

SEPTEMBER 6, 2016

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this the 6th day of September, A.D., 2016 at 7:00 P.M. came on to be had a Special Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Newark City Hall (209 Hudson Street) in the town of Newark 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 7:00 PM. All court members were present.

Clark thanked the City of Newark for hosting the meeting.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Moment of Silence

4) Community Forum

Precinct No. 3 resident Cary Mellema asked the court about road funding for the Precinct No. 3 area specifically Bobo Crossing? Mellema also asked the court about animal control policy as to why city residents have to pay an animal control fee and county citizen (not in the city) don't? Mellema told the court he has been told there is no more funding for roads in this area.

Clark asked Mellema to explain? Mellema explained that it is when county animal control comes into the city to get an animal and the city is charged a fee for that. Mellema continued that if a person doesn't reside in city limits they're not charged a fee. Clark asked if the City of Aurora has an animal control officer? Mellema said it does not. Clark told Mellema that the City of Chico (where Clark resides) has an animal control officer that is responsible for animal control in the city limits. Clark continued that if a city doesn't have animal control and the county has to come into the city to get an animal then the city is charged a fee. Clark told Mellema that he will get information for the City of Aurora.

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Precinct No. 3 resident Dan Sessler asked the court about the story in the Wise County Messenger about Constable Precinct No. 3 Doug Parr and asked Clark his thoughts about the issue. Clark stated, "The extent that I can say on that tonight is that it is under investigation."

Precinct No. 1 resident Tracy Smith asked Clark if there will be time to discuss the proposed budget? Clark told Smith it will be addressed under another agenda item.

Precinct No. 3 resident Don Drain told the court that he has attended all mobile meetings and asked the court to discuss projects that pertain to the flooding that provide solutions to flooding. Lamance asked Drain to explain? Drain discussed drastic flooding and bridges/roads that are impassible. Drain asked when the county is going to start working with other state and federal agencies to clean out the Trinity River? Clark asked Burns if he wished to elaborate on his talked with Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)?

Burns stated that TRWD can't offer a solution to the problem. Burns told Drain that TRWD is required by policy to keep the lake at conservation elevation. Burns said that the local surface water district in the past has negotiated with TRWD to keep the lake two feet lower in the spring and fall so there isn't as much release in event of a large rainfall. Burns continued the current board and administration has chosen not to and has chosen to keep it at conservation level. Drain discussed grants that are available. Burns said that the county is waiting for one grant.

The court and Drain discussed the Trinity River issues. Kennedy discussed flooding on his personal property that is on the Trinity River. Drain discussed stated and federal representation. Kennedy told Drain that Tarrant County owns the water and there isn't much Wise County can do about it.

Lamance discussed federal funding and attempts to receive funding for bridge repair on Bobo Crossing. Drain asked if the county is going to continue to put band-aids on the problem? Lamance told Drain that the county will fix the bridge whether federal funding comes or not. Lamance discussed the proper repair of the bridge.

Clark asked if anyone else wished to speak under Community Forum?

5) Correspondence: None

6) Precinct No. 1 resident Tracy Smith addressed the court regarding the FY2017 proposed budget and tax rate. Smith read a statement that discussed reduction in cost of doing business while maintaining quality of service to county citizens. Smith urged the county to hold true as a safety net for vulnerable citizens. Smith discussed local needs and budgetary impact to the community.

Clark asked if there are any other comments regarding the FY2017 budget? Democratic Party Chair Janet Amos asked Clark the Weatherford College Wise County Branch maintenance tax?

Clark told Amos the county proposes that the tax rate stay flat being what the budget is based on?

Drain asked what the county has done with the county tax collection? Clark stated that by statute the county can contract out tax collection services if the Tax Assessor/Collector signs off on it to do so. Clark stated the Tax Assessor doesn't wish to do so. Drain stated the cost at \$160,000.00. Clark confirmed it will cost the county more than it would to contract it out and noted that this was discussed under budget discussions.

7) Clark discussed the Thoroughfare Plan the county is working on with the help of NCTCOG to update the current master thoroughfare plan. Clark noted growth and development in the southeast part of Wise County. Clark told the public that the commissioners court; county engineer; NCTCOG and TxDOT and other organizations are working together on this project. Clark noted similarities that NCTCOG has found between where Wise County is now and where Collin County was in 1970 specifically urbanization and the housing market. Clark told the public that Collin County didn't have a master thoroughfare plan in 1970 and is now behind in transportation. Clark discussed county road infrastructure and future planning for Wise County as far as the type of community it wishes to be; infrastructure planning, etc.

8) Lamance told the public he is trying to stay on top of resurfacing Precinct No. 3 roadways as economically as possible. Lamance stated the main issue seems to be the Bobo Crossing bridge. Lamance estimated 3,000 people cross that bridge daily when it is open. Lamance told the public that he hopes Bobo Crossing bridge is open by the spring of 2017 but will depend on the stability of the river. Lamance told the public it appears the county will have enough to fix the bridge if FEMA funds come through and contractors come through.

Lamance asked if anyone has questions about the road and Precinct No. 3 projects? Drain asked if Lamance is considering moving the bridge and commented about the curve? Lamance told Drain the state built the bridge and discussed possibilities of the bridge. Lamance commented if the contractor cost is reasonable then the county will repair the existing bridge. Lamance told Drain that he knows Drain wants to see a cure for this bridge as well as the one on FM 730 N of Boyd and 114 at Bridgeport.

Smith asked about the economic impact of flooding? Lamance told Smith he doesn't see an economic impact on the road now and listed alternate routes. Smith asked about the impact on emergency services of having the bridge closed? Lamance expressed satisfaction on the current emergency services in the county. Lamance told Smith the county cannot fix the bridge at this time. Clark asked County Engineer Chad Davis to discuss the bridge from an engineering perspective? Davis told the public the bridge is 120' long and that the channel under is a problem area. Davis said a long-term solution is to build a bridge to span the river. Burns said the cost would be about \$1,000,000.00 every 100'. Davis told the court that the last time he checked the cost is \$165.00/square foot. Davis stated the county would have to pass a bond to do that and there are lot of things that go into the economic impacts. Davis told the public that his code of ethics as an engineer is to protect the public safety, health, and welfare. Davis stated that the county could create other roads

Burns confirmed the bridge itself is structurally sound. Davis discussed the drill shafts and flooding that causes water to washout the approaches to the bridges.

Smith asked if a bond election would be an option if it is important to the public to get it fixed? Lamance discussed cost estimates to fix the bridge permanently and doesn't know if it would be a fair deal at this time. Smith told the court, "We don't want to get behind the problem; we want to get ahead of the problem."

Drain stated this bridge has been a problem for at least fifty (50) years. Drain told the court the county is going to see 167% growth in the southeast area of the county in the next 10-15 years. Lamance discussed the tremendous growth in the whole State of Texas. Lamance told Drain that he feels it would be wrong to spend \$6-\$8 million when the county is working on a Thoroughfare Plan and feasibility at this time.

9) Davis explained CETRZ stands for County Energy and Transportation Reinvestment Zone. Davis stated this is a tool to appropriate severance tax money. Davis stated the state legislature appropriated \$224,500,000.00 in funds state-wide in 2014. Davis stated Wise County received \$2,177,000.00 to spend on oilfield damaged roads in Shale oil areas. Davis explained that after some counties didn't take their appropriated funds the state reappropriated those funds and Wise County received \$2,396,427.00 total. Davis said the county originally submitted a list of prioritized roads totaling \$12,164,000.00 being less than one fourth of what was needed. Davis discussed funds request to state legislators. Davis told the public the county has \$2,764,000.00 worth of projects.

Davis explained TxDOT is the medium the legislature used to administer the funds. Davis told the public that TxDOT usually pays off within a month with 80% reimbursed to the county. Davis stated the county originally got the projects in May 2014 during paving season and didn't work on any projects in 2014. Davis told the public that projects weren't worked on in the summer of 2015 because of the 38-40" of rain over the course of three weeks. Davis stated that the projects were squeezed into 2016 and the only projects that remain are one in Precinct No. 2 and two in Precinct No. 1. Davis discussed project costs and told the public the county wants to use all of the money it can so it can request more funds of the legislature.

Clark asked how the project list was developed? Davis stated the court chose for Davis to go out and prioritize the list for fairness. Davis stated that many of the roads are in the northern part of the county. Clark said there were some counties that were approved for funding that didn't use it and asked Davis if there are opportunities for reallocation of those funds? Davis discussed use of free or surplus material and told Clark he isn't sure about use of funds appropriated to other counties.

Clark opened the meeting to questions about the CETRZ program. Smith asked if there is an advisory committee for CETRZ? Burns stated it was Davis' inspection and prioritization. Burns confirmed there is an advisory board for the taxing zone. Davis explained the purpose of the CETRZ. Burns stated the CETRZ is in Precinct No. 1 in the area of a small refinery. White told

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the public the funds were granted to the county in 2014. White commented that many of the roads that were "good" in 2014 were heavily damaged by truck traffic because of the rain and prioritization was changed to the greater need.

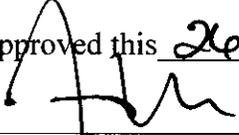
Davis commended the commissioners for road work before CETRZ grant funds were ever approved. Burns discussed Wise County being one of five counties that were producing severance tax money and discussed CETRZ grant funding.

10) Clark announced the next meetings as Monday September 12, 2016 to consider the budget and tax rate for adoption.

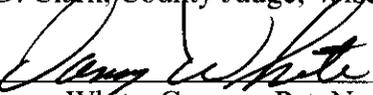
Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM there being no further business to be had.

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Minutes approved this 26 day of September, 2016, as printed.



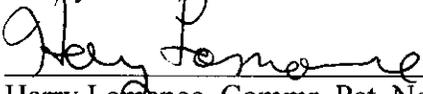
J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County



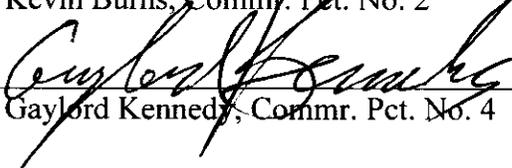
Danny White, Commr. Pct. No. 1



Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

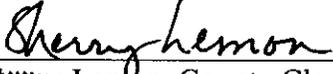


Harry LaFrance, Commr. Pct. No. 3



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 a meeting of the **Wise County Commissioners' Court** on February 28, 1994 and the rules have not been revised.

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

