

## COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

August 24, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 24th day of August, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding; Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1, Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct#4.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

No public comments.

The Chamber of Commerce submitted an application to hold an event on the Courthouse Square. The event will be a fishing tournament check in. The catfish fishing tournament is named Tri-Angler Derby and will be held August 9-11, 2020. The tournament will bring traffic into Dublin, Comanche and DeLeon. Meals will be served in each of the cities. Date of the check in will be October 9, 2020 on the Comanche County Courthouse Square from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the application from Comanche Chamber of Commerce for the check in for the Tri-Angler Derby fishing tournament on October 9, 2020 from 6 pm to 8 pm. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to appoint the following to the Child Welfare Board with the term expiring August 31, 2021, Shirley Johnson, Juvenal Sierra, Carolyn Merworth and Mike Hare. Additional Nancy Brown and Gale Easley will be appointed to a term expiring August 31, 2021. All approved. Motion carried.

John Woodard, representing the Boy Scouts in DeLeon requested to discontinue the contribution to the Boy Scouts due to the build up of funds in the account. The Scout leaders were unaware of the funds being held by the City of DeLeon for the Scouts. Woodard stated they would return at budget next year with a full accounting.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to discontinue the contribution to the DeLeon Boy Scouts until such time as funds are needed again. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Underwood and Gillette made the motion and second to approve the Joint Election Agreement between the County of Comanche and Sidney Independent School District for the November 3, 2020 General Election. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. Comanche County is below the state average for completion of the responses from residents of Comanche County. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche County and Comanche County residents may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. Census information will be available at the local food banks and information will be mailed with your water bill. The census can be completed on line or by phone. The telephone number to complete the census by phone is 844-330-2020. The website to complete the form online is "my2020census.gov". The Census will end one month early, September 30, 2020. Texas officials are concerned counties will lose federal funding and loss of legislative representation due to the low response to the census. Comanche County is below the Texas average for response to the census. Census representatives are going door to door trying to complete census data.

The Komatsu Architecture Firm is in the process of finalizing the Master Plan for the Comanche County Courthouse and Old Cora. The security plan will be taken out of the Master Plan since it is confidential.

Judge Davis met with the West Central Council of Governments to discuss funding for the Texas A & M University Community Planning Project.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to enter into Executive Session at 9:55 a.m. pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to discuss value or transfer of real property. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Gillette and Underwood made the motion and second to close the Executive Session at 10:06 a.m. All approved. Motion carried.

Court returned to open session at 10:07 a.m. No action was taken on items discussed in Executive Session.

Dr. Larry Troxell, Refugio Pacheco and Joe Locke met with the Court to discuss the need for an additional nursing home facility in Comanche County. The proposed new nursing home would not replace the existing nursing homes in the County. It would enable more patients to stay in the county rather than go outside the county for nursing home services. Comanche County Consolidated Hospital District is proposing to build a state-of-the-art nursing home facility with private rooms and private bath for each room. Initially the facility would be a seventy-five-bed facility located on the campus of the Comanche County Medical Center. The facility will not be funded with tax dollars. It will be funded with revenue generated from Comanche County Medical Center, leveraging funds out of current operations.

Comanche County Commissioners' Court will be required to send a letter to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission seeking a designation that Comanche County is a rural county with a population under 100,000 and there are no more than two Medicaid certified nursing facilities in Comanche County and that permits this court to consider a rural county waiver request for Medicaid Nursing Home beds. The Human Health Service Commission approves no more than 120 additional Medicaid beds per county per year and no more than 500 additional Medicaid beds statewide in a calendar year under this waiver. After the rural designation is granted by HHSC a notice is required to be published in the Texas Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. Public comments will be received. Commissioners' Court will then determine whether to proceed with the waiver request for Medicaid Nursing Home beds after considering all comments and proposals.

Commissioners Sides and Underwood made the motion and second to approve sending a letter to Texas Human Health Services Commission with the intent to designate Comanche County a rural county with a population under 100,000. All approved. Motion carried.

No changes have been made to the Administrative COVID-19 leave policy. Each elected official may grant employee leave due to COVID-19 without Commissioner Court Approval.

Covid-19 updates are available on Judge Davis's Face book page.

No updates on FEMA Projects. Work is underway to finalize projects.

The Burn Ban remains in effect.

Sheriff Pounds reported 13 inmates had been transported to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and more will be moved in the next couple of weeks.

Commissioners Underwood and Sides made the motion and second to approve Officer's Reports. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve Amendments to the Budget. All approved. Motion carried.

No Emergency Budget Amendments were considered.

Commissioners Sides and Johnson made the motion and second to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$202,597.92. All approved. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 24th day of August, 2020 with a motion by Commissioner Underwood and a second by Commissioner Sides. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 31st day of August, 2020.

Stephanie L. Davis  
Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest:

Ruby Lesley  
Ruby Lesley, County Clerk  
