

COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

February 10, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED That the Commissioners' Court of Comanche County, Texas met in a Regular Meeting on the 10th day of February, 2020 with the following members present: Judge Stephanie L. Davis, Presiding; Gary "Corky" Underwood, Commissioner Precinct #1; Russell Gillette, Commissioner Precinct #2; and Jimmy Dale Johnson, Commissioner Precinct #4. Sherman Sides, Commissioner Precinct #3 was not present.

Judge Stephanie L. Davis opened the meeting at 9:02 a. m.

Commissioner Gillette gave the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the Minutes of the January 27, 2019 Commissioner Court Regular Meeting as presented. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Donald Kelm and Mike Barry gave their annual report of Extension activities. Kelm thanked the Court for their continuing support of Extension programs. Kelm commended Mike Barry and Amanda DeAx for his dedication to bring educational programs to producers in this area and to the youth thru 4-H/youth development programs. It was stated in 2019 the youth from the Central District 8 earned \$306,600 in scholarship money for advanced education. Each year the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program awards an estimated \$2.2 million in scholarships to high school seniors.

Kelm also reported Mike Berry produced varied extension programs for corn, peanuts, pecans, forage, dairy and beef production. These commodities have produced an economic impact to the county of about \$2.2 million. The Court commended Mike Barry, Amanda DeAx and Donald Kelm for their work in the Extension Programs.

Commissioners Gillette and Johnson made the motion and second to acknowledge the Annual County Extension Report. All approved. Motion carried.

The Court discussed amending the County Depository Contract dated April 22, 2019 with Spirit of Texas Bank. The amendment would authorize changing Comanche County depository funds from Certificates of Deposit to Money Market accounts tied to TexPool. This would provide the County with a higher interest rate on funds held and, also allow for up to six withdrawals or transfers in one statement cycle.

Commissioner Underwood made the motion to approve the Amendment to the County Depository Pledge Contract to authorize changing Comanche County Depository Funds from Certificates of Deposits to Money Market Accounts. Judge Davis seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed leaving the gate unlocked to allow admission to Old Cora on the weekends. The question was posed if the fence around Old Cora was necessary or was it a requirement. This will require further investigation.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve leaving the gate unlocked at Old Cora on the weekends. All approved. Motion carried.

Judge Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution in support of the 2020 United States Census in Comanche County. Commissioner Gillette seconds the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

An accurate census determines how many seats Texas gets in Congress, how more than \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed to states and communities and creates jobs, provides housing, prepare for emergencies and school buildings, roads and hospitals.

Commissioners Underwood and Johnson made the motion and second to approve the Order Authorizing Texas Independence Day Fireworks Sales. All approved. Motion carried.

This Order authorizes the sale of fireworks to the public by retail permit holders during the Texas Independence Day period beginning February 25, 2020 and ends at midnight March 2, 2020, subject to the following restrictions: This order expires on the date the Texas Forrest Service determines drought conditions exist in the county or midnight of March 2, 2020, whichever is earlier.

Judge Davis informed the Court of the Texas Association of Counties & V.G. Young Institute of County Government Senate Bill 2 and budget training to be offered March 11, 2020 in Stephenville. Judge Davis will submit names of all elected officials wishing to attend.

Commissioners Johnson and Gillette made the motion and second to approve amending the update to the county travel policy. All approved. Motion carried.

Expenses for meals will be limited to \$40 per day. Remove the restriction that no meal may exceed \$20. Tips and snacks will be reimbursed. Alcohol is excluded from reimbursement. Lodging and meals shall not exceed \$300 per day.

The Komatsu Firm gave an update on the development of the Master plan for the Courthouse and Old Cora. The plan is 60% complete. An evaluation of structural, plumbing, wiring and AC/heating of the Courthouse have been made. Old Cora was reported to be in reasonably good shape.

There was no discussion of the County Annex at 215 N. Houston.

Tricia Grimshaw, Emergency Management Coordinator reported Ag Extension will be assisting with closing of FEMA projects.

The Burn Ban remains lifted. It is recommended that you 1.) Call Dispatch at 325-356-2222 to tell them you wish to burn and to check the weather conditions. By informing Dispatch of your burn the fire departments will not be required to respond to unneeded calls. 2.) Winds must be 10 mph or under and the humidity 50% or above. 3.) There should be onsite water or equipment to control the fire. 4.) The burn may be started one hour after sunrise and be in the smoldering stage one hour before sunset. 5.) Trash may be burned in a covered barrel or container without calling.

Sheriff Chris Pounds reported the installation of the tankless water heater is complete at the jail.

Sheriff Pounds presented the Sheriff's Office Report for January. Jail inmate days were 1100, Contract days 14, Bookin/Release 48, Sentenced 6. Patrol activity included 578 call, 50 offense reports and 17 arrests. Training hours for jail/patrol 500. There are employment openings for 2 jailers and 2 dispatchers.

Officer's Reports will be considered at a later meeting.

Commissioners Johnson and Underwood made the motion and second to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month of January, 2020. All approved. Motion carried.

