

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 14th day of April 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. Gary Alexander led the pledge and prayer.

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

Public Participation Form completed by Teresa Hefley. Spoke about a Nuisance property at 222 Matador, Fritch, Tx.

**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 114.044**

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

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AWARD PRESENTATION**

Sheriff Langwell recognized Deputy Tristan Wall and Jailer Pedro "Sammy" Ponce for their Meritorious conduct in serving the citizens of Hutchinson County.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE IRS TAXABLE FRINGE BENEFIT ON COUNTY VEHICLE FOR THE IT DIRECTOR**

Amy Back, Treasurer explained this is for all unmarked county vehicles that are taken home. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Information has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE USE OF \$22,234.86 RECEIVED IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Amy Back, Treasurer has receipted these funds. All agreed these funds will go to Drug Court. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve these funds going to Drug Court, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Information has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE HUTCHINSON COUNTY AIRPORT HANGAR LEASE AGREEMENT**

Judge Irwin and the Airport Board presented the lease agreement with additions and approval from County Attorney, Craig Jones. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the lease agreement, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. Commissioner Kirksey asked about pricing and the Airport Board has set pricing for similar hangars. The Airport Board was advised that the pricing list must be approved in Commissioners Court as well. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE A DISCOUNT FUEL APPLICATION AT THE AIRPORT**

After County Attorney, Craig Jones reviewed he has no issues with the application as there is very little legal language within the application. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Application information has been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SUBMITTING AN INSURANCE CLAIM TO THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR DAMAGE TO THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S 2022 FORD EXPLORER (VIN #8338).**

Judge Irwin and Sheriff Langwell presented this claim wanting to know if we want to submit the claim with TAC or not submit the claim and pay for fixing it. There were 2 quotes presented. Refinishing Systems LLC quote is \$6,737.54 and J.W.'s Collision Repair Inc quote is \$3,476.50. Commissioner Bentley asked why such a big difference in price and Sheriff Langwell said Refinishing Systems will cut out and replace damaged panels and J.W.'s Collision will try to pop out and repair damaged panels. Considering the insurance deductible and vehicle rotation schedule it was decided to not submit the claim and have J.W.'s Collision Repair Inc complete the work. This was Sheriff Langwell's recommendation. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve J.W.'s quote for \$3,476.50 paying outright and not submitting an insurance claim, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Claim, Report and Quotes have been made part of the minutes.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PURCHASE OF SAMSARA FLEET MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Langwell presented this program he has been demoing for the last month. It is by far the easiest to install, you just plug the device into the computer of the vehicle, and it gives you live data about the vehicle's status, issues and maintenance needed such as tire pressure, oil change needs and even engine codes. He would be immediately notified to service the vehicle. DPS uses this program statewide for their vehicle maintenance. Sheriff Langwell has this money in his budget for this program and he would like the Commissioners Court to approve the contract. County Attorney, Crieg Jones has looked over this contract. It is \$4,212.00 annually with a 3-year contract and 90-day opt. out period. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Contract has been made part of the minutes.

## **CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PUTTING IN GRADER LINES FOR STINNETT FIRE FOR FUTURE FIRE MITIGATION**

Duane Chisholm, R&B Superintendent said the Stinnett Fire Chief had contacted him to help with some grader lines along 207 and 687 for fire mitigation. They have missed the window this season, but this is for future fire mitigation. Mr. Chisholm is asking for permission to help them with this project. Stinnett Fire is getting all of the permissions for the private property. Commissioner Prock asked if we have anything on our end for liability if any damages were to occur. Commissioner Bentley asked if there is a list of how many of these are going to be done. Alan Wells, EMC said these grader lines are in preparation for fire mitigation projects that are completed to try and protect against wildfires. Commissioner Bentley also asked about liability if something is damaged while putting in the grader lines such as above ground pipes etc. Archie Stone, the wildland fire coordinator for Borger is helping Stinnett with this project and getting signed permission from property owners, they could possibly add Hutchinson County to this document to cover liability. Mr. Wells will talk with Archie Stone about this. Chris Prock made a motion to table this agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION ON NUISANCE VIOLATIONS**

