AUGUST 9, 2016

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 9th day of August, A.D., 2016 at 10:00 A.M. came on to be had a Special Called Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Large Training Room of the Wise County Elections Office (200 S. Trinity Street) in the town of Decatur 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 budget workshop meeting to order at 10:00 AM. All court members were present.

2) Tax Assessor/Collector Monte Shaw presented the 2016 property tax rate information for the General Fund and Farm-To-Market/Flood Control Fund. (See attachment)

Shaw stated the current rates as .3139 General Fund; .065 Farm-to-Market/Lateral Road (FMLR) for a current total rate of $0.3789/$100 valuation.

Shaw stated the effective rate at .390278 for General Fund and .080849 for FMLR for a total effective rate of $0.471127/$100 valuation.

Shaw explained that the effective value is higher based on property value decreases. Shaw stated that any public hearings held would depend on the rate the court proposes.

Shaw presented the 2016 property tax rate information for the Wise County College Branch Maintenance Tax. (See attachment)

Shaw stated the current rate at $0.046148/$100 valuation. Shaw stated the effective rate at $0.056917/$100 valuation.

Clark asked if anyone present had questions regarding the tax rate information presented by Shaw?

3a) Clark presented Draft #1 of the FY2017 Proposed Budget. (See budget draft coversheet referencing budget draft filed in meeting folder)

Clark stated the county is looking at a drastically reduced budget and expressed thanks to department heads in departmental reductions. Clark stated the FY2016 budget took a hard hit in non-personnel budgetary reductions as personnel is the last thing that a county wants to cut.

Clark presented a list of personnel salary reductions for FY2017 and reviewed the following with the court: (See attachment)

- County Clerk (403) Full-Time clerical position removed $57,825.00; two positions funded by Records Management Fund (no longer funded by General Fund) $111,298.00.
- Veterans Service (405) Clerical position reduction in salary $17,046.00
- JP1 (461) Clerical $10,725.00 Part-Time and DDC Funds Removed
- JP2 Clerical $8,937.00 Part-Time and DDC Funds Removed
- JP3 Clerical $11,321.00 Part-Time and DDC Funds Removed
- JP4 Clerical $8,341.00 Part-Time and DDC Funds Removed
- County Attorney (475) Full-time clerical position removed $39,324.00
- Tax Assessor (499) Two part-time clerical positions removed $32,174.00
- Systems Administration (509) Full-time computer technician removed $60,112.00
- Courthouse Bldg (510) Projects Manager Glen Hughes to take ½ salary $37,700.00.
- Public Works (520) Position from dumpsite removed and part-time adjusted $69,469.00
- Sheriff's Department (565) Clerical full-time/part-time removed $51,903.00
- Jail Industries (566) Inmate Supervisor positions removed $98,198.00
- Special Services (567) I/T position within Sheriff's Department $85,391.00
- Indigent Health Services (630) Assistant Clerical position $62,195.00. Clark told the court that IHC Supervisor Beverly Ashabranner will have the assistance from Barbara at Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to pick up any slack in Indigent Health Services.
- Health Officer (635) Assistant Health Officer stipend removed $19,949.00
- Extension Office (665) Reduction in salary for clerical position $3,217.00
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Paramedics/EMTs $19,897.00 (no positions cut; savings found in having overtime policy in place)
- 9-1-1 Addressing Full-Time clerical position removed $49,647.00. Clark stated that 9-1-1 Addressing supervisor Phyllis Shaw (P. Shaw) requests precinct commissioners assistance in installation of road signs as needed.

Clark stated the reductions listed above total $854,669.00 in personnel.

Clark presented salary reductions for FY2017 for the four commissioner precincts as follows:

- Precinct 1 (611) part-time and full-time road positions $111,032.00
- Precinct 2 (612) full-time road positions $63,759.00
- Precinct 3 (613) part-time and full-time road positions $104,057.00
- Precinct 4 (614) full time road position $63,759.00

Clark stated the total reductions in road and bridge total $342.607.00. Clark stated a grand total in salary reductions of $1,197.276.00.

Clark noted the bailiff's salaries have been moved from the Sheriff's budget to the judge's budgets and jurors have been moved to District Clerk. Clark stated additional non-personnel reductions totaling $257,000.00.

Clark stated the project revenue totals at $27,940.006.00 for FY2017. Clark noted with personnel and non-personnel cuts the revenue total has been reduced to $31,795,154.00. Clark requested the court's help in finding $3,855,148.00.

