

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
Regular Session
May 12, 2025– 9:00 a.m.

This regular session of the Mills County Commissioners' Court opened in due form of law at 9:00 am in the Mills County Commissioners' Courtroom located at 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom were Judge Johnson, Commissioners Craig Sullivan, Robert Head, Dale Partin and Jason Williams, County Attorney Bill Malone, and Sheriff James Jones; present via Zoom: Court Coordinator Annette Watson, Treasurer – Summer Campbell, and County Clerk –Sonya Scott, Audience sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes.

The meeting is available to the public to view on the Mills County YouTube channel.

Agenda: -

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes - Minutes of April 28, 2025– Commissioner Williams moved to accept with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – Michael Hall addressed the court as the new Chief Appraiser. Looking forward to serving the community. Kathy McKee addressed the court during the tax abatement discussion. No other audience participation.
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Williams asked about the payable listed for the copier for the Justice of the Peace department. Payable amount is for the current lease. Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda was reviewed by the Court as follows:

- a. Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b. MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- c. County/ District Clerk Report Clerk
- d. County Tax Assessor
- e. County Extension Reports
- f. Facilities Report – Power was shut to elevator and that tripped the alarm. Alarm is functioning. Rain was good but checking for water in the area under the elevator caused the alarm to activate.
- g. Sheriff's Office
- h. Justice of the Peace
- i. County Judge's Report
- j. Hamilton EMS –
- k. Veterans Services Officer
- l. Emergency Management Coordinator

Motion made by Commissioner Williams to accept the consent agenda with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Discussion on Future Abatements for Mills County Regarding Solar, and related matters. – Ms. McKee addressed the court. Town Hall meetings have been explicit towards maintaining the way Mills County is for farmers, hunters, etc. Mills County is a poor county. The people of Mills County do not want abatements or solar farms. This is for discussion only. Bill Pentak, spokesperson for Red River Energy, is present and addressed the Court. Judge Johnson has done a lot of research on the abatements for solar and reported that other counties are not giving solar abatements. Judge Johnson is not in favor of awarding any abatements at this time. Commissioner Williams clarified that the discussion regarding abatements. Two different companies have requested information on abatements. Judge said that he would like to have an attorney on retainer for if we decide to move forward with solar abatements. Commissioner Partin does not want to have discussions without the presence of an attorney. Does the County denying an abatement restrict the schools from offering an abatement. Commissioner Williams noted that the abatements offered in the past have brought in over 7 million in levy taxes. Bill Pentak with Red River Clean Energy addressed the Court. There are two solar farms that are working towards building a solar farm in Mills County. Red River Clean Energy is in a remote area on the very West side of the County. This is on the old Camp Bowie site and is having to remove the explosive ordinances and are asking for an abatement to help offset the cost of the removal of ordinances. No more discussion at this time.
6. Consider and Act on Contract for legal counsel, and related matters – Jeffrey Allen worked with Mills County on the wind turbines. Mr. Allen has experience in solar and wind and is open to represent Mills County on the proposed Solar farms. Judge Johnson moved to hire Jeffrey Allen for legal counsel with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Consider and Act on Continuation Certificate for Bruce Mulloy, and related matters – Commissioner Williams move to approve the bond for Deputy Mulloy. Commissioner Head provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Consider and Act on new printer for Justice of Peace office, and related matters – Judge Johnson moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Discussion on Budget Goals and Calendar for 2025-2026 fiscal year, and related matters – Judge Johnson noted that the calendar has been provided to all the elected officials. Preliminary figures have been received from the appraisal district. The numbers provides are an increase from the prior year. Would like to start the workshops the week after next. Commissioner Williams noted that the calendar provided has a few errors that need to be corrected and sent via email. Sheriff Jones discussed that the lock system has not been on a regular maintenance schedule and that is being correct. The estimated cost is 500,000.00 for a camera replacement for the jail. The new dispatch console is on the way and will be a great tool for the department.
10. Discussion on Courthouse Flooding, and related matters. – rain was great, but we noticed some flooding from a recent rain. The leakage is on the south side of the courthouse. It is coming in under the courthouse foundation. Commissioner Partin has had discussions regarding getting some dirt away from the foundation and seeping through the walls. Guy Burns has been very proactive but we are still having some issues. Moisture barrier has leaks and needs to be repaired. The downspout nearest that

side needs to be redirected to divert the water away from the wall/foundation of the building. Courthouse has had issues in the past on different areas. Guy Burns will continue to gather information and will present to the court at a later date.

11. Consider and Act on Interlocal Agreement with Mullin, and related matters – Dexter Morris, Mayor of Mullin is present. Interlocal agreement has been to court in the past. County has provided up to \$15000 of machine work for a struggling entity. County is doing this to help the city of Mullin. Mr. Morris thanked the County for the work done in 2023. Mills County is happy to help Mullin in any way that we can. Commissioner Partin moved to enter into an interlocal agreement with Mullin with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0

12. Commissioners' Reports and request

Commissioner Sullivan, Pct. 1 – have done a lot of blading while the conditions were favorable. Will be hauling RAP as the roads are now too dry.

Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – blading and shredding, some spot hauling.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – blading and hauling. Hauling dirt on 525 and 515. Blading. Will be hauling approximately 2 miles of material this week.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 – blading and hauling. Worked on backhoe, replaced cylinders that were leaking. Have the rock crusher and will be using it next week. Will be out to conference next week.

13. County Judge's Report– Will be working with County Attorney and Sheriff for Senate bill 22 report is due. Hendricks bill discussion. Should no longer be getting a bill. 1888 Jail handrails will be painted this week.

14. Adjournment -Commissioner Head moved to adjourn; Commissioner Sullivan provided the seconded. Motion carried 5-0.



Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk



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