Commissioner Kirksey spoke on the Public Comment by Teresa Hefley about the nuisance property on 222 Matador in Fritch. This could be a situation where the property is condemned and there are procedures for this. This is also not just a mowing project but would have to move old vehicles, junk, metal and trash. Steps must be taken, and the 1<sup>st</sup> step is to send the Nuisance Violation Letter. Sheriff Langwell said once you send the letter and there is no compliance it will come back to the Commissioners Court to issue a Seizure Warrant. Commissioner Kirksey is asking for the court to approve the 3 addresses and the Nuisance Letter to be sent. County Attorney, Craig Jones has reviewed the letter. All agreed to the letter and to send the letter to these addresses.

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS**

Commissioner Bentley reported the air conditioning and heating units are being installed at the Stinnett Annex. The inside of the Stinnett Annex has been pretty much cleared out for the flooring to be installed. The new generator for the Courthouse is waiting on Cummins to help with the start up.

Commissioner Prock reported work will start on the exterior of the Borger Library next week.

## **CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN**

Alan Wells, EMC, reported that the drought index is less than 200. His recommendation is to rescind the Burn Ban. Gary Alexander made a motion to rescind the burn ban, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

## **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 through April 26, 2025, 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 Gary Alexander. 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.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY**

None at this time.

**DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY  
OPERATIONS**

Commissioner Bentley reported on the Safety Training here at the Courthouse in the County Courtroom on Thursday. Training for CDL drivers will be at the Borger Annex, room 101.

Judge Irwin reported on attending the TAC Risk Management Conference. Hutchinson County was awarded the Excellence in Safety Award. Big thanks to everyone as we have received this award for multiple years in a row. We also got a certificate for zero lost time that goes along with being safe.

Alan Wells, EMC reported the City of Stinnett with the help of Shevon Watson, Jason Dodson and Gina Wells received an award for a 43% increase in donors for the blood drive held in Stinnett. Congratulations.

Judge Irwin reported being invited to a Go Blue Appreciation Luncheon the Child Welfare Board and The Rainbow Room is putting on. If you would like to attend and celebrate with them it is Thursday, May 1, 2025 @ 11:30 a.m. Judge Irwin has sent an email with information to RSVP.

Judge Irwin reminded everyone about the Dale Herbst Memorial Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 19, 2025 @ 10:00 p.m. Anyone willing to help with this event and hide eggs can come up to the Courthouse around 8:30 p.m. Saturday. After this meeting took place this event has been moved to Friday, April 18, 2025 @ 2:00 p.m. and if you are willing to help be at the Courthouse at 12:30 p.m.

Sheriff Langwell reported on the Hutchinson County Jail and some plumbing issues. There was a blockage in a line, had to dig up the concrete floor and replace 2 feet of pipe. This repair has been completed.

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

Tammy McBrayer submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lot 1, Tr 39, Bugbee Heights, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is \$830.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

Tammy McBrayer submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lot 5, Tr 28, Bugbee Heights, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is \$630.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

John Wilson Fonseca Lopez submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lot 95, Unit 2, Double Diamond Estates, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is \$710.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

Jerrell Lee Smith submitted an offer of \$250.00 for Lot 15 Unit II, Retreta Del Plano, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is \$630.00. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY)  
SECTION 551.072 (DELIBERATIONS ABOUT REAL PROPERTY) SECTION 551.074  
(PERSONNEL MATTERS) SECTION 551.076 (DELIBERATIONS ABOUT SECURITY  
DEVICES)**

Convened into Executive Session at 10:27 a.m.

**CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Reconvened into Regular Session at 11:22 a.m. Gary Alexander made a motion authorizing the County Attorney to send a Demand Letter on a hangar lease agreement at the Hutchinson County Airport, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. 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 11:25 a.m.



  
CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

**ATTEST:**

  
KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK

