

**SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2012**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012, the **HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT** of Bowie County, Texas met in **SPECIAL SESSION** at the Courthouse of said County in New Boston, Texas after due notice had been posted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012 with the **HONORABLE JUDGE STERLING LACY** present and presiding with the following Commissioners being present.

<b>Jack Stone</b>	<b>Commissioner Pct. #1</b>
<b>Pete Snow</b>	<b>Commissioner Pct. #2</b>
<b>Kelly Blackburn</b>	<b>Commissioner Pct. #3</b>
<b>Pat McCoy</b>	<b>Commissioner Pct. #4</b>

Also in attendance were the following County Officials: Auditor William Tye, County Clerk Denise Thornburg and the following staff members also present on the dais: Purchasing Agent Chris Goodsell and Administrative Assistant Rachael Cherry.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Court convened at 10:02 A.M. when the following **ORDERS, JUDGMENTS AND DECREES** were had and **ORDERED** spread upon the minutes of the Court to-wit.

**Item 1:** There were no Public Comments.

**Item 2:** There were no Commissioners Court response to Public Comments.

**Item 3:** On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012, a motion was made by Judge Lacy and duly second by Commissioner Pat McCoy, with the one adjustment from Fund Balance, \$5,884 on the Revenue side, with that gone and \$5,884 taken from Pct. 3 Expenses, that we adopt a budget as outlined in the two summary sheets, thus the approval of the 2012-2013 Bowie County Revenue and Expense Budget. Judge Lacy wanted to comment and stated that there were some misjudgments in his proposed budget that he had offered on September, 24, 2012. The revenue from the sale of one of Commissioner McCoy's motor graders was in the revenue side but was not given credit on the expense side. He was under the assumption that it was taken care of in this budget year we are in now and that revenue and expense took place this budget year. After the last session was over with, the Auditor helped Judge Lacy figure out that we did have the income for that in the next budget year and we have to have the expenses there. Judge Lacy also stated that he was being very careful to try and preserve the value of the County's asset in the equipment and the buy-back amount of money that is guaranteed to come in, when that equipment goes back. Something that Commissioner McCoy said in Monday's session helped Judge Lacy see that we could use the buy-back money without using it up. He also indicated that he was unaware that there was a Road and Bridge Lateral Fund that amounted to \$346,000 and he has been doing some figuring and if

the Commissioners decided to allow Commissioner McCoy to use 30% (the ratio is divided that way in this fund between the precincts), the Commissioners of that fund that it would give Commissioner his full request to his budget hopefully without having to strip any other funds from any other departments.

Another thing that Judge Lacy noticed between the first draft and the one that was submitted this past Monday, \$104,374 was dropped from expected revenue from Corrections and he is proposing that this amount of money be put back in. What this will do, as stated in the summary, will give Commissioner McCoy all of the money he asked for in Pct. 4 for his equipment; Commissioner Blackburn Pct. 3, it will give the \$20,000 that was asked for and then graciously said, if he didn't get it he would get by without it, they will restore that. Pct. 1, restore the amount allowed in expenses back to last year's budget level; Pct. 2, it will restore budget to last year's budget. It will also allow \$58,000 for a narcotics officer for the Sheriff's Department that will be an Investigator's salary of approximately \$40,000 per year, employee benefits of approximately \$7,400 and a car allowance for approximately \$10,000, which is the same as an Investigator gets. The other departments will not have any of their funds stripped away except the \$50,000 from the Auditor's Office. The vendor will allow us \$75,000 this year and \$50,000 or as much as \$75,000 next year. The proposed budget will be a balanced budget within about \$6,000 and that will be worked on during this session. Under this proposal, the employees will get a 3% cost of living increase. Commissioner Pat McCoy discussed and explained the how the figure came about regarding the sales tax. Judge Lacy asked Auditor William Tye: "Is it your judgment that we have indeed, in this budget allowed the funds that Commissioner McCoy was asking for, for his Precinct?" Mr. Tye's response: "Uh huh, I don't know if we have reached his total, but with that \$106,000 Lateral Road and Bridge, if it goes towards that, yeah we'll get real close". Commissioner McCoy: "Getting close and taking care of our equipment, we have to be fairly accurate". Judge Lacy talked about the Transportation Code in regarding the Lateral Road and Bridge Fund. Commissioner McCoy indicated that he was still about \$25,000 short in his budget and he will find a spot for it to make up for it. After he looked at the budget more closely he wants to make sure that in Intergovernmental Cooperation, that we are not cutting any funding to any transportation related alliances or coalitions that we are members of. Judge Lacy indicated that we are indeed making cuts, High Speed Rail program, we've paid \$75,000 in and we owe \$10,000 a year on that, the cities around us were going to contribute \$15,000 a year, they have contributed a total of \$12,500 in a three year period of time. We are actually paid up for three years on that. Commissioner McCoy was satisfied with that. He inquired about I-69 and Tex 21. Judge Lacy said, regarding I-69, there was nothing in it and Tex 21 has \$5,000 in it. Commissioner McCoy stated that it was an opportunity for us to have a say in the transportation needs and future needs of Bowie County. After further discussions about the budget and restoring \$28,000 to the Intergovernmental Cooperation from Professional Services; included health insurance; included an additional employee to the Sheriff's Department; restored the County Clerk's Chief Deputy position; restored Treasurer's needs; we have spread out, over two years the Auditor's software needs, the costs there; restored Pct. 1, Pct. 2, Pct. 3 restored and Pct. 4 is somewhere in the \$25,000 short but will figure out a way to do that. Judge Lacy has one more adjustment to make, on Revenue from Fund Balance \$5,884; he asks, if one of the Commissioners that has had some money restored to, if they would be willing to give up \$5,884 of their expenses so we can remove it from the Fund Balance and have a balanced budget for the first time in ten years. Judge Lacy asked Commissioner Kelly Blackburn if he was willing to do that and Commissioner Blackburn said "Yes". Commissioner McCoy stated that it still leaves in the \$50,000 in for the upgrade of

the elevator and \$50,000 for the upgrade of the telephone system , he asks if those are going to be included in the budget, to delay the implementation of those for six months unless there is an emergency that we have to. Commissioner McCoy has spoken with Department Heads and the phone system is not something that is mandatory and has to have right now, wait until mid-year and determine if we have the revenue to do it. Judge Lacy suggested that we go ahead and implement one now and then wait until mid-year for the other. He stated that the rear elevator was probably the one to do first. After additional discussions, it was compromised that we wait 90 days on the elevator, unless an emergency comes up and wait 6 months on the other. Auditor William Tye stated that he would make the changes and it would take a little while, but once they were done and had the budget balanced that is being passed, he will post it in the County Clerk's office and would make sure that all Commissioners had a copy and the Judge. After all the discussions and changes and comments we have a "BALANCED BUDGET"

Motion was put to a vote and all voted aye and none opposed.

Motion carried.

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012, a motion was made by Commissioner Jack Stone and duly second by Judge Lacy to adjourn.

Motion was put to a vote and all voted aye and none opposed.

Motion carried.