

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 10th day of August 2026, A.D., the Commissioners Court met in a Regular Session with the following members present to wit:

Cindy Irwin	County Judge
Gary Alexander	Commissioner Precinct #1
Dwight Kirksey	Commissioner Precinct #2
Ben Bentley	Commissioner Precinct #3
Chris Prock	Commissioner Precinct #4
Jackie Ortiz	Deputy County Clerk & Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER FOR REGULAR MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Judge Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Chris Prock led the pledge and prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT; 5 MINUTES PER PERSON (WITH SIGNED PARTICIPATION FORM)

None at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYROLL

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE OFFICE EQUIPMENT AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENTS

ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FROM ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REPORTS FROM ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS REQUIRED BY STATUTE LGC 114.044

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MONTHLY AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Report has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OPTIONAL FEES FOR 2027

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Imposition of Optional Fees has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE UNIFORM POLICY

Discussion was made. No action at this time. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to table the above stated agenda item for clarification, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REPLACING 6 EXPRESSPOLL TABLETS WITH SOFTWARE APPLICATION AND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION FOR ELECTIONS USING CONTINGENCY FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000.00

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALES ORDER AGREEMENT FOR 6 EXPRESSPOLL TABLETS, INSTALLATION AND SHIPPING

Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Sales Order Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE NEW POLICY AT THE LIBRARY

Nancy Criswell, Library Director, would like to table this to get some more input from Lesha Krieg, Auditor. Gary Alexander made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Alan Wells, EMC/County Fire Marshall, reported that the drought index is 643. Suggested we leave the burn ban in place. No action taken at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REQUESTS FOR USE OF CLUBROOMS AT BORGER LIBRARY OR FRITCH

Chris Prock had no requests for the Borger Library Clubroom. Dwight Kirksey submitted a schedule for 2 Saturdays in the month of August for the Fritch Library Clubroom. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LINE ITEM CHANGES, TRANSFERS, AND/OR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Orders have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ADVERTISING, OPENING, ACCEPTING OR AWARDING BIDS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Judge Irwin presented the Museum Monthly Box Donations in the amount of \$31.00. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Donation sheet has been made part of the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Alan Wells, EMC/County Fire Marshall, stated the Emergency Operation Plan for the county has been reviewed over the past couple of weeks and is working on getting signatures to get it turned in for review.

Commissioner Gary Alexander stated the air conditioning problems at Annex are being resolved today August 10, 2026.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALE OF STRUCK OFF TAX PROPERTIES AND TAX DEEDS

None at this time.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR BUDGET YEAR 2026-2027

Richard Ashcraft, Account Manager for TCDRS, presented a retirement plan summary and a retirement plan PowerPoint presentation. They would like to run numbers and see both future and retroactive before deciding. For any plan changes that are adopted, TCDRS would need to know by December 15th. Presentation and PowerPoint have been made part of minutes.

Child Welfare budget. Judge Irwin presented the Panhandle Community Services request for \$3,300.00 an increase of \$300.00. Request letter has been made part of the minutes. She also presented the High Plains Food Bank request for \$2,500.00 or more. Request letter has been made part of the minutes.

Budget discussion. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, presented the updated FY 2027 Proposed Budget with a few changes and adjustments that were made. Proposed Budget presentation has been made part of the minutes.

Judge Irwin would like to have salary discussions regarding positions that will be changing, starting with County Judge, the salary currently is \$102,813.00 and the Administrative Assistant for County Judge is \$58,579.00. The Clerk positions, being Clerk 1 - \$56,519.00, Clerk 2 - \$54,077.00, and Clerk 3 - \$53,057.00. Judge Leslie Ford plans to bring Melissa, her Administrative Assistant, with her and Melissa currently makes \$56,519.00. Everyone agrees to increase the Administrative Assistant salary to \$57,000.00 and Judge Leslie Ford can determine that salary when she takes office. It was decided to keep the County Judge salary the same as well as the Clerk tiered positions.

Justice of the Peace, Pct.1, Court Clerk position is Currently at Clerk 1. They are at a Clerk 1 because they are a 2-man office, but to change that would be up to the department head. It was decided to leave the Court Clerk position for JP1 at a Clerk 1 salary.

District Attorney change that was discussed as we provide is a supplement, starting at \$12,000.00 and when we give raises, we give raises on the supplement. DA is at \$24,000.00 right now and \$25,000.00 is the maximum. Discussion was made. Judge Irwin, Ben Bentley and Gary Alexander agree on \$17,000.00 for District Attorney. Assistant DA salary to be left where it's at.

Commissioners and Judge Irwin agreed to leave the Extension Office Secretary at Clerk 3 and the department head can decide what to set the salary at on the tiered program.

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, presented the Hutchinson County Budget Scenarios for raises for discussion. According to the scenarios the No New Revenue Rate is a little over \$.49, Our current Tax Rate is \$.50, and the voter approval rate is a little over \$.58. That's the max we could go before it triggered an election. Scenarios have been made part of the minutes

Amy Back, Treasurer presented the Hutchinson County Elected Official vacation payouts. If they pay out all Elected Officials at the end of the fiscal year it would be \$74,106.45 or calendar year December 31st the grand total would be \$117,776.72. Discussion was made. They agreed on calendar year. Worksheet has been made part of the minutes.

Capital improvements. It was discussed all specific projects need to get on the proposed budget for improvements, if we don't have anything then we don't need to have that money in the improvements budget. \$225,000.00 for Stinnett Annex leave it, \$75,000.00 in the Courthouse Budget would like to leave that where it's at. \$15,000.00 in Borger library, Dwight Kirksey reduced Fritch to \$5,000.00 and is looking at cabinets in the library kitchen and what he has will cover it. It was decided to leave them all where they are at.

Stinnett Fire requested an increase of \$10,000.00. Ben Bentley stated if we look to increase one, we must increase them all whereas Judge Irwin thinks if they want an increase, they come to the Commissioners to request an increase. Discussion was made and Commissioners agreed on giving Stinnett the raise they asked for. Unofficial vote – Chris Prock - aye, Dwight Kirksey - aye, Judge Irwin - aye, Gary Alexander - aye, Ben Bentley - aye. County Judge will reach out next year before budget meeting.

Paying mileage for Museum and Library was discussed. They decided against paying mileage for travel in Hutchinson County.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2026-2027

Chris Prock made the motion to approve setting the Proposed Tax Rate at the De Minimis rate .513942, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. The vote of record: Dwight Kirksey – nay; Chris Prock – aye; Judge Irwin – nay; Ben Bentley – nay; Gary Alexander – nay. The motion did not carry.

Dwight Kirksey made the motion to approve setting the Proposed Tax Rate at \$. 54, seconded by Ben Bentley. The vote of record: Dwight Kirksey - aye, Chris Prock - aye, Judge Irwin - aye, Ben Bentley - aye, Gary Alexander - aye. Proposed tax rate motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS)

Convened into Executive Session at 11:47 a.m.
Reconvened into Regular Session at 12:00 p.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - SECTION 551.074 (PERSONNEL MATTERS)

Convened into Executive Session at 12:01 p.m.
Reconvened into Regular Session at 12:13 p.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dwight Kirksey made the motion to approve hiring of Benjamin Pena with salary of \$61,300.00 for Airport Manager effective August 17th, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Chris Prock made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourn 12:16 p.m.


CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


Jackie Ortiz – Deputy County Clerk

