

MARCH 31, 2015

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 31st day of March, A.D., 2015 at 7:00 P.M. came on to be had a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Slidell ISD Cafetorium at 17347 FM 455 in the town of Slidell, TX with the following members present and presiding:

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|-----------------|------------------------------|
| J.D. Clark | County Judge |
| Danny White | Commissioner, Precinct No. 1 |
| Kevin Burns | Commissioner, Precinct No. 2 |
| Harry Lamance | Commissioner, Precinct No. 3 |
| Gaylord Kennedy | Commissioner, Precinct No. 4 |

Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court when and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

All attachments referred to in the minutes of the Wise County Commissioners' Court are designated original or copy and are provided at the time of action by the Court unless otherwise indicated by provider.

County Judge Clark votes aye on all agenda items unless otherwise indicated.

1) Clark called the court to order at 7:00 PM. All court members are present. Clark thanked all present for attending the meeting. Clark gave a brief background of the creation of the mobile meeting program. Clark stated regular Commissioners Court meetings are held at 9:00 AM on Monday mornings. Clark told the audience the Commissioners Court will have a quarterly evening meeting and will rotate precincts. Clark hopes these meetings will be productive and will keep the court in touch with what is going on and public concerns.

Clark introduced all court members. Clark also introduced other elected officials, department heads, appointed officials and county employees present.

2) Slidell High School student council president and vice president (respectively) Jessy Goode and Caitlin Pruitt led the court and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) Moment of Silence

4) Community Forum:

Clark reminded the audience that speakers are limited to three minutes per speaker and that if multiple parties wish to speak on a particular subject to elect a spokesperson.

- Slidell resident Mayme Fletcher asked what the courthouse is used for other than court.? Clark told Fletcher that the courthouse building is packed right now with the following offices housed in the building: District Clerk, County Judge, District Attorney, 271st

Judicial District Judge/Court, District Attorney Investigators, County Attorney/Investigators, County Court at Law No. 1, Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg, Informational Technology and Maintenance.

- Wise County Democratic Party Chair Tracy Smith addressed the court regarding local control and home-rule. (See attachment)

Smith stated that state lawmakers are currently “debating bills in committee and on the floor that would be the equivalent to unfunded mandates and government overreach of local authorities.”

Smith defined “home rule” as “The right to local self-government including the powers to regulate for the protection of the public health, safety, morals and welfare; to license; to tax; and to incur debt. Smith cited January 2015 Commissioners Court action by resolution to defend local rights and request lawmakers to defend the rights of Texas counties and cities. Smith gave a brief history of home rule in Texas (at the state-level) and at the local levels.

Smith cited the following legislation being considered this term: HB 540, HB 539, HB 1556, SB 343 and SB 360. (See attachment for details).

Smith concluded by commending Clark on his efforts “to recognize the need for outreach programs and meetings amongst the County Electorate as a way to insure the voices we as taxpayers and voters in Wise County have as a right to publically address issues with elected officials.” Smith stated these issues should be “taken seriously when we have these serious concerns about future laws that would have a great impact on our local communities.”

- Slidell (Pct. 1) resident Tim Fletcher thanked White for what he does for Wise County and for Precinct No. 1. Fletcher stated that 10-12 years ago a group of local businessmen came together and formed an advisory committee to the Commissioners Court regarding Wise County business, infrastructure, and long-range planning.

Fletcher asked the court what it is being done for Wise County long-range planning for the next 15-20 years?

Clark told Fletcher that “it’s not a matter of if we’re going to grow, but when” and said he wants management of growth to be on Wise County’s terms. Clark stated he has a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 with NCTCOG Director of Transportation Michael Morris regarding transportation needs. Clark stated he met with Parker County Judge Mark Riley about their recent master transportation plan for Parker County. Clark stated he will discuss funding and grant availability with Morris for a similar transportation plan as Parker County.

5) Correspondence: None

6) Clark told the audience that the court has been busy with good things going on as well as some problems the county has had to overcome. Clark outlined the following:

- Mobile Meeting Program (previously discussed above)
- WISE (Wise, Innovative, Solutions and Efficiency) Program with county employees (excluding department heads and elected officials) being a plan to encourage county employees to find ways to save money in the upcoming budget year. Clark stated an employee can submit a cost saving idea to his/her department head (by a deadline previously stated at another meeting); the department head considers it and then, if viable will submit the suggestion to the Auditor, Clark and Aaberg. If the idea can be integrated into the county budget it will be submitted to the court.

Clark stated the court is going to recognize any employee that makes a suggestion and if the idea results in a financial savings in the budget then the employee is going to receive a savings initiative in the amount of 10% of the savings amount in the budget.

Clark stated many great ideas have been received already. Clark stated elected officials and department heads aren't eligible to participate in the program as they are already supposed to be saving money for the county.

- Drink Drive Program – Clark stated that the volunteer fire departments (VFD) of Wise County are in need of donated water/drinks from the public. Clark stated that donations may be dropped off at the County Judge's office (first floor Courthouse) through April 10, 2015.
- Clark discussed property rented by Wise County for office lease space. Clark stated the county is currently spending \$6,000.00 per month. Clark expressed dislike of this process as the county has nothing to show for it.

Clark stated the Elections Administration and Development Services are currently in rented property and expected to be out of all rental property by the fall of 2015.

Clark stated that the county closed on Friday, March 27, 2015 on the Guardian Title Company building (200 S Trinity, Decatur) as the new home for Elections Administration. Clark stated this will also be the early voting site; will provide 30-40 additional parking spaces near downtown Decatur for county employees (8:00 AM-5:00 PM) and to the public on evenings and weekends.

Clark stated the county obtained two portable buildings from Fort Hood that will be updated to house those offices currently at the rented Development Services Building (FM 51 S) being Public Works, County Engineer, 911 Addressing and Project Manager Glenn Hughes.

- In early December 2014 the Wise County Sheriff's Department was hit by the "Cryptowall" virus that came in through a computer point-of-entry and encrypted one of the Sheriff's Department servers. Clark stated the county wasn't prepared for that. Clark stated an Information Technology (IT) audit was done at the request of the Commissioners Court by Prince Computing Consulting (Prince). Clark stated he received Prince's final report on Thursday, March 26, 2015 and highlighted the following:

-County IT system doesn't provide a stable/reliable platform for accomplishing the county's work. Clark stated the report cited many infrastructure issues, such as: computer and network growth hasn't been planned for and networking was done in a piece-meal fashion without considering long-term implications. Clark stated one consultant called it a "Mr. Potato Head Project." Clark stated there was misconfiguration of network equipment (public and private traffic was mixed) which can lead to a security exposure; and, inadequate computer backup procedures which leads to high-risk of data loss.

Clark stated this cannot be tolerated from an administrative or security standpoint.

Clark stated the county hired Systems Administrator Steven Melton recently and outlined the following system updates:

-new hardware added at the Sheriff's Department and Courthouse for improved security, network speed and reliability. Clark stated the Sheriff's Office and Courthouse have shared an information line. Clark stated this is not good because if someone hacks into the Sheriff's Department they can potentially access the Courthouse and vice versa. Clark stated the two lines are separated now.

-Clark discussed removal of unnecessary/unused network connections.

-Clark stated a centralized monitoring program (real time) has been implemented and a help desk program is in the testing phase. Clark stated the help desk program will provide a paper trail that will log service calls and response times.

-Clark stated Melton is working on an improvement plan to upgrade current server hardware to allow for future growth.

-Clark stated Melton is implementing an enterprise level back-up software program that will utilize commercial/industrial grade IT equipment. Clark stated the county was using residential/home level IT equipment.

-Clark stated Melton is creating a disaster recovery plan. Clark stated Wise County will now have Cyber Liability Insurance effective May 1, 2015 through the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) at no cost to the county; an addition to the county's Risk Management Pool. Clark stated TAC will provide up to \$1,000,000.00 in coverage for data breach/privacy response.

- Clark stated FY2016 budget season has begun and will go through the summer with the new budget in effect October 1, 2015. Clark stated that the county has seen a significant decrease in mineral valuations and the county will have to find ways to create a leaner,

more efficient county government while the county fulfills its responsibility to the citizens.

Clark thanked those present for the privilege to serve the county.

7) White thanked all in attendance for being present. White outlined the following road projects for Precinct No. 1 for the summer of 2015:

- CR2740 (Prairie Road) north of Slidell
- Two roads between Slidell and Decatur (CR 2426 .5 miles long and CR 2225 1.4 miles long) being the only two gravel roads left in Precinct No. 1 between Slidell and Decatur.
- CR4360 and CR 4227 (once completed will have completed all gravel roads in the south part of the precinct)
- CR2224 and CR2311 (chip and seal)
- CR4713 and Singing Meadows (New Fairview area) (gravel)
- Re-do Hickory Street (Rhome)

White stated that totals 10 new miles of gravel road by the end of the summer.

- CR 4717 shared with New Fairview (Base until and Interlocal Agreement with New Fairview)

White stated Precinct No. 1 currently has 13.80 miles of base road as opposed to the 118 miles of base road when White took office six (6) years ago.

White stated he is pleased with his Precinct No. 1 employees for their hard work on the precinct roads.

White stated that Slidell ISD Superintendent Greg Enis approached him last year about building a parking lot for busses. White stated the county has an Interlocal Agreement with Slidell ISD and probably needs a Project Agreement with the school. White hoped to work this project into the summer schedule.

White stated that he and Burns have jointly worked on several street projects with the City of Decatur over the last few years.

White stated five new two-lane bridges have been built in the county over the last several years for improved safety.

White stated he hopes there are no gravel roads in Precinct No. 1 in summer of 2016. White also stated about ten (10) miles of asphalt was laid last year over existing chip/seal roads. White stated the county has gone from four maintainers to two and hopes to reduce that number even more.

White discussed other duties/responsibilities of commissioners.

8) Sheriff David Walker reported on the K-9 Program. Walker expressed appreciation to White for his support of the Sheriff's Department.

Walker outlined the following about the K-9 Program:

- Hired J.T. Manoushagian from City of Bridgeport and acquired Manoushagian's K-9 officer.
- Tracking Program dog (Pepper) was shot and killed earlier this year. Manoushagian to go to Indiana to acquire the tracking dog (apprehension dog). Walker stated that Pepper's actions are the reason these officers (attending with Walker) are present today.
- Officer Brett Yaro received "Rookie Dog of the Year" at USPCA.
- Donations received (after the death of Pepper) have allows the K-9 Program to move up a year from 2016 to 2017.
- Walker stated since approximately January 2015 the K-9 program has assisted in 26 K-9 arrests; 17 fugitive apprehensions; 22 total warrants, DWIs, possession charges, and seizures.
- Walker stated the K-9 program assists other agencies; and the county offers K-9 assistance to ISDs at no cost.
- Walker expressed pride in the program and the deputies in the program.
- Walker stated the county has received thousands of cards and donations from around the world after the death of Pepper. Walker stated a New York doctor has donated funds to purchase the next Wise County K-9 Program canine. Walker estimated the cost of an apprehension dog is \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00.

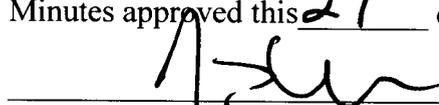
Don Stephens (Precinct No. 1) asked Walker how many canines the K-9 program currently has? Walker stated there are currently two dogs. Walker stated the county will receive the apprehension dog in May 2015. Walker outlined the program process and anticipates having three dogs on the road in 2016.

Clark asked Walker the estimated donation amount? Walker estimated the donations at approximately \$50,000.00. Walker stated Devon Energy donated approximately \$30,000.00 to the K-9 Program. Walker stated the out-of-state doctor donated approximately \$20,000.00 directly to the kennel where the county purchases the canines from. Walker stated the doctor will fly to Texas once the county gets the dog established in the program.

9) Clark announced the next regularly scheduled meetings as Monday, April 13, 2015 and Monday, April 27, 2015.

10) Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM, there being no further business to be had.

Minutes approved this 27 day of April, 2015, as printed.



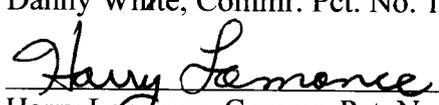
J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County



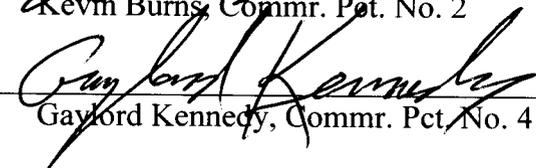
Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1



Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2



Harry Lamance, Commr. Pct. No. 3

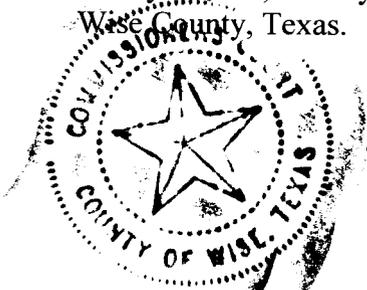


Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:



Sherry Lemon, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court,
Wise County, Texas.



The Wise County Commissioners' Court adopted the *Rules of Procedures, Conduct & Decorum at Meetings of Wise County Commissioners' Court* on February 28, 1994 and the rules have not been revised.

Addendum:

The following abbreviations are used in reference to current Wise County projects.

WCCAB – Wise County Courthouse Annex at Bridgeport

SWA – Southwest Architects Inc.

TxDOT/DPS - Texas Department of Transportation/Department of Public Safety

TAC – Texas Association of Counties

TFP – Wise County Thoroughfare Plan

WHJ – Wiginton, Hooker and Jeffry, P.C. (in relation to Wise County facilities Master Study Plan)

WCWC – Weatherford College Wise County campus