

Mills County  
Commissioners Court Minutes  
January 23, 2023 – 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: Judge Johnson, Commissioners Williams, Partin, Head, and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, and Treasurer – Summer Campbell. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, Drew Altom – Goldsmith Solutions, The Goldthwaite Eagle, and Justice of the Peace – Kim Avants. See attendance sheet for audience listing.

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

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Williams providing the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes of January 9, 2023 – Judge Johnson noted a correction to the spelling of a name of Michael Pritchard. Commissioner Partin made a motion to approve the minutes with stated correction. A second was provided by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – none
4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts Payable – Commissioner Partin paid for the inspection and tags for the MAC truck (road and bridge truck) and filed for reimbursement. Commissioner Williams moved to approve accounts payable with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban – Judge Johnson has contacted all 4 fire chiefs, and all have agreed to put the ban back in place. Commissioner Williams moved to put the burn ban in place with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Presentation from Justin Reyes- Bridge Coordinator, with TxDot. Discussing off-system bridges (county road bridges). Federal government pays for 80%, State pays for 10%, and the county/city pays the remaining 10% of bridge replacement/repairs. The county portion can also be in-kind work. Commissioner Partin noted that it would be better for the County to do the in-kind work. In-kind work must be completed within 3 years after approval. Completing the documents that were provided to the Court and returning them to Mr. Reyes starts the process for the funding for bridgework. Bridges must be proposed as a candidate for replacement. Proposals are submitted/approved once a year by TxDot. County can use their own rates for in-kind estimates. Commissioner Partin is discussing the bridge on CR 508 with regards to repairs/replacement.
7. Consider and Act on Designating Judge ProTem - Commissioner Williams has been appointed as ProTem in the past. Judge Johnson made the motion to appoint Commissioner Williams with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Consider and Act on approving members of the Investment Committee (annual approval required) - Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the members of the Investment Committee as presented. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act on Board members for the 2023 Mills County Child Welfare Board (annual appointment) – Same members as approved last year were presented with Mike Williams as the board chair. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the board with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Consider and Act on accepting financial donation to the Community Center – Billie Ethridge has received a donation of \$14,000. Donation has been earmarked for repairs, maintenance, and other programs. Judge Johnson noted that the check has been sent to the main office Hill Country office in San Saba. County Attorney noted that if the funds are not donated to the County, the county has nothing to approve. Commissioner Williams made motion to table the agenda item with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0

11. Consider and Act on Interlocal agreement with Mullin City Council – Mr. Dexter Morris – Mullin City Council addressed the Court. County Attorney, Gerald Hale, noted that they have been working on siting the correct statues for this agreement. The issue is that the Texas Constitution limits funds from one government entity to another entity without pay. There are two county roads that go through Mullin. County has no authority/requirements for the maintenance of these two roads. TAC has noted that the work on these roads benefit the county as a whole. Mr. Morris has provided a draft of the agreement. County Attorney suggested tabling the agreement for this time until he can work out the details with TAC legal counsel. Judge Johnson moved to table this item. Commissioner Partin provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Consider and Act on Road Use Agreement between Mills County Road Bridge and Randal Leonard - Commissioner Head addressed the court. Mr. Leonhard has provided materials to the county in the past. Mr. Leonhard would like tin horns installed on County Road 312. County Attorney Hale noted that the Court needs to make an exception for any actions that do not follow the approved policy. The proposed material agreement was approved in Commissioner Court in 2019. This was NOT an agreement given to Mr. Leonhard by the previous Commissioner. Commissioner Head moved to approve the agreement with Mr. Leonhard for installation of tin horns in exchange for material. Second provided by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consider and Act on Microsoft and Email licensing – Sam Goldsmith present in person to answer any questions the court may have on this item. Drew Altom (present via Zoom) addressed the Court. Goldsmith presented that the goal is to work towards standardization, back-up and security for the county. Commissioner Williams discussed current license set-up for the County. Mr. Altom has provided a recommendation to the County to help address the issue to streamline the licensing. Mr. Altom noted the checks and balances that the county is wanting can be managed via Goldsmith Solutions. Goldsmith would provide a monthly report showing how many times the secure system protected the county from malware/phishing, etc. This change would put the county in a better position to address Public Information Request. County is not currently paying for/not receiving any back up of emails at this time. Mr. Altom noted the timeline is realistically 60 days – This is contingent on how quickly TAC releases the information as well. Goldsmith does not expect any downtime or data migration for this change. Commissioner Williams noted that on page 2 of the packet, must use the comparison of Defender plan 2 to Secure link for a true equivalent comparison. Judge Johnson moved to table until the next meeting. Second provided by Mike Wright. Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Partin abstaining.

Commissioners Head and Wright and Judge Johnson voted to table. Commissioner Williams voted against tabling this item.

14. Consider and Act on proposal from Automatic Fire Protection or Century Fire Protection – Guy Burns addressed the court. Judge Johnson noted that there have been several companies giving quotes. San Saba Fire had installed a new panel that they could not get to work with our system and the panel was removed. Motion by Judge Johnson to approve Automatic Fire Protection. Second by Commissioner Wright Motion carried 5-0.

15. Consider and act on bid specs for camera system at the jail and courthouse – Sam Goldsmith addressed the court. There is a need to replace the courthouse camera system. Specs for proposals provided by Goldsmith. Commissioner Williams asked about the parties involved in the walk-through. Goldsmith noted that the walk-through recommendation is for the Sheriff, Guy Burns, and a Goldsmith representative. Cabling and cameras are included in the RFP. This would be a Request for Proposal and sealed bid. Sheriff Hammonds has started the process and has three vendors tour the facility. Clarified that these are not bids just a walk-through for the Sheriff's education only. will share the cost range but not the name of the vendors. Treasurer noted that funds were allotted for some of this system in the current budget. Last fiscal year allotted funds for the courthouse cameras and cabling. Sheriff Hammonds noted that some of these items in the RFP would have to be presented to the Jail standards Committee for approval. Jail inspector needs to review the proposals once received so that it is noted that the county is moving forward to fixing the problem. This would also allow the Jail Inspector to weigh in on any issues. Must be advertised for 2 two weeks then allow time for pre-bid conference. Commissioner Wright would like to meet with Sheriff Hammonds to review. Goldsmith would provide a one-page instruction for legal. Sheriff Hammonds requested to table the RFP so that he has time to review the proposed RFP. Can also be added to TIPS and Buy Board for more advertisement on the RFP. Judge Johnson moved to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Consider and Act on removing Chris Green from the inmate commissary bank account and adding Daniel Garza – Sheriff Hammonds addressed the Court. Chief Deputy Green is finishing his time with the department. Daniel Garza will be taking the role of Chief Deputy. Daniel Garza is currently a reserve deputy. Garza is on unpaid status. Chief Deputy Green is currently working on his separation letter. Sheriff Hammonds did not have a time for this separation. Commissioner Williams moved to remove Chris Green with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Consider and Act on accepting the 2022 Racial Profiling report as required by Texas Occupations Code 1701.164 – This is an annual report that must be presented to the Court. Judge Johnson moved to accept the report as presented. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Consider and Act on Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program Resolution – Sheriff Hammonds addressed the Court. This is a resolution required to be eligible to receive grants. Judge Johnson moved to approve the resolution with a second from Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

19. Consider and Act on purchase of equipment for Law Enforcement with Chapter 59 Funds – Sheriff Hammonds presented four bids for purchase. Chapter 59 funds are funded by forfeiture and seizure and regulated on how they can be used. This proposal would be paid out of the asset forfeiture funds – Chapter 59. Commissioner Williams noted that on January 9<sup>th</sup> the Court moved to approve purchase of a 308 and a Creedmoor but this proposal is for the actual ammunition. There is currently \$16,000 in the account.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the purchases of the four provided bids from the asset forfeiture funds. Second provided by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

20. Consider and Act on allowing Judge Jett Johnson to use personal property in office. – Judge has provided a list of personal property for his use in his office. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the personal property list provided. Commissioner Wright provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

21. Consider and Act on new EMS building – Framing is finished, and sheet metal has started to be installed. Commissioner Williams provided that a door has been added to the room on the south end of the building to provide an exit door. Also, the doors into the bays have been changed from 36 inches to 48 inches. Commissioner Williams provided that the county has not seen a price difference or cost associated with these changes. Commissioner Williams will bring the cost reported to court for approval on the changes. Discussion only. NO action.

22. Commissioners request and reports:

Pct 1 Commissioner Wright: have been working on roads, hauling material from Priddy (McCoy) pit. Using the MAC truck that has saved lots of problems. Will be taking off a couple of days this week.


Pct 2 Commissioner Head: Have attended school for new elected officials this past week. Have been using the shredder on roads. Visited with Castle Gap on some repairs that needed to be made.

Pct 3 Commissioner Partin: Helped Commissioner Williams hauling material. Have shared employees on repairs.

Pct 4 Commissioner Williams: worked together with Commissioner Partin on roads. Trimmed trees and hauled materials. Removed sand from certain roads. Met with Justin Reyes from TxDot. Placing 2 signs on Jones Valley emergency Vehicle weight limit for that 20-foot-long bridge. This is a federal guideline because TxDot received federal funds. There may be additional bridges that require this type of signage. Will be replacing the bridge on 574 will repair one lane at a time and utilize a stop light to address traffic. No start date at this time but will be soon. Process could be lengthy. Need to add to our webpage for our citizens.

23. Judges report: went to training in College Station last week. Cody McCarn informed the Judge that Garlick has resigned from the MCAD Board. Hope to have names for recommendation at the next meeting.

24. Commissioner Williams to adjourn; Judge Johnson second. Motion Carried 5-0

  
Sonya Scott  
Mills County Clerk



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