

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 8th day of September 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 LAST 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 STATE LGC 114.044

Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk, would like to pull item 1 from the Consent Agenda to discuss the Minutes on 08/26/2025. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, brought it to her attention that within the Budget Work Session listed under Adult Probation the following statement should be under Budget discussion as it does not pertain to Adult Probation. - "Lesha Krieg, Auditor, said she did not increase the amount of the TIRZ funding based on the certified values. She has it at \$60,000.00 based on current tax rate and certified values. It will be based on whatever tax rate is adopted so this should be fine." Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items with the change to Minutes on 08/25/2025, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TEXANS FEEDING TEXANS HOME-DELIVERED MEAL GRANT PROGRAM

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AMENDED COMBINED POLLING LOCATION FOR PCT. 31 & 41 AND CHANGE IN POLLING LOCATION FOR PCT. 31 & 41 FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk, reported changing the Combined Polling Location for Pct. 31 & 41 from the WTHS Commons Room to the Hutchinson County Courthouse on Election Day. After speaking with administration, the Commons Room is a secure student area and decided it would be best to make this change going forward. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Amended Notice of Combined Precinct and Notice of Change to Polling Place has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AMENDED NOTICE FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk, reported changing the Combined Polling Location for Pct. 31 & 41 from WTHS Commons Room to the Hutchinson County Courthouse on Election Day. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Amended Notice has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF US BANK CREDIT CARDS TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND/OR INDIVIDUALS

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. US Bank Credit Card Requests have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE CREATION OF A JAIL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND WITH A TRANSFER OF \$5,000,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES TO BE COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE NEED OF A JAIL

Commissioner Bentley would like to see some meetings within the community about this project. Dwight Kirksey 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 SHERIFF AND CONSTABLES FEES FOR 2026

Sheriff Langwell and Constable Hartranft presented the 2026 Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees with updates. After discussion the Commissioners would like to have the County Attorney review prior to approving these changes. These must be approved and submitted by October 15, 2025. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Fees with updates have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ACTION WITH THE SHERIFF'S DEPT. 2024 FORD EXPLORER

Sheriff Langwell reported another squad car accident and presented 3 quotes J.W.'s Collision, Refinishing Systems and Customs by Steve for repair to the 2024 Ford Explorer. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported that she normally brings this to the court to approve submitting the claim with TAC but the 2nd party in the accident already filed a liability claim with our insurance. Ms. Krieg has already contacted TAC about a physical claim with accident report. TAC should send an adjuster to look at the vehicle and they will let us know if it is a total loss or if we need to proceed with the quotes provided. Commissioners would like to hear from TAC. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve submitting this claim to TAC, our insurance for assessment and direction, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Quotes have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE RAMP GRANT AGREEMENT

Judge Irwin presented the Ramp Grant Agreement that expired on August 31, 2025. Until this new one is executed any new charges from September until this new agreement is executed are not eligible for reimbursement by the grant. Commissioner Kirksey had not seen the grant for review, Commissioner Prock asked if there were any changes to the agreement and all Commissioners would like the County Attorney to review. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the Ramp Grant Agreement pending County Attorney review and no changes compared to last year and if there are any changes it will be brought back to court, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR 2026

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the 1st scenario giving the 4th of July holiday on Monday, July 6th giving a total of 12 holidays including 1 Floating Holiday, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Scenarios have been made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Commissioner Bentley reported that the Courthouse Generator has been installed. It is up and running, it just needs a switch, but it will run the courthouse if needed. The Stinnett Annex is not ready for the flooring yet.

Commissioner Alexander reported on the Borger Annex waiting on installation of doors.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Allan Wells, EMC, reported that the drought index is 438 at the highest. 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 calendar through September 20, 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

Chris Prock made a motion to approve the Contingency Line Item changes as presented, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Order has been made part of the minutes.

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 reported running the advertisement for Fiber Optic Project set to open September 15th.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Judge Irwin presented donations made to the Museum in the amount of \$125.00. This will be put into the Gift Shop line item with a budget amendment. Prior it was going into the revenue but for cash count purposes it will go into the Gift Shop. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Museum donations have been made part of the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Kirksey reported the issues in his precinct with laying the Fiber Optic lines. After research they typically do whatever, they want, and they can't do that. He has been working with Duane at R&B and found out they should be sending a blueprint to show where they will be installing, Fiber One has done that and will be scheduled next month. Commissioner Kirksey will also be in communication with City of Fritch to put together policy and procedure to present to the court.

Judge Irwin reported on a letter complementing our Airport, Airport Manager, Baltazar Madrano and his hospitality during a mechanical issue with their plane. Great Job to Baltazar and staff. Letter has been made part of the minutes.

