**The State of Texas §**

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**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 9th day of January, 2018, at 9:00 o’clock a.m. there came on and was held in the City of Rocksprings, Edwards County, Texas, at the Edwards County Courthouse therein, a Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas. The Agenda for this Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas was posted on January 4, 2018 at 2:05 o’clock p.m.

Present were:

Honorable William Epperson, Commissioner of Precinct One [arrived late]

Honorable Lee Sweeten, Commissioner of Precinct Two

Honorable Matt Fry, Commissioner of Precinct Three

Honorable Andrew Barnebey, Commissioner of Precinct Four

Honorable Souli Asa Shanklin, County Judge

Honorable Olga Lydia Reyes, County and District Clerk

1. **Determination of quorum; Call to Order.** The Open Meeting was called to order at 9:01 o’clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Court was led by Judge Shanklin in the Lord’s Prayer. The roll was then called by Clerk Reyes. All Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Epperson, were present.

2. **Open Forum.** There were no participants in the Open Forum.

3. **Staff Reports.** There were no questions on the Staff Reports.

4. **DELIBERATE, CONSIDER and/or TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

a. **Prior Minutes.**

**December 12, 2017.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

c. **Designation of location to hold foreclosure sales and determination on the place where the clerk’s office is to post the foreclosure notices – Olga Lydia Reyes.** This location will remain the same as in prior years. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to hold the foreclosure sales at the southwest door of the Edwards County Courthouse Annex Building and to post the foreclosure notices at the bulletin board in the foyer of the Courthouse Annex Building; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

d. **Selection of Salary Grievance Committee members for 2017. – Olga Lydia Reyes.** The names of the prospective salary grievance committee members will be selected from those names of individuals who comprised our grand juries from the previous year. Commissioner Barnebey drew out the names from the slips that the Clerk had prepared. The names selected were as follows: Lana Tolleson, Gerardo Reyes Sifuentes, Peggy Graham, Wayne Schroeder, and Robert Cottle. The first alternate name selected was James Palacio and the second alternate name selected was Dolores Gallegos. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the names selected above to comprise the Salary Grievance Committee for 2017; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnebey. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0. Judge Shanklin stated that a letter asking if these individuals would accept serving on this committee would be sent out from his office; if anyone declines, then the alternates would be contacted.

e. **Motion to Approve First Year Motions:**

i. Motion to declare County Court a continuous term

ii. Motion for County Judge to sign vouchers and In Vacation Bills

iii. Motion for County Treasurer to make transfers as needed for payroll, payroll taxes, etc.

iv. Motion for County Treasurer to write checks for County expenses as follows:

Withholding taxes, social security payments, Treasurer’s fees to the State Treasurer, insurance premiums, stamps and postage for County officers from the United States Post Office, all electric bills, fund transfers from government programs, etc., as we have them in operation, and County Trapper salaries.

Judge Shanklin announced that all of these motions would be taken into consideration and voted upon as a whole. [Clerk’s Note: These motions are contained in Exhibit A to these minutes and are hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes as if set forth verbatim herein.] Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve each of these first-of-the-year motions, and Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

f. **Consider and/or approve the ‘Joint Resolution and Statistical Information for Joint Primary’ between the Democratic and Republican Parties and the Edwards County Clerk. – Olga Lydia Reyes.** Reyes explained that this Resolution was asked to be approved since the Democratic and Republican parties were contracting with the County to host their primary elections. Payment of election expenses has changed after this last legislative session. The parties will no longer be invoiced for their share of their election ballots and programming. Payment will be made to the vendor directly from the Secretary of State’s office. This resolution will clarify the parties and the County’s roles in the upcoming election. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the ‘Joint Resolution and Statistical Information for Joint Primary’ between the Democratic and Republican Parties and the Edwards County Clerk; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

g. **Consider and/or approve the names of the 2018 Primary Election Judges and Clerks as submitted to the Edwards County and District Clerk by the Democratic Party Chairperson and the Republican Party Chairperson. – Olga Lydia Reyes.** The names of the 2018 Primary Election Judges and Clerks for the Republican Party were submitted to the Clerk. The Democratic Party has not submitted their names yet. Commissioner Sweeten requested that a copy of those names be disseminated to the Commissioners. Reyes responded that she would send out a copy when she received one herself. Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve the names of the 2018 Primary Election Judges and Clerks as submitted to the Edwards County and District Clerk by the Republican Party Chairperson; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

h. **Consider and/or approve the hiring of a temporary election worker for early voting assistance from Tuesday, February 20, 2018 through Friday, March 2, 2018 in the Edwards County and District Clerk’s Office for the 2018 Primary Election. – Olga Lydia Reyes.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve the hiring of a temporary election worker for early voting assistance from Tuesday, February 20, 2018 through Friday, March 2, 2018 in the Edwards County and District Clerk’s Office for the 2018 Primary Election; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

[Clerk’s note: Commissioner Epperson joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m.]

i. **Consider and Act upon Resolution authorizing submission of Criminal Justice Grant Application for program year 2019 to the Governor’s Office requesting CJD Funds for a vehicle for the Edwards County Constable. – Carl Esser.** Judge Shanklin stated that he has attended the required training in San Angelo for the submission of this grant application. If the County obtains this grant, these funds will be used to purchase a new vehicle for the constable. His current vehicle has approximately 120,000 miles on it and will be repurposed. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve and authorize submission of Criminal Justice Grant Application for program year 2019 to the Governor’s Office requesting CJD Funds for a vehicle for the Edwards County Constable; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

j. **Consider Correspondence from TDA regarding TxCDBG Contract No. 7217027 Disaster Relief Fund. – Carl Esser.** This is on the Cedar Creek Rd./White Mountain Rd. project; As of December 21, the County has been cleared and authorized to use those funds to start doing the in-house construction in this area. This letter was emailed out to the Commissioners. No action taken.

5. **New Business.** Judge Shanklin discussed a possible future proposal of the Court passing a resolution to allow the Appraisal District office to begin taking payment of our ad valorem taxes instead of the taxes being paid at the Tax office. This would mean that the Appraisal District would have to add personnel and computers to do this. Some other counties do this. It is thought that this would be a good move because it is the Appraisal District that sets the value of properties, they have the Appraisal Review Board to handle valuations that are contested, and they can explain to the taxpayer what their taxes are and how their properties are appraised. Shanklin stated that we have been having a hard time getting our certified appraised values to us in a timely manner in the past. This move could improve this situation. He encourages each Commissioner to reach out to other counties so they can be better educated on this issue. He would like to ask the Appraisal District to start series of articles in our local newspapers to explain how appraised values are derived so our taxpayers in our county can understand these appraisals. Sweeten expressed some reservations. There was a board meeting yesterday and this matter was discussed. Sweeten stated that the Interim Chief Appraiser was asked to start calculating the potential cost of this project. If the County, in the future, chose to proceed in this manner and the other taxing entities in our area chose not to proceed likewise, the County could still go ahead with the project but the County would bear the burden of the whole cost of the project. The rough estimate that they came up with yesterday was between $85,000-$100,000. This could be split with the other taxing entities but it all depends on who wants to participate. We have a contract appraiser at this point. She has the ability to do this; no one else in the office has the license to do this. This is a matter that will be continued to be looked at.

6. **Set time and date for next meeting.** The next regular open meeting of the Edwards County Commissioner Court will be on the second Tuesday of February, 2018 (February 13, 2018) at 9:00 a.m. in the Edwards County Courtroom.

7. **Pay bills.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to pay the bills; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This regular, open meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk