

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 24th day of March 2025, 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
Kelly Ratliff	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. Dwight Kirksey 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 COUNTY AUDITOR'S TABULATED REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS COURT PURSUANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 114.024

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 STATE LGC 114.04

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports are made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MONTHLY AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, presented this report and pointed out she added a couple of columns for Current Budget and % of Total Budget. Commissioner Kirksey asked about different fiscal years for some departments and those are Adult and Juvenile Probation with state funds. Mrs. Krieg also explained some percentages look higher due to PO's showing funds encumbered. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Report are made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF CITI CREDIT CARD TO 316TH DISTRICT COURT

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, presented this request for card with \$1,500.00 credit limit as others have. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL FOR JUDGE MOSLEY TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FAMILY AND JUVENILE COURT JUDGES CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO, IL

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOU WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alen Wells, EMC, presented the MOU with National Park Service expired Dec 31, 2024. This new agreement goes through 2030. The County Attorney has approved. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE UP TO \$50.00 A MONTH FOR MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Ben Bentley 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 CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE UP TO \$100.00 A MONTH FOR I.T. DIRECTOR

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 1377 AND HB 3000 TO PROVIDE CRITICAL FUNDING FOR RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

*** PROGRESS UPDATE ON ANY ARP GRANT PROJECTS**

Sheriff Langwell presented pictures of the new secure entryway to the Sheriff's Department.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Judge Irwin reported the Order Declaring a Local State of Disaster/Prohibiting Outdoor Burning expires today. Alan Wells, EMC, recommends letting the Order lapse as the Texas Forest Service advises putting a burn ban into effect with a drought index of 500 or more and we are at 200. Mr. Wells stated that if the winds pick up another Disaster Declaration would be implemented to have all hands-on deck. After discussion of circumstances and reviewing counties around us with a burn ban in effect The Commissioners would like to sign an Order Prohibiting or Restricting Outdoor Burning. Ben Bentley made the motion to approve the Order Prohibiting or Restricting Outdoor Burning, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Order is made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE CONTINUATION/EXPIRATION OF DISASTER DECLARATION

Alan Wells, EMC, reported getting the Disaster Declaration in place on March 17th the day before the Double S Fire. This fire burned 454 acres as of Friday March 21, 2025, and is 100% contained. This fire has been turned into FMAG for 75% reimbursement. There are no high winds in the forecast. In the event there is another high wind event in the forecast he will work with Judge Irwin on putting another Disaster Declaration in place. Sheriff Langwell asked if comp hours and vehicle usage will be turned into FMAG for compensation. Yes, Mr. Wells is working on this and has received 214's from R&B, EMC and is waiting for the Sheriff's Department. Great work was done by all agencies that responded to the Double S Fire. No action taken and to let the Disaster Declaration expire as of March 24, 2025.

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 had no requests for the Fritch Library Clubroom.

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

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

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

None at this time.

Judge Irwin reported Purple Wave Auction closed and all items entered by Hutchinson County have sold. The Auditor advised when the invoice is paid a release form needs to be filled out at the time of pick up and returned to the Auditors Office.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

None at this time.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Judge Irwin introduced Alex Bravo, Chairman of the Board of Directors at the airport and Chase Herriman with the Texas A&M Forest Service. Mr. Bravo spoke on plans for the airport one of the biggest is to free up the Piper Hangar to share it with TFS to house additional wildfire supplies and planes. This would bring faster wildfire response times for Hutchinson County and surrounding areas. The Hutchinson County Airport is a great airport for TFS as it has a long runway, low altitude and weather is conducive to land planes. The Piper Hangar could be used for TFS to stage during high fire danger and house jets that visit overnight during low fire danger times. The Auditor asked if someone wanted to house a private jet overnight, would there be a fee, and they answered yes. Commissioner Prock wanted to insure TFS would have priority if a fire emergency were to arise. The Piper Hangar currently has a tenant using the hangar for storage and would be presented with an eviction notice along with other hangars only being used for storage not aircraft. The county acquiring the Piper Hangar would benefit due to having the largest wildfire in the nation and high fire danger, giving faster response times as well as the purchase of fuel. Also, each TFS plane staged comes with up to 6 people that would stay in Borger hotels and eat at area restaurants. The Piper Hangar would also be used as an office when TFS is staged during high fire danger. The doors to this hangar are in good working order. This would also benefit Apollo Med Flight. The Airport Board has worked on an eviction notice with the County Attorney for approval for the Commissioners Court to approve. After discussion the items needed to present to the Commissioners Court for approval are Eviction Notices, Rental Agreements with sq. footage for each hangar and an overnight rental contract for private jets using the Piper Hangar.

They are still discussing how to prioritize jets renting overnight for the Piper Hangar and not interfering with TFS if an emergency arises. Thoughts were to add verbiage to the contract such as in the event of high fire danger TFS could take over the hangar and you may be asked to leave. After discussion the Commissioners would like these items to be presented at the April 14, 2025, Commissioner Court meeting. Mr. Bravo also mentioned applying to become part of a club to reduce the cost of fuel and this would also need to be approved by the Commissioners' Court. Mr. Herriman with TFS spoke on the planes currently staged at the airport doing training reloading water from Lake Merideth. Baltazar Madrano, Airport Manager, invited anyone to come take a tour of the airport.

Commissioner Kirksey reported he is hoping to have nuisance letters ready for approval by the next Commissioners Court meeting. The Treasurer takes care of the septic complaints. Commissioner Kirksey takes care of complaints such as vegetation and other complaints.

Dale Herbst Memorial Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

Retirement Party for Russell and Glayde is today at 2 p.m.

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

John Wilson Fonseca Lopez submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lot 95 Unit 2, Double Diamond Estates, Hutchinson County TX. The appraised value is \$710.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to table until he can go look at the property, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gary Alexander made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourn 10:30 a.m.



Cindy Irwin

CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Kelly Ratliff

KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK