

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 24th day of November 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)

Kelly Riddle with LMHOA – Roads, Septic and Squatter issues. Ms. Riddle advised the court of HB2560 that the county can in fact help with private roads, this went in effect September 1, 2025. They have been told on multiple occasions that the county can't do anything to help them. Judge Irwin will pass the HB2560 to our County Attorney for advice.

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

Judge Irwin presented an addition made to the disposal of obsolete office equipment by Sheriff Langwell. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items including the additional disposal of obsolete office equipment by Sheriff Langwell, 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 FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE POLICY

Judge Irwin presented this policy due to a SAVNS audit finding we need to have this policy in place. This policy if approved would be for all grants as well as a policy in place for the county which is needed. This sample policy has been approved by Craig Jones, County Attorney.

Commissioner Bentley voiced some concern to fine tune this policy more before approving it regarding Elected Officials and Department Heads. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, said the policy is needed and it gives people guidelines and guidance of what to do if they suspect fraud or abuse going on. The state provided this policy template that can have things added or taken out if needed. This policy is also corrective action to the SAVNS audit that needs to be approved and put in place. Judge Irwin will send this template out to all Elected Officials and Department Heads for feedback and review for changes. This will be placed on a future agenda for discussion and approval. Ben Bentley made a motion to table this agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Policy template has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REIMBURSEMENT FOR FUEL/FUEL MILEAGE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING FOR CONSTABLE PCT 2

Constable Hartranft is requesting fuel reimbursement in the amount of \$207.45 for using her personal vehicle to travel in. She has this in her travel budget. Commissioner Bentley brought up that the fuel was going to get used whether it was in the county vehicle or her personal vehicle. Commissioner Prock advised we need to revisit this policy for review. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the fuel as requested, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF SHERIFFS OFFICE VEHICLE UNIT #8839

Chief Trahan presented this request for replacement of the wrecked squad car. \$34,868.17 was received from TAC. Quotes were from Dana Fleet Safety in the amount of \$77,792.69 for a Ford F-150 and Defender in the amount of \$85,466.75 for a Ford F-150 these vehicles are on the ground. The difference if you went with Dana Fleet Safety would be \$42,924.52 out of budget. Chief Trahan was not sure about what is in the budget for squad cars. Chris Prock made a motion to table this agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ENROLLMENT IN TAC CYBERSECURITY TRAINING COURSE

Judge Irwin presented this Cybersecurity training provided by TAC. We have taken this training the last few years, it was previously no cost but last year it was \$5.00 per person. Commissioner Kirksey asked if the IT Director has reviewed this. Mr. Hein said he has budgeted for it, and it is good training and good for that price. 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 \$3,000.00 BOND FOR ROBERT DUANE CHISHOLM, ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE \$5,000.00 BOND FOR LESHA KRIEG, COUNTY AUDITOR

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDITOR'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025

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

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Judge Irwin reported that the drought index is 384. 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

Ben Bentley 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

Judge Irwin presented the bids for the Fiber Optic Project for the libraries. Richard Hein, IT Director, requested that we do not award a bid at this time. One was overbudget and the other did not contain enough information. Mr. Hein would like to get on the next agenda to discuss how to proceed. Chris Prock made a motion to table this agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Bids were made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Judge Irwin presented the donations from the museum drop box. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the museum drop box donations, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Donations were made part of the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Alexander reported a key card was clogging the toilet at the Borger Annex so this is resolved.

Commissioner Bentley reported that the Christmas lights are almost completed at the courthouse.

Judge Irwin reported the Annual Lighting of the Courthouse is on Monday December 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. with a special guest making an appearance.

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

None at this time.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Commissioner Prock requested this item be put on the agenda going forward. He wanted to start discussing elected official salaries now and not wait until July during budget time. With officials announcing retirement and candidates running for office in the March Primary such as the County Judge position, he would like it to be discussed now with the expectation of what the salaries might look like when taking office. He presented the 24 TAC Salary Survey for county populations of 15,000 – 25,000 for comparison. It gives you each elected position, the average salary for those positions and the percentage that we pay above or below what the county average is. This is provided for discussion of how we want to proceed going forward. Commissioner Bentley has reservations about doing this so close to this election and filing deadlines. Commissioner Kirksey

said February is a good time to set the salaries across the board whether people are retiring or not. Discussion was had that talking about this is a good thing, but the salary changes will need to be for all elected officials and at the same time if changes are made. There could be many obstacles such as employees making close to what elected officials and department heads are making as this has already come up when talking about reducing elected officials and department head salaries. Commissioner Prock said our average percentage of all elected officials above the county average is 22.7%, taking out the lowest and the highest. If we shoot to keep the salaries at 20%-25% above average every time an official comes in that is still competitive with industries etc. in our area and an attractive wage. Commissioner Prock suggested reducing the County Judge salary to \$92,500.00 which is still 23.3% above the average and with the state supplement which was increased by \$6,000.00 last year totaling \$31,500.00 making the total salary \$124,000.00 including the state supplement. This is being discussed because this elected position does not have an incumbent running and when retired officials go out don't pay more than 20%-25% above average. Lesha Krieg, Auditor suggested for elected officials only based on their position setting a base salary and then go off longevity. It was discussed how these changes can effect how candidate's campaign. They also want these discussions to start so candidates are not caught off guard if this salary and all salaries are reduced for public transparency. This is just for discussion and continuous discussion through January and February so a decision can possibly be made across the board for the new budget. TAC salary survey 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 10:41 a.m.



Cindy Irwin

CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Kelly Ratliff

KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK