

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 13th day of April 2026, 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)

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

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

DISCUSSION ON HUTCHINSON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD

Jesse Sheffield with the Hutchinson County Hospital District Board reported that this is the normal time they get board members appointed to the Hospital District Board. They need board members. It is a 7-member board, and they only have 4 members making it hard to get a quorum together to take care of business. Chapter 1245 allows members to be appointed but many who serve on boards such as this don't have the time to give to this board. He is coming to the Commissioners' Court to ask what the district can do to help fill this board and how they can work together to make this happen. The district board is supposed to help take our tax dollars and take care of indigent care at the hospital as well as maintain operating the hospital which is hard with a 4-person board.

Judge Irwin asked if they have put anything out in the paper that Hospital District Board members are needed, and he responded not in the last 6 months or so. He agrees more could be done. Commissioner Prock asked now that they have gone nonprofit how the hospital is operating. Mr. Sheffield explained that in 2007 Critical Access Hospital came in to operate the hospital as a for-profit. In August 2023 Critical Access Hospital noticed they could no longer operate the hospital due to a cut in federal and state funds. Critical Access Hospital worked with us to bring someone else in to run the hospital. Golden Plains Community Hospital became a non-profit and transitioned away from CAH and is now locally owned and managed. Any profit that is made is put back into the operations of the hospital. Commissioner Prock asked what the duties of the board are for the hospital district vs the duties for the board as the non-profit. Mr. Sheffield said the duty of the Hospital District Board is to take care of indigent care within Hutchinson County. The Hospital Board which Mr. Corbitt is chairman of takes care of daily operations. Commissioner Prock asked if the audits are available to the public for the Hospital District and Mr. Sheffield said yes. Judge Irwin asked if the Hospital District Board is supposed to take care of the indigent care why is the county now having to pay for inmate prescription drugs. Mr. Sheffield said based on the Indigent Care Agreement between the Hospital District and the Hospital Non-Profit the hospital is supposed to be taking care of this for the inmates. Judge Irwin explained that is not happening as United will no longer fill inmate prescriptions due to non-payment from the hospital and the county is having to pay out of pocket. Mr. Sheffield was not aware of that and will check into it. He advised the court that indigent care in Hutchinson County from what he had been told was 12.8 million dollars last year and the taxes only bring in 3 million dollars due to the tax cap and that is why they use federal and state intergovernmental transfers. Commissioner Prock asked why the Hospital District Board hasn't tried to raise the taxes. He stated that it would require an election and they have been reluctant to do that, ours is ten cents the 3rd lowest tax rate in the state. The average tax rate in the state is thirty-seven cents. He would like to get on the November election if he could get the vacancies on the Hospital District Board filled. Commissioner Kirksey and Judge Irwin said it has been roughly 3 years since anyone has come to the Commissioners' Court to discuss appointing board members. Mr. Sheffield knows they need to work with the Commissioners' Court more going forward. Commissioner Prock asked if elections had been posted for board members. Mr. Sheffield said they have tried and things have come up preventing this from happening. He would like to work with the county more on the election process as well. He has issues with dates and locations, but the board would work with the county to do what is best for the county based on statewide requirements and election laws. Commissioner Prock asked what positions are elected and appointed on the District Board. Mr. Sheffield said Pct. 1 is open, Pct. 2 is Jock Lee, Pct. 3 is Mr. Corbitt, Pct. 4 is Jesse Sheffield and Ricky Horton has been appointed since August. Appointed positions get 2, 3-year terms. No further questions and he did thank the Commissioners Court for their time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATION OF FIRE SHELTERS AND USE AGREEMENT WITH LEPC

Judge Irwin let the court know Mr. Strobe cannot be here and she will place this on the next Commissioners Court Agenda. Chris Prock made a motion to table the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK, APRIL 19-25, CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE "FINE FORGIVENESS WEEK"

Nancy Criswell, Library Director, presented information on "Fine Forgiveness Week" it was approved for the first time last year. The goal with doing this is hoping patrons can catch up on their fines so they can take part in the Summer Reading Program. Ms. Criswell said they forgave around \$300.00 last year, and they would like to do this again for our community. This is only for fines and fees but not if they have lost a book. Commissioner Kirksey asked why we have fines and fees if we are going to bail them out each year. Ms. Criswell said it is to increase the numbers who sign up for the Summer Reading Program and they do recoup a good amount that are not forgiven. This also allows the children to participate in the program when the fines and fees are the parents' responsibility. There may be a way to address re-offenders. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. Judge Irwin voted aye and Dwight Kirksey voted nay, the motion carried.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE COMBINED PRECINCTS FOR THE PRIMARY RUNOFF MAY 26, 2026

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY RUNOFF MAY 26, 2026

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD AND ELECTION JUDGES/ALTERNATE JUDGES FOR THE PRIMARY RUNOFF MAY 26, 2026

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Early Voting Ballot Board, Judges and Alternate Judges have been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MONTHLY AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, JANUARY 31, 2026, AND FEBRUARY 28, 2026

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE USE OF \$5,764.58 RECEIVED IN OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Lesha Krieg, Auditor advised this has been given to the Drug Court in the past and is one of the approved uses for the funds. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. List of approved uses has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SAMSARA USER LIST AND ADMINISTRATOR

Judge Irwin presented this list of users, roles and departments, for example Sheriff Jerry Langwell would have full admin over the entire Sheriff's Department Organization and Jail. Duane Chisholm, R&B Superintendent, would have full admin over the departments listed. She would like to appoint someone to have full access/admin over things such as billing, system updates versus Samsara having to contact each department head. Commissioner Bentley wanted to be on the view only access, an email invite was sent out but there were issues with that. They will resend as the link expires. Judge Irwin would like to suggest Alan Wells, EMC to have full administrative access to the entire organization with Lesha Krieg, Auditor, as back-up and all agreed. They wanted to discuss all other users and their roles; it was decided that the list of users, roles and departments will be updated and brought back to a future Commissioners' Court meeting. Commissioners would like to have Read-Only Admin access over their precincts. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Alan Wells as Samsara Administrator and Lesha Krieg as back-up, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Current users list has been made part of the minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE EXT. AG. AGENT KAITLYNNE BUDD'S \$50.00 MONTHLY CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE

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

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Judge Irwin and Commissioner Bentley reported meeting with Parkhill about the Stinnett Annex to get proposal on the work needed.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Alan Wells, EMC/County Fire Marshall, reported that the drought index is 435-615. He reported on the fire hazard happening in Hutchinson County and surrounding counties. Gary Alexander made a motion to sign another Order Prohibiting or Restricting Outdoor Burning, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

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 schedule for the Fritch Library Clubroom through April 18th.
Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prick. 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

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

Judge Irwin presented the Hutchinson County Museum monthly box donations for March 2026 in the amount of \$45.95. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Monthly box donation form has been made part of the minutes.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Alexander reported the airport has been very busy with fire management and sold a lot of fuel. Juvenile Dept. is getting auto entry lock on southside door, also the Borger Annex is getting new blinds down the hall by the tax office.

Commissioner Bentley reported on the generator that was replaced, the old one to possibly be used at the Borger Annex if needed. They could possibly house it at the airport until they find out about grant funding.

Judge Irwin and Commissioner Kirksey reported on the county receiving the Risk Management Excellent in Safety Award. Commissioner Kirksey thanked the Treasurer's office, all departments, and employees for making sure we are working in a safe environment. Hutchinson County has won this award many years in a row. They explained that TAC pays for county representatives to attend this conference and who could attend if they want to.

Judge Irwin reported tomorrow is the Wellness Seminar with TAC April 14, 2026, at the Annex at 9am and Courthouse at Noon there will be food incentives at each meeting.

Commissioner Prock reported the book sale is taking place April 23-25, 2026. If you are member of Friends of the Library you get early access April 22, 2026. Annual Membership is \$10.00.

Alan Wells, EMC reported Sanford is interested in hazard mitigation. He will be attending their board meeting. Also, Sanford-Fritch ISD is also interested in partnering in hazard mitigation.

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

Logan Sims & Gracee Florer submitted an offer of \$1,500.00 for Lots 4-6, Block 99, Original Town of Stinnett, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value of the property is \$14,700.00. Ben Bentley made the motion to approve the offer of \$1,500.00, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offer has been made part of the minutes.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Judge Irwin reported that before May 15, 2026, they will send out budget information. Commissioner Kirksey would like to discuss salaries. He would like to send out a questionnaire asking each Department Head/Elected Official on what they think the salary should be of a newly hired/elected official for each position to set a base rate.

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 10:32 a.m.



ATTEST:


CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE


KELLY RATLIFF – COUNTY CLERK

