

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

September 14, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 14th day of September, 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 9:07 a.m.

Commissioner Underwood gave the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the September 8, 2020 Commissioners' Court Meeting as presented. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Johnson made a public comment concerning the budget for 2021. Commissioner Johnson thanked the elected officials and every department that submitted a budget for 2021. Through their diligent efforts to conserve we have a budget with no fat.

Robert Cobb with the Comanche City County Airport Board presented the Texas Department of Transportation Grant for Routine Airport Maintenance Program for approval. The grant is a 50/50 match program. Funds may only be used for general maintenance projects such as lights, improvement of airport pavements, signage, drainage, AWOS systems, approach aids, herbicide or any other item considered general maintenance.

Commissioner Johnson and Sides made the motion and second to approve the application for the TXDOT Routine Airport Maintenance Grant pending verification part 3 (1) (i) page 4 of the agreement. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Sides made the motion to enter an Order approving the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month of August, 2020 with the total amount of cash and investments in the custody of the County Treasurer as of the period covered by this report was \$8,432,406.75. Commissioner Underwood seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

No action was taken on Officer's Reports.

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

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

Commissioner Sides made the motion to audit accounts due and owing and approve payment thereof in the amount of \$340,049.16. Commissioner Underwood made the second to the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

The public hearing on the 2020 County tax rate for the 2021 Budget was opened at 10:00 a.m. The proposed tax rate is 0.629960 per \$100 value. This is the same rate as the prior year.

Jon Awbrey spoke on behalf the Property Tax Payer's Group. Awbrey stated his concern that even with a small tax increase by most of the entities in the county businesses can not continue to stay in business. Businesses are currently operating with a significant decrease in their business due to the Corona Pandemic.

Commissioner Gillette stated the Legislature sets our guidelines we have to operate under. Joey Boswell, County Auditor, stated it is as though the state has declared war on local governments. Any change will have to begin with the Legislature. The county has worked to have a balanced budget. Budget cuts have been made consistently made over the past several years. Salaries for county employees are lower than any of the surrounding counties and there were no salary increases this year. The county is operating under unfunded mandates from the state, increased cost to do business, Courthouse repairs, expected cost of a triple homicide, autopsy cost have increased and increased cost of indigent defense are a few of the increased cost to the county. There is not a good answer. Any change will have to come from the Legislature.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to schedule and announce the meeting date for September 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to adopt the tax rate. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners Sides and Gillette made the motion and second to acknowledge the completion of the Commissioner's Court Advanced Curriculum Program by Gary Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1. All approved. Motion carried. Commissioner Underwood will be awarded a certificate at the State Conference of County Judges and Commissioners. Commissioner Sherman Sides and former Commissioner Garry Steele have also completed this program.

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. Rural areas have had a low response.

The Komatsu Architecture Firm has submitted the final draft of the Master Plan for the Comanche County Courthouse and Old Cora.

Judge Davis and Mike Berry are working with the Texas A & M University Community Planning Group to create applications for the taskforce.

Commissioner Underwood reported repairs to the Probation Department ceiling at the Annex at 211 S. Austin in Comanche have been completed.

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 action was taken to enact the Burn Ban.

Sheriff Pounds presented the August, 2020 Sheriff's Report.

The jail had 1424 Inmate Days, 0 Contract days,

57 Book in/Release and 26 Sentenced.

Patrol; 493 Calls for Assistance,

61 Offense Reports and 24 Arrests.

Jail/Patrol; 72 Training Hours.

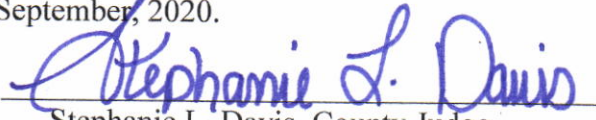
Employment; Openings; 2 Jailer position and 1 Dispatch positions, hired 1 employees in Dispatch.


Officer's Reports were not considered.

A brief discussion of the General Fund Budgets was held.

There being no further business to come before the Court, Court was adjourned this the 14th day of September, 2020 with a motion by Commissioner Sides and a second by Commissioner Gillette. All approved. Motion carried.

The foregoing minutes approved by the Comanche County Commissioners' Court on the 21st day of September, 2020.


Stephanie L. Davis, County Judge

Attest: 
Ruby Lesley, County Clerk

