

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 12th day of August, 2024, 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
Jenny Ligon	Deputy 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 9:32 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. Documents have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OPTIONAL DMV FEES FOR 2025

Judge Irwin reports that the only optional fee we have currently is the \$10 County Road and Bridge fee. Ben Bentley made a motion to leave the optional DMV fees the same, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Document has been made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE INSURANCE PROPOSAL FROM TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR AUTO, GENERAL LIABILITY AND CYBERSECURITY COVERAGE

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, states that TAC, Texas Association of Counties, is now doing a stand alone cyber security policy which used to be rolled in with the elected officials general liability. Two proposals were given to review and discussion was made. Mrs. Krieg states that she currently updated the budget for the million dollars of liability with \$10,000 deductible at \$96,937. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to enter in with the plan of million dollar coverage and \$10,000 deductible, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR 316TH DISTRICT JUDGE

Ben Bentley 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 ACCEPTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT LETTER FROM DOSHIER, PICKENS & FRANCIS LLC FOR THE EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FIREARMS FROM SB 22 FUNDS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Captain Marcel Hajjar reported on the quotes of which the handouts were given to each Commissioner to review. Lesha Krieg states this will have to go out for a sealed bid since it is over \$50,000. Discussion was made on going out for sealed bids. Dwight Kirksey made the motion to approve going out for sealed bids on the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Handouts are made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE AXON CONTRACT FOR BODY CAMERAS AND IN-CAR CAMERAS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Captain Marcel Hajjar states the contract is the same as discussed last week. The contracts were forwarded to Craig Jones, County Attorney, as suggested. Mr. Jones states that the contract overall look okay. There is an additional Axon agreement for the continuation of services. Dwight Kirksey made the motion to approve the contract with Axon as presented, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Laura Chisholm; Sheriff's Office: The inspection has failed in regards to the holding cell which is currently not used. She has received two quotes for this project. Discussion was made on the quotes and work which needs to be done. There is a door leading into the evidence room where they will put a touchless sink to wash their hands properly as this helps with the evidence. They will remove holding cell which is connected to the floor and so they will have to bust out the floor. She did receive two quotes and the reason for asking \$35,000 is that it is not known what will be found behind the wall. The CGC General Contractor quotes \$30,500. This particular contractor has already done work at the Annex and is familiar with the building therefore she would like to go with CGC. Judge Irwin asked if both contractors are bonded, Mrs. Chisholm says she does know that CGC is but not sure about Oakley Construction. Bids are made part of these minutes. Dwight Kirksey states that we can only approve the bid amount of \$30,500. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the CGC General Contractors bid for \$30,500 out of ARP funds, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. The bid is made part of these minutes.

Craig Jones, County Attorney; Received a bid from CGC General Contractor. Mr. Jones says the two doors into his office as well as Judge Wysong's are unsecure. For security and privacy purposes they would like these doors replaced. The cost to replace these two doors is \$3,500. Also when security was put in previously for Judge Wysong a keypad was not installed with plans to add this in at a later date. Cost for this access pad to the JP door is \$3,489.50. Total for the two doors and access pad is \$6,989.50. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the CGC General Contractor bid for \$6,989.50 out of ARP funds, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. The bid is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024 WILDFIRES

Judge Irwin reports a split with Carson County being 65% Hutchinson County, 35% Carson for the debris removal cost sharing to the republic bill. Ben Bentley noted the percentage needs corrected on #4 of agreement. Chris Prock made a motion to approve agreement contingent on the edit to #4 to 35%, Dwight Kirksey seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Drought index is 314. No action taken at this time.

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

Chris Prock has requests for the Borger Library Clubroom; Birthday party 9/7/2024 as well as a Baby Shower 12/7/2024.

Dwight Kirksey had no requests for the Fritch Library Clubroom.

