THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 14th day of October 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 9:00 a.m. Judge Irwin led the pledge and prayer.

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

4-H members introduced themselves and the clubs they participate in within 4-H. They provided an update on the number of members and volunteers contributing to the success of Hutchinson County 4-H. The members also presented a National 4-H Week Proclamation that was signed by the Commissioners Court. Proclamation has been made part of the minutes.

Public Participation Form filled out by Karla Florer with Jean-Rose Karlin they presented a donation of $7,500 and $500.00 for the Hutchinson County Library in honor of their loved ones and to help others love and learn to read.

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 Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE 2026 INDIGENT DEFENSE RESOLUTION

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 minute.

REVIEW AUDITOR SALARY ORDER FOR 2026

No questions.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OVER 65-YEAR-OLD RETIREES' SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE THE HARTFORD NEW RATES

Amy Back, Treasurer, presented the Hartford Plan explaining this is a 60/40 plan, county paying 60% and the retiree paying 40% there is an increase of $320.88 for the year to the county. There is money in the budget for this increase. There are 10 employees taking advantage of this plan. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Renewal has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE 2026 SB 22 GRANT AGREEMENT

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SAVNS AWARD CONTRACT

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ROAD CROSSING FOR FIBERLIGHT LLC

Duane Chisholm, R&B Superintendent, presented this Fiberlight LLC Permit to bore under Fritch Fortress with exemption of the $1,000.00 fee due to being a local internet company and for the school. Commissioner Kirksey asked who we do charge the fee to. Mr. Chisholm said he only knows of charging cross-country pipeline companies. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item and waive the $1,000.00 fee, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Permit has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE EVERBRIDGE RENEWAL AGREEMENT

Judge Irwin presented the 3-year contract. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Renewal has been made part of the minutes.

8.CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF $3,000.00 FROM THE UNUSED DEPUTIES SALARY LINE ITEM, $1,500.00 GOING TO SECRETARY LINE ITEM AND $1,500.00 TO RECORDS CLERK LINE ITEM

Sheriff Langwell presented the reason for this transfer is when presenting the new step program for budget approval he used numbers from a previous budget, and this did not include the additional $125.00 county raise that was approved after. He does have money in his budget to make these line item transfers for these 2 employees. Amy Back, Treasurer reported that a special meeting was held with numerous elected officials and department heads to discuss lowering salaries on new hire employees and putting step plans in place to structure salaries of current employees with the intention of not going over what was budgeted for that fiscal year. Sheriff Langwell did implement a step plan that was a raise for these employees but now wants to exceed the approved budget that started October 1, 2025, for salaries to include the $125.00 monthly county raise. She explained that the step program raise was $168.88 for the Secretary and $220.00 for the Records Clerk not including the $125.00 county raise. Now including the county raise it would be $293.88 and $345.10 monthly raise, making the Sheriff's Secretary have a higher salary than Library Director, Museum Director and both Constables. She is not in favor of the transfer as it may not affect the current fiscal year but it will affect fiscal year 2027. Commissioner Prock explained that we talked about the step program prior to approving the county raise. All employees previously on the step program got the raise across the board so the solution would be to not give the raise to employees on the step program or award the raise to the new step program that was approved prior to approving the county raise. There are other departments employees that received a step raise and the county raise. There are salary issues, but this is an issue we created by approving the step program for the Sheriff Department and then a month later approving the county raise. Commissioner Prock feels we need to make it fair and address the issue in the next fiscal year. Sheriff Langwell also explained that prior to him taking office there was an additional civilian (office position) that was changed to patrol, so the office has taken on more responsibility with less people. When hiring any new office employees in the future he will start them at a lower rate as requested. He feels they would not be having this discussion if he had added the $125.00 in his salary budget, but he is not asking for more money at this time just the transfer within his existing approved budget. Commissioner Prock stated again we should not punish these two employees for this oversite and start having salary discussions earlier for the next fiscal year. He also wants us all to think about taxpayer dollars when discussing raises as a whole. After discussion they will approve the line item transfer. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Letter from Amy Back, Treasurer has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO SHERIFFS' DEPARTMENT VEHICLES FROM DANA SAFETY SUPPLY

Sheriff Langwell presented 2 bids, one from Dana Safety Supply, a TIP Co-op, they will hold 2 Ford F-150 Responders, they are in Lubbock. The Defender bid is higher than the Dana Safety bid and they only have 1 Ford F-150 available, located in Dallas. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Bids have been made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Commissioner Bentley reported that the courthouse generator is completed. The Stinnett Annex flooring is not ready to install yet.
Commissioner Kirksey asked about an extra camera he could install at the Fritch Library. He will talk with Richard Hein, IT Director.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

No action 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.
Borger Branch book sale is this weekend.

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

None at this time.

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

Nancy Criswell, Library Director, reported to start the new bid process they were waiting for approval of the expansion grant, and they were awarded $452,300.00 that will provide fiber optics for all 3 library branches. Richard Hein, IT Director, said he is waiting to discuss some options with Lesha Krieg, Auditor and when they get the information they will bring this to the Commissioners Court.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Donations to the Hutchinson County Library in the amount of $8,000.00 as presented in Public Comments. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the donation from the Florer Family to the Hutchinson County Library, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Box Donations to the Hutchinson County Museum in the amount of $66.00. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the Monthly Box Donations to the Hutchinson County Museum, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Kirksey reported on the fiber optic permit project. He has been working with Duane Chisholm R&B Superintendent. He is willing to take any help with this to come up with a procedure for the county. He also updated us on Nuisance Projects.

Judge Irwin reported that she does not plan to run for office again.

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

Donald R. Phillips and Sharan B. Phillips submitted an offer of $500.00 for Res Area BTW Lots Two through Three (2-3) Block One (1), Unit Four (4), Scotts Acres, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $1,070.00. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the offer of $500.00, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

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 10:38 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS COURT ★ HUTCHINSON COUNTY TEXAS ★

Cindy Irwin

CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Kelly Ratliff

KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK