

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

May 26, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 26th day of May, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding in open court. Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2 and Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 were present in the Courtroom. Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1 and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4 were present virtually thru Zoom. Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator was also present thru Zoom.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Commissioner Sides gave the invocation.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Sides seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Clint Tunnell representing Friends of Historical Comanche addressed the Court requesting permission to remove the present lights around the roof of the courthouse and replace with new LED lights. The present lighting has become outdated and unsafe. The Friends of Historic Comanche is in the process of raising funds to light the roof of the buildings facing the Courthouse and the Comanche Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to approve the application from the Friends of Historic Comanche requesting to replace the lights around the roof of the Courthouse. Judge Davis made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

The Application from the Texas Comptroller's Office requesting unclaimed property capital credits for counties was considered. In conjunction with Texas Local Government Code, Section 381.004, Texas Property Code, Section 74.602 authorizes the Texas Comptroller' Office to allocate a portion of the unclaimed capital credits received from electric cooperatives back to the counties in their service area. Any county may request these funds. A county may only use the funds in accordance with the Local Government Code, Section 381.004.

Commissioner Gillette made the motion to request the unclaimed property capital credits for counties from the Comptroller's Office. Judge Davis seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis presented a letter from Governor Greg Abbott in response to the resolution by Comanche County requesting counties be allowed to retain property tax appraisals at the value set in January of 2019 and not require increased appraisals in January 2020. Basically Governor Abbott suggested local governments control the increase or decrease in property taxes by a decrease or increase in the property tax rate set by local taxing authorities.

P. J. Sumner, Environmental Program Coordinator for West Central Texas Council of Governments reaffirmed the willingness to provide a trailer to collect old tires. This program was set to take place in April, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 it had been postponed. Commissioner Gillette suggested waiting until the fall to go forward with the collection due to increased temperatures. A date for the tire collection will be set later.

Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide resources to help local governments, businesses and individuals respond to the current pandemic. Texas received \$11.24 billion from the CARES Act. Approximately 5.06 billion will go to local governments. Just over 3.2 billion has been sent to counties with a population greater than 500,000. The remaining \$1.85 billion will be made available to the rest of the state. The Texas Department of Emergency Management will administer these funds. Funds subject to reimbursement must have occurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 and are the result of the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to authorize the filing of the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the county judge as the official representative to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required. All approved. Motion carried.

The Help America Vote Act, Cares Act Sub-Grant to Texas Counties to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus domestically and internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle was discussed. Comanche County is eligible to receive Federal funds in the amount of \$14,511.41 with a 20% county match of \$2,902.28.

Commissioners Sides and Johnson made the motion and second approving a resolution acknowledging the terms and conditions of the HAVA Cares Act Sub-Grant to Comanche County. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Gillette and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the renewal of the 2020-2021 employees health plan thru Texas Association of Counties Health and Benefits Pool. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to acknowledge the Certificate Of Compliance certifying the Comanche County Jail has been duly inspected on May 8, 2020 and has been found to be in compliance with Texas Minimum Jail Standards. All approved. Motion passed.

Sheriff Pounds was commended for the excellent condition of the jail, his policies and his processes in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Brandon Wood, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Jail Standards stated he wished other counties would follow the lead of Sheriff Pounds and his staff.

Judge Davis is encouraging everyone to complete their 2020 Census. It is important to count everyone. This information determines what benefits Comanche may be eligible for. Some rural areas may not have received the census form. The delay in mailing the forms has been due to COVID-19 and employees not being able to work. 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".

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.

County budget worksheets for the upcoming fiscal year have been distributed to each county office. Completed worksheets are to be completed by June 5 and returned to the County Judge.

The Comanche County Courthouse offices remain closed except for appointment only. Transactions are encouraged on line or by mail. Transactions with the Comanche Assessor Collector may be deposited in a drop box at

the door to the Tax Office. The Tax Office will close from 12:30 to 1:30 each day until further notice. Entrance to the Courthouse is permitted at the north side of the building or the Grand Street entrance. It was recommended additional signs noting the three closed doors be placed at the sidewalk.

Work on the Master Plan for the Courthouse and Old Cora has been delayed by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

County Annex at 215 N. Houston Street and 211 S. Austin was not discussed.

Emergency Management continues to monitor COVID-19 in the county.

All entities in the county are in regular meetings to receive updates on COVID-19.

The Comanche County Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs have recommended the Burn Ban be lifted. The Burn Ban expires at midnight on May 26, 2020 and will not be extended at this time.

Sheriff Pounds reported a favorable report from the State Jail Commission after an unannounced visit. Every effort is being made to keep the jail sanitized against COVID-19. All staff employees have received a negative Covid-19 test result. All inmates will receive Covid-19 test thru the state.

Commissioners Gillette and Sides made the motion to approve the Officers Reports. All approved. Motion carried.

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

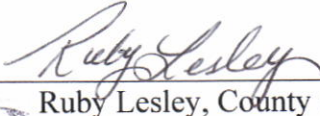
Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the Emergency Amendments to the budget. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$234,384.69. All approved. Motion carried.

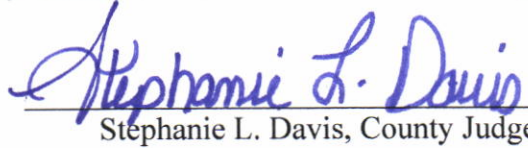
There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 26th day of May, 2020 with a motion and second by Commissioner Johnson and Sides. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 8th day of June, 2020.

Attest:



Ruby Lesley, County Clerk



Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

