT AS SUBMITTED.** Motion to approve by Commissioner Keith Pearson and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

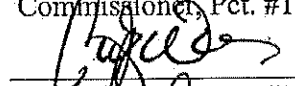
**ADJOURNMENT. 11:37 A.M.** Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Brandon Barton and second by Commissioner Keith Pearson. All voted in favor.


Susan Strickland, County Clerk  
Van Zandt County, Texas

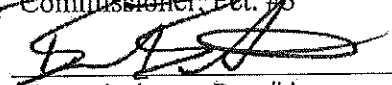
BY: 

  
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County Judge

  
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Commissioner, Pct. #1

  
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Commissioner, Pct. #2

  
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Commissioner, Pct. #3

  
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Commissioner, Pct. #4