

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 9th day of June 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 – ABSENT
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)

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 114.044

Gary Alexander made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items including Judge Irwin's request to dispose of an old shelf, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

PBFCM REPORT ON COLLECTIONS, FINES AND FEES

Perdue Brandon Attorneys at Law and Team consisting of Blake Newton, Andrea Hendrix, Alysia Cordova, Brent Sherrod and Troy Seagler presented the Collection Report to Hutchinson County on delinquent tax collections. The presentation has been made part of the minutes. Brent Sherrod, Director of Client Services, also presented collections for delinquent fines and fees for JP1 and JP2. JP1 – Purdue Brandon was able to liquidate \$544,000.00 in fines and fees, sent out over 14,000 letters and made over 14,000 calls to collect. JP1 is at a 65% collection rate. JP2 – Perdue Brandon was able to liquidate \$1.2 million in fines and fees, sent out 25,000 letters and made 22,000 calls to collect. JP2 is at a 83.3% collection rate. These are outstanding numbers.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPERTY INSURANCE PROPOSAL FROM THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AGREEMENTS WITH BUTTERCUP HOUSE, HIGH PLAINS FOOD BANK, HUTCHCARES, HUTCHINSON CO. CRISIS CENTER, HUTCHINSON CO. SOIL & WATER, LEPC, PANHANDLE COMMUNITY SERVICES, AND TEXAS PANHANDLE CENTER

Judge Irwin presented as we approve and update these agreements every 2 years. They are nonprofit organizations that we make annual monetary payments to. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. Voting in favor: Gary Alexander, Ben Bentley and Judge Irwin. Abstained: Chris Prock. Motion carried. Agreements have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE 2025 BUDGET CALENDAR

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD INSURANCE RENEWAL 6.20% INCREASE FOR FY 2025-2026. PRESENTATION BY CHARLA ROSE WITH UPSHAW

Charla Rose with Upshaw Insurance presented Hutchinson County Employee Benefits with renewal rates and alternate options. Last year Ms. Rose did a market check to see other insurance companies and rates available to us but due to the way our claims run each year we are sent decline to quote letters. There is another option out there that she does not recommend called reference-based pricing insurance which is self-funded with a small network of doctors, she does not assist or provide this insurance option. We need to make a decision at the next Commissioners Court Meeting June 23, 2025. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Amy Back, Treasurer, and she will contact Ms. Rose. Presentation and Options have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING DIVERSION CENTER ACTIVITIES WITH TPC AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT

Craig Jones, County Attorney, presented along with Amanda Whitney with TPC. The problem within our County is low level offenders going to jail and we don't have the capacity to deal with the mental health issues associated with some of these cases. Mr. Jones then must determine whether to dismiss the low-level offense or apply for state hospital assistance, which can be a lengthy process in hopes of this process improving in the future. During their research on facilities and how to combat this issue they found TPC which is a RESET Diversion Center. Potter County has this agreement in place as law enforcement take the defendant straight to the RESET Diversion Center so they do not enter the criminal justice system at this time with hope that they can be helped with their mental health issues on a voluntary basis. They avoid criminal prosecution at this time with hopes of getting the help they need to get on the right path. Judge Mosley, Mark Snider, Sheriff Langwell and Mr. Jones have all been in these discussions with TPC regarding the RESET Diversion Center and how it could help Hutchinson County. There was discussion on if someone is taking advantage of this service Mr. Jones would be notified of the number of times they have been to the RESET Center and then they would have to go through the criminal justice system. Mr. Jones feels this is a good option for our county and suggests we enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with TPC. If this is approved TPC would come and train our law enforcement officers on what the procedure is, what to look for and then law enforcement would be able to make the decision on who would be a candidate for TPC. TPC will assist in some of the transportation to and from the RESET Diversion Center. Ms. Whitney with TPC said they have had great success opening doors for these people for additional services, emergency doctor visits, and getting them with a provider so they can get access to the medication they may need

and a case manager. Supplemental mental health treatment with hopes to reduce any more encounters with law enforcement. Mr. Jones did mention within this agreement there is no cost to the county. Commissioner Prock asked if the person did need a doctor's care and or medications who pays for that. Ms. Whitney advised they are set up for the indigent population and if they are unemployed, it would be little to no cost to them. If they do have insurance, it would be billed through that. They do not turn away individuals for nonpayment. Once the person is turned over to TPC, they are no longer our responsibility, it's a diversion of the potential criminal charges. After discussion it was decided to make Judge Irwin the county's designee. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item with Judge Irwin as the designee, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Memorandum and Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Commissioner Bentley gave us an update on the refurbished chiller should be completed in the next couple of weeks. The generator installation and parking lights should be completed soon.

Commissioner Prock gave an update on the Borger Library exterior project, they are working on it when it's not raining.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Allan Wells, EMC, reported that the drought index is average of 12. 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 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 Ben Bentley. 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

Lesha Krieg, Auditor and Duane Chisholm, R&B Superintendent, presented the bids that were submitted. No bids received for asphalt. 2 bids received for aggregate from Big Creek Sand & Gravel – Grade B-4 and Canadian River Sand & Gravel – Grade B-3 and B-4. Mr. Chisholm says for the state and grants they want to see that we went out for bids whether we receive any or not. He also said they have accepted multiple bids in the past and purchased from the company that had what they needed at the time at the cheapest price. After discussion it was decided to accept the lowest bid. Ben Bentley made a motion to award the bid for the Grade-3 and Grade-4 gravel to Canadian River Sand & Gravel with the lowest bid, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Bids and Tabulation Sheets have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Nancy Criswell, Library Director, reported that the library was gifted a \$200.00 memorial from Phillis and Scott Steger. It is in memory of Donald Glen Stephens, born and raised in Borger and passed away February 9, 2025, he was an avid reader, and they felt this would be a good way to honor his memory. Ms. Criswell will put a memorial plate inside each book that is purchased. Chris Prock made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Alexander reported issues with the A/C in the IT room at the Borger Annex. He is in the process of getting someone to take a look at it.

Commissioner Bentley reported there are chairs that have been approved for disposal that need to go in the Purple Wave Auction.

Alan Wells, EMC reported there is a private warning siren out at Graced Land East, and it is not working. They have asked the county to assist with the cost of repairing the siren. The county is not able to assist with this siren located on private property.

Sheriff Langwell reported some leaks in the jail due to all of the rain. Some of the leaks come from under the walls which can weaken the walls. There is also a vent that leaks when rain and snow blow in. They are looking at some options to help prevent this. Sheriff Langwell also reported that a deputy was responding to a vehicle accident last night and he hydroplaned and went into a ravine so there will be a claim on a deputy vehicle on the next meeting agenda. He reported that the deputy has a laceration to the head and a shoulder injury but he is ok.

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

Christina Bohn submitted an offer of \$100.00 for Lot 27, Block 2, Sec D, Lake Meredith Harbor, Hutchinson County Texas. The appraised value is \$1,720.00. Judge Irwin 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.

Rachel A Donais submitted an offer of \$2,500.00 for Lots 14-16, Block 112, Original Town of Stinnett, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is \$58,390.00. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

Gary Alexnader made a motion to approve Cati, LLC Tax Deed (R13608) in the amount of \$28,222.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Maria Longoria Tax Deed (R15793) in the amount of \$800.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Maria Longoria Tax Deed (R15798) in the amount of \$1,000.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Maria Longoria Tax Deed (R15799) in the amount of \$1,000.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Maria Longoria Tax Deed (R18059) in the amount of \$1,000.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

All Tax Deeds and offers have been made part of the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY)

Convened into Executive Session at 9:49 a.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvened into Regular Session at 10:05 a.m.

No Action Taken at this time.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR BUDGET 2025-2026

Judge Irwin reported that she emailed the Commissioners the estimated values to review.

Lesha Krieg, Auditor reported that she has received many budget worksheets while she was out last week. They were due on the 9th and please send them to her if you haven't.

Commissioner Bentley wanted to discuss the Stinnett Annex and a plan on what it will be used for. The heating and air are complete; the roof is complete and almost everything has been removed from the building. Some closets need to be built to cover some ducting. The flooring is not ready to be done, but that is an approved ARP project. Judge Irwin did want to mention we will probably need to replace our jail at some point even if it's a 5-10 or more-year plan. We know we have the property where the Stinnett Annex is sitting to possibly use for a jail so not to overspend on that building now. The building just needs to be fixed up and usable. We need to discuss this so it can be budgeted. Commissioner Bentley suggested the Extension Office move over there to give them the room they need for the offices, meetings and activities they do with the kids. They are currently using a church in Borger for meetings and club activities. Judge Irwin asked about needing a kitchen over there for their activities and Commissioner Bentley said there is plumbing for this type of thing. Bathrooms need updated and compliant. We need a contractor to go over there to see what those things would cost to budget. The Extension Office is on board with this idea. Commissioner Bentley is also working on getting the seal coating complete over there.

Judge Irwin said to keep the health insurance in mind as we need to decide on that next meeting.

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 11:30 a.m.




CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK