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

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET THAT THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT CONSIDERS WARRANTED BY THE LAW AND REQUIRED BY THE INTEREST OF THE TAXPAYERS

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, made some minor changes to the payroll items after open enrollment 316th District Court Employee's Insurance line item \$57,940.00 reduced to \$55,718.00.

84th District Court, Judge Brancheau submitted orders to increase salary to his Court Reporter, and she suggested adding the \$125.00 county raise to the county side and the difference will come out of the Crt Reporter Salary Supp. line item for the increase to total the annual salary with ordered increase. This will change the Salary, Court Reporter line item \$67,763.00 reduced to \$66,259.00. This will also change the Social Security and Retirement line items slightly.

Judge Mosley, 316th District Judge, spoke about a decision the court made on 8/25/2025 to give no county raise of \$125.00 per month to District Judges and District Attorneys supplement and he understands this decision is subject to change today. This decision was based on SB 293 increasing their base pay by 25%. Judge Mosley advised the court that they have not had a base pay increase by the state since 2013. Considering inflation, since 2013 the 25% increase in base pay isn't enough. They deserve the same respect as all other county employees to receive the \$125.00 increase per month. The supplement they receive is for extra judicial responsibilities they are required to do, such as hiring, manage and reappointing the County Auditor, serving on the Juvenile Probation Board, hiring Probation Officers, reviewing/approve Juvenile Probation budgets as well as oversee hiring of Adult Probation, guide and reviewing their budgets and policies that is best for the county. Judge Brancheau also is the Admin Judge for the 3 counties he serves and is also on the Appraisal Review Board. These are some of the many additional duties of the District Judges and District Attorney. He did hire his new bailiff at a lower rate by 15% as encouraged by the Commissioners Court which is justifiable. Judge Mosley also advised the court that he will be increasing 316th Court Coordinators salary \$2,000.00 above 84th District Court Coordinator salary due to experience. There is a shortage in Court Reporters, and we must stay competitive in pay. They will also receive percentage raises to stay in line with the other counties they serve. He is asking for reconsideration of the \$125.00 county raise to the District Judges and District Attorney. Lesha Krieg, Auditor asked if he has the orders for the pay increase for his Court Coordinator and Court Reporter so this change can be made due to adopting the budget today. After discussion 316th District Court Coordinator will be ordered to increase salary to \$76,984.00. 316th District Court Reporter will be ordered to increase salary to \$118,814.00.

Commissioner Prock reported he did speak after the meeting on 08/25/2025 with Judge Mosley, Judge Brancheau and District Attorney, Mark Snider. After a good meeting with discussion, they are willing to cap their supplement at \$25,000.00 when and if they receive the county raises over time. All agreed to provide the county raise to the District Judges and District Attorney.

Judge Mosley did announce hiring Efren Munoz as his bailiff, and he also invited everyone to Drug Court Graduation at the Dome Wednesday at 5pm.

Constable Hartranft, Pct. 2 requested an additional \$1616.22 in her Equipment line item for a protective vest with 5-year warranty. Lesha Krieg, Auditor suggested it coming out of this budget if received by the end of October it can come out of 2024-2025 budget. After discussion they will add an additional \$1700.00 to her \$500.00 Equipment line item totaling \$2200.00.

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, discussed additional changes to the Proposed Budget listed below.
IT – Internet line item increased to \$58,824.00 and Renewal Service line item increased to \$313,050.00.

Maintenance – Employee Insurance line item reduced to \$71,709.00.

County Extension Agent – Salary, Agent, Agriculture line item reduced to \$30,000.00.

Airport – Insurance line item reduced to \$58,460.00.

Ms. Krieg did advise and discussed what the Special Revenue Funds are, what is available and what they can be used for. The funds are from revenue, and the legislature tells us how we can use them. These funds for review have been made part of the minutes.

County Attorney provided a letter with how he would like to apply his State Supplement Funds; those changes will be made.

Ms. Krieg advised with all of the changes it should not affect how you set the tax rate.

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BUDGET FOR 2025-2026

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to adopt the Proposed Budget for 2025-2026 with the changes discussed today, seconded by Gary Alexander. The vote of record: Dwight Kirksey – aye; Chris Prock – aye; Judge Irwin – aye; Ben Bentley – aye; and Gary Alexander – aye. The motion carried.

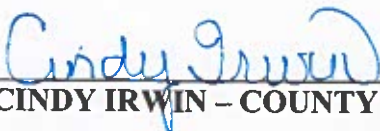
CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE TAX RATE FOR 2025-2026

I Dwight Kirksey move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$.50, which is effectively a 1.87 percent increase in the tax rate, seconded by Ben Bentley. The vote of record: Dwight Kirksey – aye; Chris Prock – aye; Judge Irwin – aye; Ben Bentley – aye; and Gary Alexander – aye. The motion carried.

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 11:35 a.m.




CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK

