

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 8th day of December 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 – arrived at 9:47 a.m. @ agenda item 5
Ben Bentley	Commissioner Precinct #3 – left at 10:25 a.m. during Executive Session
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. Ben Bentley 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

Corrections to minutes for the November 24, 2025, meeting. The meeting is dated November 18, 2025, and should be dated November 24, 2025. Agenda item 13 approval of donations to Hutchinson County. Correction is to date as well as agenda item 13 approve the museum drop box donations not the library drop box donations.

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

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items including the correction to the November 24, 2025, Minutes, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM DOSHIER, PICKENS & FRANCIS LLC FOR THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Judge Irwin presented this engagement letter, we have used Doshier, Pickens & Francis LLC for the last few years for our outside auditing. Commissioner Prock asked when the last time was they went out for bids on this. Lesha Krieg, Auditor said 3 years ago when she took over and did not receive any bids. Suggestion was made to go out for bid for external auditing every 3-4 years. Cost has been reasonable with Doshier, Pickens & Francis LLC. They won't charge us more than \$30,000.00. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Letter has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE JOINT PRIMARY ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND RESOLUTION FOR THE MARCH 3, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION

Kelly Ratliff, County Clerk presented the contracts and resolution with County Attorney, Craig Jones and Party Chair approval. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Contracts and Resolution have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OR SUSPENSION OF LIFI GRANT PROJECT

Richard Hein, IT Director and Nancy Criswell, Library Director, presented the LIFI grant history and concerns with it mainly being a lot of unknown and not knowing what the price is going to be. The written presentation has been made part of the minutes. After discussion it was decided to approve suspension of the LIFI Grant Project. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve suspension of the LIFI Grant Project, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. LIFI Fiber Grant history information sheet has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT COUNTY BOAT AGENT AGREEMENT

Carrie Kimmell, Tax Assessor Collector, presented this agreement. This allows them to issue boat registrations in Hutchinson County. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE FUNDS TO HIRE NEW EMPLOYEE IN COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO TRAIN WITH OUTGOING EMPLOYEE FOR TWO WEEKS

Craig Jones, County Attorney, reported that he has hired a new employee with an unknown start date, his current assistant gave her two weeks today making her last day next Thursday. He is requesting that the new hire start on Monday giving her 4 days with the outgoing assistant to train. This would be 4 days and roughly \$944.00. The outgoing employee's budgeted salary is \$56,519.00 and he is bringing in the new employee in at \$51,000.00 a 10% reduction so he has funds in his budget to cover the 4 days. No motion needed as this is within his budget due to saving with new hire salary.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLE UNIT #8839

Sheriff Langwell reported the insurance check received for the vehicle was \$34,878.00. He presented 2 quotes from Dana Fleet safety for \$77,792.69 and Defender for \$85,466.75 both for Ford F150 Responders. He would like to discuss the options for the difference. He does have a Charger that was going to go to auction after the purchase of a budgeted squad car, he could take the Charger that needs front end work and use some of the insurance money to repair it and

continue to use it. The next option is taking the difference from Contingency funds or taking it from SB22 Grant Funds. Sheriff Langwell did mention a couple of projects he wanted to do with the SB22 Grant Funds such as upgrading tasers due to hitting the 5-year mark and purchasing an ATV for the Sheriff's Department but being staffed and having vehicles for them to drive is most important. SB22 funds will have to fully fund the vehicle, and the insurance check will go into the General Fund with possible line-item transfer to certain line items. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item using SB22 funds to purchase the vehicle from Dana Fleet Safety for \$77,792.69, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Quotes have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SANFORD

Duane Chisolm, R&B Supervisor, presented this interlocal agreement for road repair on 4 roads in Sanford. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above-stated agenda item pending approval from their council, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A FRONT END LOADER THROUGH SOURCE WELL

Duane Chisolm, R&B Supervisor, presented these quotes for a front-end loader this was discussed in budget time. He presented 2 quotes, one from Warren Cat for \$288,981.45 and from Yellow House for \$287,369.00 the specs are the same. Considering Warren Cat's parts availability, service/support, resale value and they have one in stock, his recommendation is to purchase the front-end loader from Warren Cat through Source Well it will take 60-90 days to get this in. Commissioner Bentley does not agree with parts and service being better with Warren Cat. Commissioner Prock asked how Warren Cat is preferred for parts and service, Mr. Chisolm said he can request parts and get them the next day and ask them questions they will trouble shoot and help guide them to fix the issue over the phone. Commissioner Bentley would suggest the low bid which is Yellow House. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the front-end loader from Warren Cat for \$288,981.45, seconded by Chris Prock. Voted For: Gary Alexander, Chris Prock, Dwight Kirksey and Judge Irwin. Voted Against: Ben Bentley. Motion carried. Quotes have been made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

ARP Projects still in progress are the doors at the Borger Annex and floors at the Stinnett Annex.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Judge Irwin reported that the drought index is 378 and the high end is 477. No action taken at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REQUESTS FOR USE OF CLUBROOMS AT BORGER LIBRARY OR FRITCH

Chris Prock submitted a schedule for the Borger Library Clubroom through 12/20/2025. Dwight Kirksey submitted a schedule for the Fritch Library Clubroom through 12/13/2025. Commissioner Kirksey was asked about a slumber party, and the agreement does not specify hours. Due to liability, it was decided not to approve overnight parties and to possibly revisit with agreement specifying hours. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. 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**

RFP for LIFI Grant Project– Deny all bids. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve denying all bids for the LIFI Grant Project, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

None at this time.

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

Judge Irwin reported on Samsara vehicle maintenance monitors for the county vehicles and equipment. These monitors were approved at budget to be placed on all county vehicles and equipment. They have completed the trial as 10 monitors were placed on R&B vehicles. Duane Chisholm, R&B Supervisor, reported now that they have been installed properly with proper wiring, he has not had issues. When there is no cell data it will upload the data collected into the program when data signal is received. Lesha Krieg, Auditor advised it was approved at budget to put them on all county vehicles this is informational that the trial is complete, and they are going to move forward.

Commissioner Prock reported the Christmas decorations at the museum look great and they had cookies and punch for the kids during the Downtown Christmas event. He wanted to thank the Friends of the Museum everything was great and looks very nice.

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

None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY)

Convened into Executive Session at 10:18 a.m.

Reconvened into Regular Session at 10:47 a.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action on action

BUDGET WORKSHOP

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gary Alexander made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourn 10:50 a.m.



Cindy Irwin

CINDY IRWIN - COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

Kelly Ratliff

KELLY RATLIFF - COUNTY CLERK

