AUGUST 17, 2015

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 17th day of August, A.D., 2015 at 9:00 A.M. came on to be had a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Conference Room of the Elections Administration Office (200 S Trinity Street, Decatur) of said County 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.

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

1) Clark called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. All court members are present.

2) Clark made a Power Point presentation noting the following:

a) When Clark and County Auditor Ann McCuiston began working on the budget with preliminary values the county was $2.8 million short.

- Real Estate values are up over last fiscal year and mineral values are down 8.09% this year. Clark stated decreased mineral values are a good indicator of other values being down due to the type of economy in Wise County.
- Sales Tax values for FY2015 (not finalized) are less than previous years and Clark is projecting to receive less in FY2016.

  Clark noted the county collected$ 5 million dollars through July 2014 and have collected $4.2 million through July 2015.

- Total budgeted funds for FY2016 is $64.4 million about $6 million less than the overall FY2015 budget representing an 8.75% reduction. (Page 5)

  Clark noted the $6 million decrease is not all in budget cuts and that the FY2015 budget included TxDOT grant funds as well as capital funds.

- Proposed FY16 General Fund spending is just over $33 million and the FY15 adopted General Fund spending was set at roughly $33.7 million (Page 6)

  Clark noted fees are down as well.

- Notable changes in budget:
  * across-the-board cuts in furniture, office supplies and travel.
  * 911 Addressing, Public Works and Engineering have a combined Development Services budget instead of three individual budgets.
  * IT funds are consolidated into one budget from individual departments.
  *Indigent Burial moved from non-departmental to Health and Welfare Services
  -Clark noted that since the change in Indigent Burial policy only one applicant has qualified for indigent burial whereas 31 indigent burials in FY2014.
  *Indexing Fees for the County and District Clerks to be paid from Records Management Funds instead of General Fund.
  *Soil & Water Conservation and Dam expenses have moved from General Fund to right-of-way per statute.
  *First new 911 dispatcher since 2006 due to a significant increase in calls since 2006. Clark noted NCTCOG has added the equipment for another dispatcher and noted areas of funds transfers to allow for this position. Sheriff David Walker noted the call volume increase.
  * Tax Assessor/Collector software moved to cloud-based system.

- Proposed change to effect Commissioner budgets precinct cash balances. Proposing to take 1.5 cents from the FMLR and applying it to General Fund keeping the overall tax rate the same. Clark stated this change will result in roughly $1 million less in tax revenue for the precincts combined with the precincts carrying over a cash balance of at least $5 million.

Clark stated the tax rate to be proposed for FY2016 as $0.3789/$100 valuation ($0.3139 General Fund and $0.065 FMLR) for the County and $0.046148/$100 valuation for the Wise County College Branch Maintenance Tax.

Clark stated this is a balanced budget with no tax increase or cut in services or operations and does not touch cash reserves. Clark stated cash reserves have doubled since 2013 to almost $5 million.

Clark presented the court with the FY2016 Proposed Budget Draft #1 (See attachment).

Clark noted that nearly every department is less than the FY2015 budget with the exception of the Elections Administration due to this being an election year and also in preparation of the 2016 presidential election year.

Clark asked McCuiston to discuss some of the different funds being used by the Sheriff's Department? Clark noted the Commissary Fund is now paid from Commissary and not from General Fund. McCuiston noted the commissary funds will be transferred from Commissary to General. McCuiston also noted Fund 83 (Impound Fund); Asset Forfeiture, Inmate Work Crew and Education Fund.

Walker discussed the change in the Commissary Fund including paying the commissary officer out of the fund. Clark estimated the fund balance at $60,000.00.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget at this time.

b) Clark presented the List of Elected Officials Salaries for FY2016 noting no change in salary amounts. Clark stated those that receive longevity will need to be published in the newspaper as well as the state supplement increase for the District Attorney. County Treasurer Katherine Hudson stated the state pays 100% of the supplement and it has to go through county payroll.

Clark asked if anyone wishes to discuss the budget at this point or wants to hear from departments?

Kennedy stated there is possibly an Attorney General's opinion on elected officials being able to collect longevity pay. Kennedy stated more information may be available in the next few months.

Clark asked Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg if the court needs to vote about the proposed salaries?

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to publish the proposed Elected Officials expenses, annual salaries and allowances for FY2016. (See attachment)

a) Burns told the court he doesn't mind giving up one and a half cents on roads but this will probably need to be a temporary situation. Burns stated there are plenty of cash reserves there and cited recent rains/road damage. Clark stated that is how Clark and McCuiston viewed it as being on a year-by-year basis. Clark commented about the purpose of this for FY2016.

Clark referenced page 31 of the proposed budget regarding DPS.

Burns asked McCuiston if there is a contingency line item? McCuiston stated there is $100,000.00 in reserves contingency in General Fund and none in payroll.

Clark stated there are several areas where the county provides assistance to DPS. Clark stated the county provides a secretary for the local DPS office in Decatur. Clark and McCuiston stated this was done decades ago. Clark proposed to convert the position (DPS has a state-provided full

time position) to a part-time three day a week position. Clark commented that he doesn't understand why the county is funding a state position and told the court it is like an unfunded mandate. Clark stated he doesn't doubt the work the person does and said it is fair to look at it being a part-time position.

Sgt. Shawn Younger stated this secretarial position has been in place for thirty plus years and said he's looking to keep this position full-time. Younger stated the border operation is changing staff volumes and border operations have been extended by two days. Younger asked to keep the position full-time.

White asked Clark the savings if the position was changed to part-time? Clark stated fulltime with benefits is $53,447.00 and would go to $28,000.00 if part-time. Kennedy asked about revenue received from DPS citations? McCuiston stated it is all lumped together and is not something "we go by anyway". Kennedy confirmed with McCuiston the county received funds from weight tickets.

Clark stated he hates to view these tickets as a revenue stream. Burns asked if this position is funded by the state in larger counties? DPS secretary Darla Anderson told Burns that she is the only state-funded secretary not at a major office. Anderson told the court the department is thankful that the court is considering part-time and stated there are thirty-eight troopers to take care of and stated her duties include answering phones, public and community service.

Clark stated he and McCuiston are willing to look at this and said "in the grand scheme of things it's not a lot of money." Kennedy requested Clark review this. Burns said that Wise County is third per capita of fatality accidents in the state. Younger talked about DPS trooper presence on the highways.

Lamance asked whether this is a county duty to provide a secretary to the department and why the state is dragging its heels on this issue? Younger stated this position has been in place since the 1970's. Younger thanked the court for the county's support.

Clark asked if any departments wished to speak on the FY2016 proposed budget?

Walker discussed three areas that have been discussed in budget-talks over the last several years. Walker stated that moving the commissary money will allow for the sixth 9-1-1 dispatcher. Walker stated the county qualifies for seven dispatchers and will be getting new 9-1-1 equipment via NCTCOG and hopes to request two more positions next budget year.

Clark and Walker discussed the work performed by Wise County Sheriff's Department dispatch focusing on the recent weather related events.

Walker discussed the following:

- Public Education material is allocated in the non-personnel communications line item and Walker has not had to use these funds yet because they're receiving public education

materials at no cost from NCTCOG. Walker stated these materials are used when dispatch officers go into the schools and educate children. Walker stated he doesn't want to zero the line item out because if NCTCOG advises that other counties are getting materials from NCTCOG then the county may not have the resources to purchase materials. Walker said there is $4,500.00 available. Clark asked about buying some materials and putting it away.

- Walker discussed purchasing vehicles using capital expenditure funds. Walker discussed price increase on government pricing for Chevrolet Tahoes. Walker stated that inflation wasn't included in capital expenditures budgeting. Walker discussed rotating out a few vehicles. Walker estimated two vehicles at $60,000.00 for both vehicles.
- Requested Law Enforcement deputy pay increases.

Walker stated this will be only for enforcement officers; anyone that is sworn and carrying a gun. Walker told the court that his office performed a salary study of local law enforcement agencies and stated Wise County is at $18.00/hour now. Walker discussed recruitment issues, retention issues and training issues. Walker estimated $24,000.00 per person for training cost.

Burns asked where it can be taken from his budget and put into salary? Walker stated they have looked at several options and one is to take it out of the work crews. Walker discussed the importance of law enforcement officers. Walker stated some non-personnel funds are available and to redo the work crew program. Walker discussed sending a commissioner's employee to jail school for training and then being able to absorb the jailers into open jail positions.

Burns said he thought they had tried that before but were told the person had to be one of Walker's employees. Walker stated it is easier to manage with the inmates. Walker also stated an option would be to go down to two work crews or utilize precinct staff that is already trained as a jailer and bring inmates out when there are large jobs to be done. Walker stated the inmate work crew is a huge liability. Burns asked if Walker is saying he's going to take the jailers away if the court doesn't give him the increase in budget? Walker told Burns "No, I want to discuss it." Walker stated the inmate work crew is his liability. Walker asked how the county can get enforcement officers to where they're competitive with other departments and when some precinct work crew employees are making more than law enforcement officers? Walker stated he isn't doing away with precinct inmate work crews he just wants to discuss it. Walker stated another option may be to use some of the funds in non-personnel to off-set this request.

Clark stated this is something that would need to be discussed year-by-year much like the change in precinct cash balances (above).

Walker stated it would take $186,000.00 to give each of the 60 employees a $1.25/hour pay increase. Walker stated other agency rates. Lamance asked if $186,000.00 could be found in vehicle differences, another employee, etc? Walker cited the CID work-load.

McCuiston stated the best option is changing the work-crew. Clark stated he doesn't see a viable way to fund this unless it is at the expense of the commissioner's inmate work crews. White asked if he means to discontinue the work crews completely. Clark discussed alternating weeks with two work crews between the four precincts. Commissioners agreed that they are not going to send a precinct employee to jailer school. Clark discussed the concerns about having a non-Sheriff's Department employee having inmates. Burns and Walker discussed inmate work crew liability. McCuiston stated five jailers are at $20.52/hour. White asked if Walker was looking at all work crews. Walker discussed all options he has reviewed. Walker discussed usage of benefit options for employees. Walker recognized that money is tight.

White asked about training cost per person and cost savings by giving the $1.25/hour raise? Walker discussed deputy retention and said maybe down the road the county will save by doing this. Walker stated the investigators are more interested in what they take home.

Burns asked about a state-wide full salary study? Walker stated he will give the court a packet and continued that many of the counties in the study are local counties. Burns stated that most of the counties locally have larger population than Wise County.

McCuiston cited page 36 showing the transfer of $519,113 for work crew for all precincts. McCuiston stated this is for uniforms and salaries. McCuiston stated fuel comes out of the precincts; Burns confirmed this. Walker stated he is NOT advocating firing the precinct inmate work crews and they'd be absorbed into open jailer positions. Clark discussed what would be done if there are no jailer openings.

Clark asked if Walker's salary study includes the value of benefits the county provides full time employees? Walker stated it is salary only and added the reason it is salary only is because when talking to employees most don't use the all of the benefits. White asked about the savings created by rotating the inmate work crews among the precincts? Clark asked about the cost of the $1.00/hour law enforcement officer raise in March 2015? Walker discussed fund reallocation that was used to make the March 2015 pay increase happen. White said he'd like to look into rotating work crew inmates.

Burns asked about inmate population and time-served credit as well as inmates qualified for inmate work crew, rehabilitation and importance of the work crews. Clark asked about all jailer spots being full? Clark asked about inmate population to jailer ratio. Walker estimated 1 jailer per 48 inmates and discussed housing out-of-county inmates.

White stated it is a good idea for Clark, McCuiston and Walker to review this request. Clark commented that if reviewed it will be looking at reducing work crews from four to two.

Clark asked if any other department heads wished to speak about their budget?

4) Clark stated he built the budget on $0.3789/$100 valuation being $0.3139 General Fund and $0.065 FMLR.

Motion made by Burns seconded by White and unanimously adopted by the Court to propose an FY2016 Wise County tax rate of $0.3789/$100valuation including $0.3139 for General Fund and $0.065 for FMLR. (No attachments)

5) Clark presented the proposed Weatherford College Wise County Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2015-2016. (See attachment) Clark stated the county doesn't set the budget but does set the tax rate. Clark stated for record that he disagrees with the amount of funds that Wise County sends to Weatherford and the amount that Parker County students pay versus what Wise County students pay.

Clark asked WCWC Assistant Dean Matt Joiner if he would like to speak?

White asked Joiner about the rate Wise County students pay versus what out-of-county students pay? Joiner discussed the tax rate in Parker County ($0.11) versus the tax rate Wise County ($0.04). Clark stated Parker County taxes do not come to Wise County so it is an irrelevant point to this discussion. Lamance asked if there is any "cure" to this down the road?

Clark noted the indirect expense proposed for 2015-2016 at $846,000.00 (Page 2 of 8 on proposed budget) that will leave Wise County and go to Parker County that could do a lot of good at the Wise County campus.

Motion made by Burns seconded by Kennedy and unanimously adopted by the Court to propose the Wise County Weatherford College Branch Maintenance Tax rate at $0.046148/$100 valuation for the 2015-2016 WCWC budget year.

6) Clark announced the next meetings as Monday, August 24, 2015 with a Public Hearing at 8:45 AM and the Special Meeting at 9:00 AM. A public hearing on September 14, 2015 before the meeting and budget/tax rate adoption on September 14, 2015.

Clark also noted a thorough-fare plan workshop requested with commissioners on September 14, 2015 at 1:00 PM.

Ag Extension Agent Tanya Davis reminded the court of the September 14, 2015 interpretive luncheon and asked if it needs to be rescheduled because of the above-mentioned meetings.

7) McCuiston asked if the changes discussed in today's meeting will be addressed today or at the next court?

Clark stated the changes will be discussed on August 24, 2015.
Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:28 AM there being no further business to be had.

Minutes approved this 14 day of September, 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