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

Ben Bentley reports that he has been looking into replacing blinds in the courthouse. He will get more details and then present this as an ARP project. Ben Bentley made a motion to go out for bids on blinds for the Courthouse, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. 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

Gary Alexander states that there is a lot of work at the Annex, air conditioning and water problems. Dwight Kirksey states after meeting last Monday the cameras are set up at the Fritch Library and it is good. Chris Prock reports we are still waiting on the AC to get worked on at the Library. Ben Bentley states nothing to report this week.

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

Steven Wells submitted an offer of \$10.00 along with demolish and clean up of the property for Lot 15, Blk 2 of the Highland Addition to the City of Borger, Hutchinson County, Texas. Chris Prock reports that he went by the property as it says they did demo and confirms it has been cleaned out, looks really nice. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the bid of \$10.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. Voting in favor: Judge Irwin, Chris Prock, Ben Bentley and Gary Alexander. Voting against: Dwight Kirksey. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – SECTION 551.071 (CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY)

Convened into executive session at 10:30 a.m.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reconvened at 10:46 am. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to authorize the County Attorney, Craig Jones, to negotiate with BSA up to the amount of \$35,450 as well as authorize the release of payment up to that amount per Mr. Jones request, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

18.BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR 2024/2025 BUDGET

Juvenile Probation. Jeremy Sharp, Director, requests no changes. Lesha Krieg, Auditor, stated that the cell phone service previously was in the office supply line and this year she has moved that to the cell phone line; therefore his office supply line was reduced \$600 and moved to that cell phone line.

County Judge. Judge Irwin states we are in need to schedule Jury trials and so this line item was raised to \$2000.

Lesha Krieg states she adjusted the utilities before but would like to suggest leaving them as is with no changes.

Other topics Lesha Krieg, Auditor wanted to discuss:

Vehicle for IT - Judge Irwin says tentatively they have a policy committee meeting on the 26th which the vehicle use for IT will be discussed at that time. Fuel increase for the IT department will be left as is and revisit truck being taken home pending policy.

AXON cameras – confirmation made that these are for both the jail as well as the Sheriff's.

Courthouse part-time salary - Ben Bentley would like for this to stay and post the job but would like to lower the amount to \$10,000.

Constable Pct. 2. - Angelica Hartranft, Constable Pct. 2. is present via ZOOM and reports in regards to salary increase request her daily duties, training she has taken as well as certificates she has received. Discussion was made regarding salary increase and Certificate pay. Judge Irwin clarifies that the Certification pay is only for specific licensing certifications. Mrs. Krieg confirms that we are paying all Sheriff's department officers for their certificates. Dwight agrees with the license certification pay if it is specific to law enforcement but he cannot get behind a raise at this point. Gary Alexander and Ben Bentley both agree with certification pay for all law enforcement including Constables. Judge Irwin says we can do certification pay for law enforcement at the same rates as others. Constable Hartranft received a quote from Axon for two body cams, one of which for her and an extra for the reserved Deputy she has as well as a taser. Commissioners are asking if this could be bundled in with the request from Sheriff's office with AXON. Officer Hajjar says he can see about adding these in and getting a new quote. Judge Irwin says to continue on with the approved contract but to add in the additional. Judge Irwin asks for them to work together on this to add her cameras to his contract. Handout and quote are made part of these minutes.

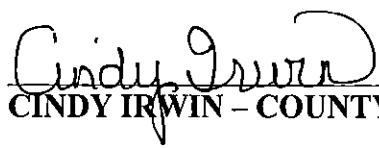
Raise increase – Discussion was made. Judge Irwin and all Commissioners agree to a \$200.00 a month increase.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR 2024/2025

Dwight Kirksey moves that the proposed tax rate be \$0.55, seconded by Gary Alexander. The vote of record: Dwight Kirksey-aye; Chris Prock- aye; Ben Bentley- aye; Gary Alexander- aye; Judge Irwin- aye. The motion carried unanimously.

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. Adjourned at 12:14 p.m.


CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE



ATTEST:


JENNY LIGON – DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK