

**JUNE 28, 2016**

**WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING**

On this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D., 2016 at 7:02 P.M. came on to be had a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Chico Community Room (400 S Hovey Street) in the town of Chico with the following members present and presiding:

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 meeting to order at 7:02 PM. All court members were present.

Clark stated students who are members of the Girl Scouts and Chico 4-H will lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Moment of Silence

4) Community Forum: None

Clark introduced Elected and Appointed Officials, county employees and members of Chico City Council that were present.

5) County Correspondence: None

6) Clark reported the following to those present:

- FY2017 budget process is underway. Values are down a little over 18%. Clark and Auditor Ann McCuiston have held initial department head budget meetings and are working to close the budget gap.

- NCTCOG Thoroughfare Workshop meetings were held in April and June 2016 to being the transportation planning process for growth in Wise County over the next 5-30 years. Clark specifically noted growth in the south part of Wise County.
- Shop/Dine locally. Clark discussed a social media (Facebook) project that has begun with downtown Bridgeport to encourage Wise County residents to shop and dine locally.

7) Burns reported the following to those present:

- Road repair projects under the CETRZ grant funding that were damaged due to the Barnett-Shale oil/gas industry. Burns stated that Wise County received \$2,000,000.00 in CETRZ funding plus some extra funding from counties that didn't apply for funding.

Repair work on the following county roads in Precinct No 2:  
CR 1790 and CR 1797 (redo seal coat); CR 1555; west part of CR 1480; 3/10 mile of CR 1450; and CR 1550.

Burns commented that these roads would have been repaired last year but for the flooding and road closures. Burns stated that projects must be completed before the end of the state budget year 2017. Burns anticipates completing those projects this summer.

Burns discussed asphalt work that is currently being done and told those present that they're using about \$25,000.00 per day in asphalt. Burns stated asphalt work is usually done before the hot part of the year because of the heat required to lay the asphalt. Burns stated that patch-work is still being done because damage from the wet winter before seal-coat work is to be done.

Burns commented about scale loop work that will be done time-permitting for CR 1781 north of Chico; a road ½ mile on the north end of CR 2265 and two small dead end roads NE of Alvord in Precinct No. 2.

Burns stated there are only four (4) gravel roads left in Precinct No. 2 that require seal coating. Burns told the audience that there were 260 miles of unpaved roads (non seal-coated) when he took office (2003). Burns stated there are still a lot of potholes and there are several seal-coated roads that are 18 years old. Burns said the grant funding will help get a few road-jobs out of the way.

- Burns introduced Dr. Dan Sebert, Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition (NWC). He and Sebert determined that Wise County has been involved with the NWC for at least twenty years. Burns told those present about the work that Sebert does on behalf of the NWC regarding water control structure (dam) maintenance with 108 dams in Wise County and 12,000 across the United States. Burns also discussed the branch of the NWC that lobbies at the federal level for

funding regarding water control structures. Burns stated that because of lobbying \$157,000,000.00 in maintenance funding is available in the U.S. Burns stated that Texas received \$7,000,000.00.

8) Sebert spoke to the audience about the NWC and flood control structures in Wise County. Sebert discussed sponsorship by local governments and agencies of the flood control structures in the county calling them "silent sentinels". Sebert told those present the dams were built originally for flood protection of farm land and as the agriculture industry changed to protect suburban areas. Sebert stated the dams provide millions of dollars in benefits by providing flood protection to county roads, bridges, bus routes, etc. Sebert stated there are 108 flood control structures in Wise County.

Sebert discussed the influence of Lou Vee Bridges as an advocate for upstream flood control structures in Wise County. Sebert commented that if he had to name the one county in the entire United States that has the best partnership to maintain the flood control structures of the county Wise County is doing the best job of this maintenance and preservation. Sebert discussed Wise County's history and heritage of maintenance and preservation as well as interaction with other neighboring counties to maintain/preserve the flood control structure system. Sebert discussed how the structures hold silt from upstream affecting the quality of water downstream for neighboring counties. Sebert commented that he uses Wise County as an example with other counties when he works to get those counties to coordinate/cooperate with other entities in the maintenance of their flood control structures.

Sebert commended the court for its leadership in doing things that benefit Wise County and watershed sponsors nationwide. Sebert discussed shared leadership of Wise County and other county/state agencies regarding watershed preservation/conservation. Sebert also discussed funding and funding requests at the federal level that resulted in \$157 million in allocated funds to the State of Texas.

Sebert presented a video regarding the history of flood control structures in Wise County.

Burns stated that the flood control structures (dams) began in 1960 or before as a result of extreme flooding in 1957. Burns stated there was extreme drought from 1950-1957 in Wise County which dramatically affected the economy of the county. Burns stated there were 85 bridges washed out in Wise County due to flooding in one weekend in 1957. Burns stated that the commissioners court at that time had not taken advantage of flood control money available and decided they needed to take action. Burns continued the first dam was Black Creek Lake in 1960. Burns commented that since 1960 the county has had catastrophic rainfall several times without the level of damage in 1957. Burns cited the May/June 2015 flooding caused by tropical storms and heavy rains and stated that nine (9) places were washed out that took six weeks to repair instead of the amount of time it took to make repairs in 1957.

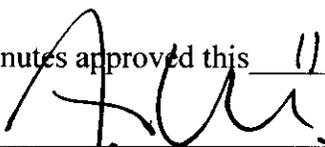
Sebert thanked Burns and the other members of the court as well as the public for inviting Sebert to speak.

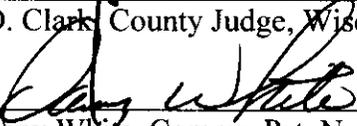
Page Four, June 28, 2016 Mtg...

9) Clark announced the next meeting as being Monday, July 11, 2016.

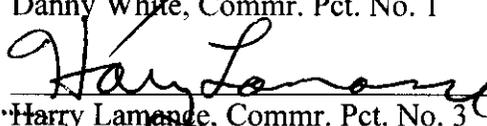
Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM there being no further discussion to be had.

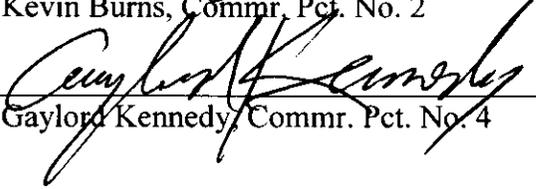
Minutes approved this 11 day of July, 2016, as printed.

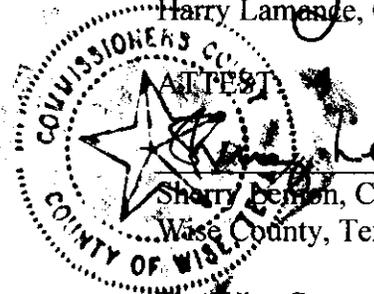
  
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J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

  
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Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1

  
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Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

  
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Harry Lamason, Commr. Pct. No. 3

  
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Gaylord Kennedy, Commr. Pct. No. 4

  
  
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Sherry Benson, 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 Jeffrey, P.C. (in relation to Wise County facilities Master Study Plan)

WCWC – Weatherford College Wise County campus