

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
March 28, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

This regular session of the Mills County Commissioners Court opened in due form of law at 9:00 am in the Mills County Commissioners' Courtroom located at 1011 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: Judge Ed Smith, Commissioners Williams, Partin, Garren and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, Treasurer – Summer Campbell, Investigator – John Fincher and Debbie Grba. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, The Goldthwaite Eagle, Sheriff Clint Hammonds, and Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants.

The meeting is available to the public to view on the Mills County YouTube channel.

1. Judge Smith called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Smith led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes March 14, 2022- Commissioner Williams moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts Payable –Motion to approve from Commissioner Garren with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Consider and Act on purchase of body cameras - Sheriff Hammonds addressed the court regarding purchase of 9 total cameras - 7 units in patrol division and 2 for the jail division. Jail cameras are utilized for liability concerns with inmates. Sheriff Hammonds noted the funds for the purchase were included in the Law Enforcement technology budget; he will contact the vendor and request an explanation on the provided invoice. Investigator Fincher clarified the invoice explaining quantity and cost. Judge Smith moved to acknowledge the invoice with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Discussion of 3 Oaks fire and other fires - Judge Smith provided a map from Texas Forest Service indicating areas burned in fire. Continuing fire danger in our immediate area was noted. Swift Current Energy, developer of the Castle Gap wind project, was in Friday. They acknowledged one of their contractors accidentally started the 3 Oaks fire with sparks from welding on a gate. Swift Current has promised donations to the fire departments and is discussing immediate issues with the affected landowners. All citizens need to use caution as the fire danger is high and forecast to remain so for the immediate future.
7. Discuss, Consider and Act on EMS dispatching – Judge Smith presented a power point on 911 dispatching options, a staffing cost estimate for a county dispatching department and several alternative locations. Emergency service dispatching will be on the agenda for all subsequent meetings of the court until resolution is in place.

8. Commissioners' Request and Reports -

Commissioner Precinct 1 - Cutting brush and patching some roads. Visited with Carlos from TxDot with regards to material. Will receive more info on material and share with the court when received.

Commissioner Precinct 2 – Need rain. Rock crusher broke again. Has been almost a year that this equipment has been out of commission. Possible need to replace the tractor. Commissioners will look into finding a solution.

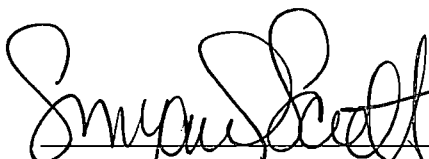
Commissioner Precinct 3 – blading a few roads. Have several tin horns to put in. Have recently acquired used truck and belly dump almost ready for work. Not cutting brush as the fire danger is so high.

Commissioner Precinct 4 – Picked up recently acquired used belly dump. Working on its' wiring so dump is compatible with multiple trucks. Some road blading but stopped as some sparks caused concern for a fire. Attended several meetings. Hill Country Community Action hired an interim CEO. Attended the Child Welfare Board Regional meeting. Removed dead trees from courthouse lawn. Have some leftover sheet metal that has been declared surplus. Discussed donation of material to Mills Central Appraisal district for a car port. After discussion with County Attorney it was determined the transfer of surplus to another government agency can be done with Court approval.

9. County Judge's Report – Friday was the advertised deadline for bid on road materials - no bids were received. Council of Governments met last Thursday – Mills County is missing a representative Board Member of Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. The representative must be an owner or employer of a local business. April Commissioners Court meeting will include a public hearing on the proposes new subdivision ordinance. County Court jury trial starting Tuesday March 29 and may continue into Wednesday.

Mid-year budget will be presented at the next meeting for review

10. Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn; Commissioner Garren seconded. Motion Carried 5-0.


Sonya Scott
Mills County Clerk



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