MOTLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Regular Session

July 11, 2022

9:30 A.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 11th day of July 2022, the Commissioners’ Court of Motley County met in Regular Session in the Courthouse in Matador, Texas. Called to order at 9:40 am by Judge Meador, and the Judge gave the invocation

The following members present:

Jim Meador County Judge

Douglas Campbell Commissioner, Pct. #1

Roegan Cruse Commissioner, Pct. #2

Franklin Jameson Commissioner, Pct. #3

Timmy Brooks Commissioner, Pct #4

D’anna Russell County Clerk

Also in attendance County Treasurer Jones

TXDOT: No one present

Public Comment: was given by Commissioner Campbell on behalf of The Historical Commission and Marisue Potts who couldn’t be here today. The Museum is in need of repairs. The inspections have found linking at the concrete pads around the windows. The roof company that fixed the courthouse roof gave the museum some suggestions with regard to plaster and expandable chalk on the inside of the museum windows and a bid on fixing the leak or $5,100.

No. 430

Clerk Russell read the minutes from the Regular Session of Commissioners Court held June 13, 2022. A motion by Commissioner Campbell and Seconded by Commissioner Cruse to except the minutes as read and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

Judge Meador read the monthly reports to the court for the District and County Clerk, Extension Agent, Justice of the Peace, Library, Sheriff and the Tax Assessor-Collector. Commissioner Cruse made the motion to approve the monthly reports as presented Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

The outstanding bills were presented by County Treasurer Jones, and reviewed by the court. Motion by Commissioner Cruse to approve the bills as presented, Commissioner Jameson seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

No. 431

Judge Meador ask the commissioners to consider raising the mileage reimbursement to the new state rate of 62.5 cents per mile Commissioner Campbell made the motion to raise the mileage reimbursement to the new state rate and it was seconded by Commissioner Brooks and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

No. 432

Judge Meador then presented to the court information collected by the sheriff’s department for the possible purchase of a new pickup or two. The sheriff’s pickup has approximately 150,000 miles and the deputy pickup approximately 130,000. The Court requested Sheriff Fisk to come up to court and explain the different quotes on the vehicles and the need for his pickup to be K-9 equipped and why they were requesting ghost lettering for the decals. Commissioner Campbell stated that he wasn’t for a K-9 vehicle as the county didn’t own a K-9 and wasn’t in favor of ghost decals. Commissioner Jameson asked the sheriff to explain why he felt the need for both these items. Sheriff Fisk stated that it is hard to do night surveillance with big old black and gold decals on the vehicles and the ghost decals blend into the vehicle but when a light hits it, it reflects. He stated that they work by their selves and the dog is a help and comfort and that he has help with a drug seizer in another county and that he had already filled out the CID paper work and would get 10 to 12 % of the seizure. The pickups for both the deputy and sheriff would be about $110,000 ready to go. The difference in marked vs unmarked both K-9 equipped for the Sheriff would be $51,564 (unmarked) or $57,470 (marked). There was discussion on what to do with the equipment that couldn’t be reused and also what to do with the pickups once they are replaced. Sell through auction with Rene’ Bates or possiblely a precinct could purchase. The court wanted to know about the possibilities of getting a grant through SPAG for one of the pickups? Sheriff Fisk stated the pickup grants are very tough to get and in high demand but that the Sheriff’s department had received a new computer for the sheriff’s pickup and one for the deputy pickup donated by a private party. Commissioner Jameson wanted to know if the money to purchase the pickup/pickups would come out of capital aquations or second round of ARP money, which won’t be here til September or October. Commissioner Jameson asked which pickup needed replaced worse and Sheriff Fisk stated that the sheriff pickup did. Motion by Commissioner Brooks to purchase a pickup for the sheriff in this budget cycle with bids as they were all over $50,000 dollar threshold, seconded by Commissioner Jameson and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

No. 433

At 11:25 the county budget workshop started with County Judge Meador going over the department worksheets. General Receipts and Special Funds, County Judge-increase in travel, meetings and schools, and postage, Justice of the Peace-same, County and District Clerk-increase in postage and office supplies, Clerk Russell read the letter she had turned in with regard to her office attached to these minutes for reference and she also presented to the court a sample of appointing an Elections Administrator. Clerk Russell also stated that the county is doing the offices that use to have fulltime deputies a disservice because there is no one training to learn the job as the deputies in the past for the most part had been the next elected person to the offices. County Treasurer-increase in postage, Maintence-same, Tax Assessor-Collector-salary increase for self and deputy, postage and supply increase, meetings and schools increase, computer-100, conversion-100, rolls and receipts up 200, house value sales up and taxes up, Sheriff-increase in equipment, professional services-increase, meals-increase office supplies increase, miscellaneous increase, operating increase, training increase, ammunition increase, County Attorney Office-same, County Extension Office-same.

General Fund: District employees 8.3% increase in salary, Probation-same, Office Supplies raise to $4,000, Historical Commission already got ARP money from county, courthouse electricity and water-increase.

All Precincts increased due to fuel and parts increases but all stayed the same on road hand and commissioner salary.

Capital Acquisition-$40,000 Ad Valorem-$40,000

Total Funds Sheet Balance is at $2,183, 764.28 and is attached to minutes for reference

So now the question is are we considering any raises this year? County Judge stated in his opinion picking and choosing isn’t right and Commissioner Jameson stated he totally 100% agrees with that statement. Commissioner Brooks wanted to know if there was a cost of living raises and Commissioner Cruse states ones who have been here longer are more deserving than ones that have only been here eight months. Treasurer Jones presented a spreadsheet that ranged from 2% to 8% cost of living increase. Attached to these minutes for reference. After some discussion motion made by Commissioner Brooks for an 8% cost of living increase….Commissioner Jameson stated he was concerned what people would think taking that big of step across the board. Motion died for lack of second. Commissioner Campbell was running his calculator and pencil and said if we hired an elections person who could help in the clerk’s office too and did 8% cost of living increase it would be another $50,000 to come up with. County Judge Meador stated he thinks we need a fulltime person that wants to be here and learn the office. Motion by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Cruse to get a fulltime deputy for the clerk’s office and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote. Motion by Commissioner Cruse and seconded by Commissioner Campbell to pay the fulltime position $20,000 and the insurance would be the 20%/80% and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote. Then it was back to discussion about cost-of-living increases across the board or not. Commissioner Brooks and Cruse want to give and increase just not sure the amount and Commissioner Jameson doesn’t think increasing will make better employees. Motion by Commissioner Brooks and seconded by Commissioner Campbell to give 8% raises across the board and the motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote.

No. 434

The next meeting for the Budget was set for July 28th, 2022 at 9:00am. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 pm upon the motion by Commissioner Jameson and seconded by Commissioner Cruse and the motion passed with a 5 to 0 vote.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County Judge

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County Clerk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Comm Pct #4