Lamance asked Clark if this is very serious? Clark stated he has been clear on this for some time. Lamance stated the county will either have to increase taxes or review personnel and make more cuts.

Lamance asked about whether funds that are designated to roads can be cut? County Auditor Ann McCuiston stated that the tax rate can be adjusted by commissioners but that any funds that are already in there can't be touched. Clark confirmed that there are funds in Road and Bridge reserve and confirmed it can't be taken out because the tax was collected for road and bridge. County Auditor Ann McCuiston commented that "every cent in the tax rates equals $600,000.00."

Burns commented to Lamance about previous discussions regarding revenue needs for infrastructure. Burns stated that those revenue funds were put into salary because of jealousy and "Now we're having to fire people. It's unfortunate but that's the way it is." Burns stated he doesn't mind reducing Road and Bridge to help out General Fund but that won't make it whole. The court agreed that reduction of Road and Bridge fund is not a long term solution to budgetary issues and discussed future trends. Clark commented about home value increases and the effect on the budget.

Burns asked the court if the county is close to 2007 values? Burns recommended mirroring the FY2007 General Fund budget. Clark expressed concern with this recommendation as it would affect the Sheriff's Department staffing. White expressed concern due to county growth. Clark agreed with Burns and stated population growth has been about 10% increase whereas county employee growth has been about 25% increase. Clark noted employee growth has outpaced population growth.

Clark stated that a lot of the departments that reduced personnel didn't grow since 2007 and expressed appreciation. The court discussed personnel reductions in the precincts and precinct employee numbers.

White expressed appreciation to Hughes to give up half of his salary. Hughes commented that this is not a noble gesture and told the court that he has other things he wants to do. Hughes stated that his hours will be reduced and he is still going to do his job.
Clark discussed his efforts since April in working on the FY2017 budget. Clark told the court that he felt it would be lazy of the court to say "this is as lean as it gets" and suggested the court continue to look through the budget for areas that can be reduced. Lamance and Clark discussed the impact of personnel reduction on one man departments.

White asked P. Shaw if the employee reduction in 9-1-1 Addressing department is the person who installs county road signs? Shaw asked if the precincts would be willing to maintain the signs? Lamance asked if this is 100% maintenance by the precincts? Burns and Lamance stated it would be doable.

Animal Control supervisor Linda Bryan asked about an employee taking early retirement? Clark stated it would be considered if the position was to be absorbed into the budget. Lamance asked Bryan about buying someone out to retire? Burns and Clark stated the court doesn't have the authority to do so.

Lamance asked the court about any projections of the oil and gas industry coming back in the next few years? Clark stated it will be a lean year again next year. McCuiston asked about how the court wishes to calculate the tax rate for road and bridge miles? Clark stated the proposed budget he presented today is based on road mileage and not population.

Kennedy asked about cell phone allowance? McCuiston stated the cell phone allowance can be reevaluated. County Treasurer Katherine Hudson stated the estimated cell phone allowance is about $122,000.00. Sheriff Lane Akin stated there are about 90 deputies at the Sheriff's Department that receive a cell phone allowance and discussed the importance of cell phone use by deputies. Hudson told Lamance that the county employee population is 425 including Adult Probation and part-time employees.

White told Clark that in all reality the county can't come up with $3.8 million in the proposed budget to cut. White clarified his previous statement and encouraged the court to continue to look in the current budget for more areas or reduction.

Clark and the court reviewed the proposed budget page by page and department by department for additional reductions beginning with Page 4 (expenditures).

Clark asked if the court sees anything in the County Judge's budget that can be further reduced? Kennedy returned to the idea of removing cell phone allowances from department budgets. Clark stated he will zero out the phone allowance in his budget (line 168). Kennedy and M.

Shaw stated they will give up their cell allowances. Clark and the court discussed keeping the WCSO and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) cell phone allowances. Lamance asked about employees giving up cell phone allowances? Clark asked the court if they're talking about elected officials to give up the cell phone allowance or the "rank and file"? White discussed employee-owned cell phones and cell allowances. Burns stated there are areas in Precinct No. 2 where cell phones are the only means of communication.

Clark told the court that he doesn't know about doing a blanket "no cell phone allowance" and discussed making it voluntary. Clark reminded the court that Justices of the Peace are on call 24/7. JP1 Jan Morrow told the court that she's willing to give up her cell allowance people can keep their jobs. Clark stated he doesn't know if removing cell phone allowances will "save jobs" at $122,000.00 but it will help. Clark confirmed that giving up the cell phone allowance will be coordinated with McCuiston who will get with Hudson. Burns discussed cell phone usage by Precinct No. 2 employees. Clark stated that if this is elective then many may choose to give up their allowance.

Kennedy asked whether there is an entire department that has been added since 2007 that can be eliminated? Clark stated the IT department was created since then. Burns stated that the engineer and attorney were created since 2007 as the county was utilizing outside sources prior to that time.

White told the court he will give up his cell phone allowance for his phone but is not in favor of giving it up for his lead men and foremen. Clark and Kennedy stated they will give up their cell phone allowances.

Asset Control Officer Diana Alexander stated she is willing to give up the cell phone allowances for her department.

No comments or questions were made regarding the County Clerk's budget. Clark noted Lemon's giving up a position and funding two positions from Records Management Fund.

Veterans Service Officer Laura Spain gave up her cell phone allowance as well as an additional telephone line as they currently have three telephone lines. Clark asked Systems Administrator Steven Melton to check on the third phone line for VSO? Clark noted that Spain lowered salary of a position. Clark noted the business of the Wise County VSO. Spain stated the Wise County office is the 11th busiest in the entire State of Texas and discussed veteran's benefits.

Clark reviewed the County Engineer budget. McCuiston stated that she has talked to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and Snow Garrett and Williams CPA (outside auditors) to have them look at what they're charging the county in fees.

County Engineer Chad Davis noted that the Rules and Regulations Committee will meet with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. on the 18th to discuss other possible revenue sources. The court asked Davis about his low telephone rates. Davis stated he has a data card that is

$37.00/month and that is the only phone charge. Davis discussed savings to the county to cover his salary and pickup for his department.

Clark stated the personnel on County Court at Law #1 is higher because the bailiff was moved from the WCSO to the judge's budget that he serves. Lamance asked about bailiff uniforms? Akin discussed uniforms, vehicles and commissioning (under County Attorney or District Attorney). McCuiston stated that all equipment is being transferred from WCSO to court departments. Alexander stated some vehicles are from courthouse security and some are WCSO.

McCuiston discussed attorney fees under the 271st Judicial District Judge's budget.

McCuiston told the court that the District Clerk budget will be more because jurors were moved from Election Administration to District Clerk. McCuiston noted that District Clerk software maintenance was moved to Record Management. District Clerk Brenda Rowe gave up her cell phone allowance. Clark asked Rowe about the tasks of the part-time position (line 124)? Rowe told Clark this person is being used to work on the District Clerk Records Management Program and is being paid out of Records Management Fund. Rowe stated the basement is finished and has been downsized 72%. Clark asked if Records Management could cover the entire part time? McCuiston stated she'll discuss Records Management Fund with Rowe after this meeting. Rowe stated she is close to completion of the project and told Clark the part time position can most likely be eliminated next year.

Clark reviewed the Justices of the Peace departments. Clark noted that none of the Justices of the Peace will have part time positions. McCuiston noted that defensive driving money will now go into General Fund.

Clark reviewed the District Attorney budget. McCuiston stated if the county has a capital murder case then the budget will have to be adjusted. McCuiston and Burns noted the insurance paid regarding capital murder cases (Public Defender Allocation for Capital Cases).

Clark noted that fuel is reduced in all department budgets. Clark noted that an amendment would have to be done if the cost of fuel increases. Burns asked about anything in the budget for contingency? Clark told Burns they haven't gotten to that point yet.

Clark reviewed the County Attorney budgets. Clark noted the County Attorney gave up an open clerical position.

Clark noted the $250,000.00 savings to the county with the new insurance option through TAC Health Insurance Pool.

Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg told the court he will give up his cell phone allowance.

Kennedy asked if there is one consistent item in all department budgets that the court can eliminate?

Clark stated they found what they could eliminate from the Elections Administration budget but this year is difficult because it is a presidential election year and cost increase.

Elections Administrator Sabra Srader told the court that she would give up her cell phone allowance but requested to keep her employees' allowances. Srader explained that it was the office policy when she was appointed to the position that employees not make long distance calls from the office. Lamance asked about the long-distance policy for the department? Clark noted that during elections her employees are on-site and are using their cell phones to call in on technical problems.

Morrow commented about a possible increase in phone bills due to long-distance calls required for delinquent collections.

Lamance and the court discussed the "fairness" of cell phone allowance being given up.

McCuiston stated that she will review her budget (County Auditor) and will take out some in personnel cost.

Clark reviewed the Treasurer Budget. Hudson stated that she will give up her cell phone allowance and if McCuiston is willing to go down to one shared copier she is willing to do that. Clark stated the contract will be reviewed.

Clark reviewed the Tax Assessor/Collector budget. Clark told the court that he floated an idea to Shaw that is not included in this budget draft of which he and Shaw have differing opinions. Clark stated that he suggested that the two satellite offices (Bridgeport and Boyd) that each have two full time employees alternate having the two satellite offices open and eliminate two positions. Clark stated that having satellite offices are a convenience. Lamance commented about the population and necessity of the two satellite offices. Kennedy commented about the need for both offices to remain open. Clark asked about satellite offices for County Clerk and District Clerk? Clark asked if Lamance and Kennedy are open to part-time satellite offices? Lamance and Kennedy both agreed they're not for part-time satellite offices. Lamance thanked Clark for looking into the option. Clark reminded Lamance of his comment at the first of the meeting, "I think we can do this by cutting" and told Lamance that at the first idea we've had come up Lamance comments, "I don't think we can cut that."

Shaw expressed concern about confusion to taxpayers over business days/hours by location. Shaw told the court that on Monday, August 8, 2016 the Boyd Office did 127 transactions in one day being an average day with 70 to 80 cars in the parking lot. Shaw expressed additional concern for workload of staff by limiting business hours/days of the satellite offices. Shaw gave an example of an employee's recent workload and the subsequent phone call from Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 Hays regarding the workload and customer load that day. Shaw commented about

population growth and Department of Motor Vehicle recommendations for staffing to accommodate the growing population.

Lamance commented about cutting $5,000.00 out of each employee's salary to come up with the budget differences. Clark commented that a cut in salary like that would be difficult for many employees.

Kennedy asked the amount of savings to the county if the two positions are removed and the satellite offices alternate business hours? Clark estimated $80,000.00. Burns asked how much the Tax Assessor/Collector Office brings in on the contract for outside tax collection? Shaw told Burns the amount is minimal; $400.00-$500.00 from City of Alvord and $150.00 each from the two water districts.

Hughes commented (having been on the commissioners court in the past) that population growth affects every department and the court can't single out just growth affecting the Tax Assessor/Collector office. Hughes continued "Every department is cutting and you can't justify with growth."

Burns asked about collection cost for Shaw? Shaw noted software, personnel, and non-personnel expenses. Clark stated tax collection costs about $250,000.00. Shaw stated the taxes collected by the county. Clark stated the cost for the Appraisal District to collect is about $90,000.00.

Kennedy asked Shaw if "that is something you have ever considered to do?" Shaw stated that has been brought up before and "No." Clark commented about confusion to taxpayers of "where do I go to pay my taxes" in light of Shaw's comment about confusion over county tax office satellite business hours.

Shaw stated, "I'll tell you simply how I feel about that. I'm an elected official and when I'm elected it says next to my name "County Tax Assessor/Collector" it doesn't give somebody else's office; it doesn't give somebody else's name. It's mine; that's what the people vote on and I feel like unless there is a procedure for changing that and the people want to go through that then that's fine. But until it says something other than Monte Shaw Tax Assessor/Collector then I'll... *(inaudible because of air conditioner)* that's how I feel."

Burns stated the office of Tax Assessor/Collector is constitutionally established and that other elected offices are legislatively established so this would take some workload off of you. Shaw stated it's not that simple and that Burns would probably find that many people call "us" for advice on how to handle certain situations and feels it's important to have a county Tax Assessor/Collector. Burns commented that Shaw is not assessing taxes. Shaw commented about the definition of assessment. Clark commented that the court assesses the rate. Shaw commented that assessment includes coming up with the effective tax rates. Burns commented, "It's my opinion that it's time." Burns commented on tax payment in Denton County and the convenience of paying taxes in one location. Shaw commented about the county acquiring the

collection of all taxes from the Wise County Appraisal District. Shaw and the court discussed tax collection.

Clark asked the court if this is something the court wants to see numbers on Monday? Burns commented that he would like to see the numbers. Clark commented about the importance of taxpayers seeing that there were options considered in the budget process.

Clark reviewed the Systems Administration budget and stated that a tech position was cut from the department and thanked Steven Melton for his work on savings in the technology department. Clark stated the Systems Administration department budget will look higher because of consolidation of technology items to the one department from individual departments.

Clark reviewed Courthouse and Associated Buildings budget noting Hughes' reduction in salary and discussed not cutting maintenance employees as a means to help eliminate outside contractors on jobs that can be done by county maintenance.

Clark reviewed Public Works Department budget. Public Works Director Tom Goode stated that one full time employee retired in April, the person was not replaced and the position will be absorbed. Goode continued that one full-time employee will retire in February and the position will go part-time at his retirement. Goode stated this will do away with one and a half positions making it about $90,000.00 shy of where the department was last time. Goode stated that about $90,000.00 will be cut from non-personnel. Clark asked if Goode wanted to explain the new dumpsite schedule to the court prior to Monday's regular meeting? Goode explained that the dumpsite on FM1655 will go part-time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30a to 5:30p. Goode continued that the Slidell dumpsite will be open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday less than thirty hours per week. Goode stated a new fee schedule and operation schedule on Monday will be presented. Goode explained that dumpsite fees will be increased.

Clark reviewed the Fire Protection/Emergency Management budget. Fire Marshal Chuck Beard stated the budget is "bare bones". Clark proposed leaving the volunteer fire departments stipend as it is. Burns noted the stipend is 2.5% of the General Fund total budget. Clark noted the tower rentals under Emergency Management (545).

Clark reviewed the constable budgets. Clark stated all constable budgets are the same this year. Clark noted that two constables have laptop computers. Clark asked if there are any questions regarding constable budgets?

Court recessed at 11:47 AM and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

Clark reviewed the Wise County Sheriff's Office budget. Clark noted the different sections under the Wise County Sheriff's Office budget. Clark asked Sheriff Lane Akin to review the changes to his budget?

Akin stated that when he took office there were 146 employees and now is projecting for FY17 that there will be 135 employees (noting the transfer of the bailiffs to the judicial court budgets). Akin stated that the department has cut six (6) employees and three (3) to go to court departments (bailiffs transferred to judicial budgets). Clark clarified that there have not been cuts in patrol. Akin discussed changes in Jail Industries and noted the budget is down approximately $800,000.00 since FY2016. Akin stated that the calls for service have increased 24% since 2012; animal control increased 33%; transport increased 17%; open records increased 37%; case load increased 215%; civil process increased 16%. Akin noted having to do more with less. Burns commended Akin. Lamance noted the calls for service on the Sheriff's Department. Akin reiterated doing more with less and discussed prioritization of calls for service.

Akin discussed courthouse security and how the courthouse is not conducive to security. Akin noted Kaufman and Tarrant County courthouse incidences; and, increase in bailiff security at the Wise County courthouse (three bailiffs; two County Attorney investigators and two District Attorney investigators). Akin discussed the COPSync software program on county computers and phones (as needed) and the county might be able to address security issues this way. Akin told the court that if a reduction is made in courthouse security staffing then he would request to release one deputy and bring the other back to the Sheriff's Department for civil process/transport purposes. Akin told the court that the courthouse security would be the first place to place someone as a public safety concern should anything ever occur.

The court discussed courthouse safety and the bailiffs' presence as a deterrent. Clark discussed schedule coordination between bailiffs and deputies so that there is always someone in the courthouse. Akin stated the bailiffs under the judicial offices would no longer be under the WCSO supervision and judicial communication is working well on this issue.

Burns asked if the school districts still fund a portion of the school resource officer (SRO) positions? Akin told Burns they do and that Northwest ISD (NWISD) funds a larger portion. WCSO Chief Deputy Kevin Benton told Burns that NWISD funds $40,000.00/year and the other school districts fund $15,000.00 each per year. McCuiston stated the total of $102,000.00 funded by the schools for SROs. Burns discussed past grant funding of most of those positions.

Benton and Burns discussed the importance of SROs in the schools. Clark, Benton and the court discussed funding of SROs and budgetary restraints in ISDs. Burns commented that the ISDs are different because they'll be made whole by the state and the county will not. Burns told the court the county may have to ask for a bit more help from the ISDs for funding the SROs, "It doesn't hurt to ask."

Clark asked if the court wishes to discuss anything else under the jail?

Lamance asked about housing out-of-county prisoners? Akin told Lamance that the county recently housed five (5) Parker County inmates at $45.00/per day. Akin told the court that it

costs $26.00/day to house an out-of-county inmate. Akin discussed the possibility of housing federal prisoners.

Clark confirmed with Akin that any changes in courthouse security are low on Akin's "wishlist". Clark and Akin discussed WCSO staffing and that jail staffing numbers are mandatory. Lamance asked about possible vehicle savings? Akin discussed deputies that live outside of the county and the required response time. Akin confirmed that all vehicles are assigned and told Burns the policy that if a deputy lives more than fifteen (15) miles outside of the county the vehicle must be parked in the county before they leave for the day.

Lamance asked about alternate patrolling? Akin told the court that bike patrol has been eliminated and that boat patrol is done only on specific holidays. Clark told the court that Akin has done a good job identifying positions in his department that won't impact public safety.

Clark noted the county's portion of Highway Patrol for the secretary position. Clark noted the cell phone provision by the county was removed as the state provides a cellphone.

Clark discussed Indigent Health Services (IHS) and noted the removal of the deputy assistant position from the budget. Clark stated that IHS director Beverly Ashabranner will still be out there and Barbara from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will assist Ashabranner in picking up the slack. Clark stated the largest part of IHS is jail inmate expenses. Clark noted that Ashabranner screens request for indigent burials and that is now under control through process and policy with none paid out by the county in FY16 budget.

Clark discussed the position of Local Health Officer and the county contracts with Dr. Jon Walker.

Lamance asked about county insurance for county employees that are covered under a spouse's plan? Hudson stated that no health insurance is paid on an employee who is covered under another person's plan. Clark stated it is a benefit offered so it is available to everybody. Spain discussed a scenario of a county employee not taking county insurance and taking a different insurance and taking a bonus. Clark stated the county cannot offer a bonus. Clark continued that the insurance has to be budgeted for the position in the event that an employee (who doesn't take the county insurance) leaves and his/her replacement wishes to take the county health insurance. Hudson confirmed that an employee that loses coverage elsewhere can come back on the county health insurance plan.

Clark reviewed outside agencies that receive county funding (Page 34) and noted several agencies made significant reductions. Clark discussed indigent burial restating that the county has not paid for any indigent burials this year (FY16) due to the new policy and screening process. Clark noted the library funding is "flat" and discussed state funding based on population and local entity funding. Clark noted a small cut in the Historical Commission. Clark noted reductions in Ag Extension Office personnel and non-personnel. Ag Extension Agent Tanya Davis offered to cut a telephone line and use cell phones.

White reminded the court of the Texas A&M Ag Extension annual interpretive luncheon at 11:30AM on Monday, August 15, 2016 or as soon as the commissioners are done with court.

Clark noted the $7,500.00 funding to the Soil and Water Conservation District. Clark noted reductions to the local Texas Ranger and the U.S. Forestry Service. Akin discussed expectations of future funding of the local Texas Ranger once the current ranger retires.

Clark discussed debt service transfers. Burns requested obligation deadlines on debt service. McCuiston told the court that she will bring debt service information to the court on August 15, 2016.

McCuiston told the court that Jail Industries is gone (Fund 85) and is moved over to the Sheriff. Clark stated the only jail industries employees remaining are the landscaping crew and the crew shared by Wise County Fairgrounds and Public Works.

Clark reviewed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department budget. Clark asked EMS Director Charles Dillard to explain some of the non-personnel reductions. Dillard stated a savings in fuel cost and possible cuts of another $10,000.00 out of that. Clark and Dillard noted significant savings in medical supplies. Dillard told the court that the over-time policy has been in place for twelve (12) weeks now and they're averaging 24 hours a week in over-time versus 100 hours. Clark stated that has had a positive impact on payroll. Clark, White and Burns commented about the improvement to payroll because of the overtime policy.

Dillard commented that EMS revenue collection is looking good and commended Barbara on her work with Intermedix collections.

Clark reviewed the 9-1-1 Addressing department reduction in personnel and was assured by P. Shaw that the department would run just as smoothly with only two full-time employees. Shaw requested to give up her cellphone allowance. Clark noted that one of the largest expenses for this department is sign supplies. Clark stated the 9-1-1 Addressing office is a great resource to determine county growth. Shaw stated she issued twenty new addresses last week.

Clark reviewed revenue from Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) that funds the third position in the Fire Marshal's office. Clark noted grant funding in the budget that has been zeroed out because the county doesn't receive the funding anymore.

Clark reviewed Commissioner Precincts (Page 49) beginning with revenue on right-of-way and fencing. Clark told the court that he and McCuiston calculated this proposed budget based on the same formula and asked the court if it wishes the formula to stay that way. Burns and Kennedy requested it stay that way. Lamance asked about basing the budget on half road mileage and half population? Burns commented on funding based on the current formula.

McCuiston provided the following <u>approximate</u> amounts if the formula were to change to half population and half road mileage.

Precinct 1: Increase $9,600.00; Precinct 2: Decrease $180,000.00; Precinct 3 Increase $121,000.00; Precinct 4 Increase $48,000.00.

Lamance commented about population in Precinct No. 3. McCuiston reminded the court of the reserves that can be used by commissioners if needed. The court discussed the impact to all precincts if the court changes the formula to half road mileage and half population. Burns commented to Lamance, "You have a greater concentration of people but we have the same amount of population in the other precincts. They're even." Kennedy commented about keeping the formula at 100% road mileage. Burns commented about the debilitating effect of the half population/half road mileage formula on Precinct No. 2 from previous years. Clark stated he will leave it figured as-is. Clark told Lamance that this can be an agenda item request for discussion on the 15th.

White stated that Precinct No. 1 budget was cut $600,000.00, gave up one full-time and two part-time positions. White told the court there are ten regular employees in Precinct No. 1 after the cut not including White's foreman.

Clark asked McCuiston about road and bridge reserve balance? McCuiston stated $1.2 million was moved out of road and bridge reserve to TxDOT grant and will be moved back in for a total of at least $3 million. McCuiston stated the county will continue to receive FEMA money.

The court discussed reserve balances for general fund and road/bridge funding.

Burns stated a reduction in reserves can be done this year by reducing the ad valorem tax as a short-term fix. Burns stated the commissioners could "knock it in half and certainly help in the short-term." Burns noted reducing road and bridge fund last year to help. Burns recommended putting reserves back into each budget to make it whole with reserves, reduce reserves, lower ad valorem for FY17 budget year, put it in General Fund and hope we can get it back soon.

McCuiston told White that every cent is $600,000.00. McCuiston stated the reduction would help $1.8 million. McCuiston stated reserve funds are used when all other funds are depleted. Clark asked the court if it wishes to see this reflected at $0.03 and $0.04 in the next budget draft? The court confirmed that it does. Clark asked M. Shaw if changing any rates between road/bridge and General Fund will affect any of the postings or notices already done? Shaw said it would. Clark discussed proposed public hearings.

Burns apologized to all present for having to sit through the meeting just to "get to this point."

Burns told White that Precinct Reserves can pull out of General Fund but General Fund cannot pull from Precinct Reserves. McCuiston told the court the General Fund emergency fund balance is $5 million. McCuiston and the court discussed General Fund reserves (currently about 20% of the total General Fund) and how this is a temporary fix.

Clark requested to keep the conservation unified. Lamance and the court discussed reserve road and bridge funds. Clark asked if the court wanted to review any other information? Clark reminded the court of the September 15, 2016 anticipated adoption rate as well as proposed tax rate dates for advertisement purposes. Clark asked if any other potential items are requested by the court to review at the next meeting? Burns asked about reduction in Precinct Reserve and what that will do if the court has to do that? Clark stated that if the county chooses to stay at about 16% in General Fund reserves this will free up $400,000.00 and will still be $1 million short.

Clark asked if there are any other alternatives the court wishes to see on Monday, August 15, 2016. Burns stated the court is open to anything but a tax increase and all are on the "same page".

Clark welcomed comments and feedback from those present.

Clark reviewed the Animal Control budget. Bryan offered to give up her cellphone allowance. Bryan told Clark her department is three (3) full-time and one (1) part-time and herself. Bryan told the court there are about 2,000 animals through the facility per year. Bryan stated vaccines are reduced and non-personnel is reduced.

Clark adjourned the budget workshop at 2:06 PM there being no further business to discuss.

Minutes approved this 26 day of September, 2016, 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