

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
February 27, 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 4th Street, Goldthwaite, Texas 76844.

Present in the Courtroom: Judge Johnson, Commissioners Williams, Partin, Head, and Wright, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, Deputy Clerk – Shawnee Martinez and Treasurer – Summer Campbell. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, 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 February 13, 2023 and February 16, 2023 – Commissioner Williams motioned to approve with a correction to the name and a second from Commissioner Head. Carried 5-0.

3. Audience with Individuals – David Shaw (TDEM), Lanete Barnett (Mills County Historical Commission and Buddy Williams.

4. Consider and Act on approving Accounts Payable – Commissioner Partin stated the check for the new truck recently purchased is shown along with a charge for keys that had to be ordered for a piece of equipment. Commissioner Williams, asked about the Sheriff's forfeiture fund, Treasurer Campbell stated the detail report given by the Sheriff's office shows it was a firearm. Treasurer Campbell also mentioned that payments have been made and offered to show payout information to commissioners if interested. Williams motioned to approve while Commissioner Partin seconded the motion. Carried 5-0.

5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban – Judge Johnson has contacted all 4 fire chiefs, and some were for lifting and others against. Commissioners discussed their concerns with the high winds and no rain. No action taken, burn ban still in effect.

6. Consider and Act on Bank Depository Contract - Commissioner Williams, stated the Investment Committee met last week to discuss and was then broken down by fixed rates. The county is currently with MC Bank. Commissioner Williams suggested to remain with MC Bank at this time. Commissioner's Williams motioned to approve with a second from Commissioner Wright. Carried 4-0. Judge Jett Johnson abstained from vote.

7. Consider and Act on Participating in Texas Association of Counties Cybersecurity Training Program (TGC2054.5191) - Treasurer Campbell informed the commissioners that the county is

already participating annual election and have until August 2023 to complete. Judge Jett Johnson motioned to approve with a second from Commissioner Williams. Carried 5-0.

8. Consider and Act on office space for county liaison officer for Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) - Public speaker David Shaw, begin speaking with a small amount of history on why it is important to have or house a liaison officer. No cost the county, they are state employees. TDEM has interviewed and hired for this position for Mills County, this individual will need an office/room to complete paperwork and keep personal gear and supplies. Having County Liaison Officer (CLO's) in each county is a major benefit in major disasters. Commissioner Williams asked if this office needed to be confidential, Mr. Shaw confirmed that it does not. Judge Jett Johnson mentioned a couple of suggestions and asked if there was time limit for this decision to be made. The court has 6-8 weeks for set up. Commissioners' office could be divided for a temporary fit until permanent space is agreed upon. Judge Jett Johnson made a motion to approve having the liaison officer housed here and will be determined where inside the courthouse at a later date with a second from Commissioner Partin. Carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act on leasing election equipment to Mullin ISD - County Clerk Sonya Scott, explained what elections were taking place and fees that will be charged to use the equipment. County Clerk Scott stated she will be here on May 6th to oversee the process. Training will also be provided to Mullin ISD for the use of the equipment. If equipment is damaged, Mullin ISD has to pay for repairs. Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve with a second from Commissioner Head. Carried 5-0.

10. Consider and Act on purchasing drainage pipe from S & S Supply for Law Enforcement Center - Commissioner Williams mentioned it is a drainage problem and would cost between \$2,000-\$3,000, he has talked with others on estimates and stated Ed Saunders from S&S has offered to fix at a lower cost. Williams asked where the funds would come from to take care of this issue and looking for recommendations. Treasurer Campbell asked for some time to study and review the budget in order to try and resolve this. The hope was to use ARA Funds but those funds do not qualify for use. The act has been tabled until Commissioner Williams can speak with Sheriff Clint Hammonds. Motioned by Judge Jett Johnson to table with a second by Commissioner Williams. Carried 5-0.

11. Consider and Act on proposals for 1888 Historical Jail - Guy Burns provided a breakdown to Commissioner's and spoke about painting and staining needing to be done along with other repairs. Electrical proposals were given to review. \$50,000.00 of the County's budget was dedicated to the project, at this time there is 59,000.00 worth of repairs and changes. \$46,600.48 is total given for the mini split repair. Lanete Barnett from the Mills County Historical Commission spoke, she provided a financial information of the Historical Commissioners. The Historical Commissioner has offered to help with this project out of their funds. Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Partin questioned the vinyl flooring going in place of carpet or resurfacing original floors. Att. Gerald Hale, mentioned how Guy Burns has done all the research on this and whomever has proposed to do the work and given bids are ready to work and get started on this project. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve the painting and floors to be done at this time only with a second from Commissioner Partin. Carried 5-0.

12. Discuss workshop over purchasing and procurement on March 6 - TAC will provide a training on this issue, and a scheduled date needs to be made when everyone can attend. Commissioner Williams will meet with individuals and work on setting a specific date and time for this event. Discussion only.

13. Consider and Act on request for variance on subdivision regulations - Buddy Williams is present and spoke on how he is unaware of the process that needs to be met. Buddy Williams is wanting to sell a piece of his land which would require a variance per the County's subdivision regulations. Buddy Williams has been asked to fill out a written form with the clerk's office in order to complete this request. Judge Jett Johnson motioned to approve the variants for the 1.32-acre tract with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion failed 2-3. Judge Jett Johnson then made a motion to approve the variants for Buddy Williams subdivision and wave the \$200.00 fee for the 1.32 acre's, with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Consider and Act on in-kind work relating to the bridge on C.R. 508 - Commissioner Partin stated there will be no in-kind work, TXDot changed the status. Commissioner Williams motioned to table the in-kind work on 508 bridge with a second from Judge Jett Johnson. Carried 4-1, Commissioner Partin opposed.

15. Consider and act on declaring items in Precinct 2 as scrap and salvage - Commissioner Head suggested to scrap cement culverts and salvage four metal chairs, jet heater (model no. GON-55S Serial no. 001006) A/C Unit (serial no. 36417334) metal culverts, two microwaves (Model no. JE635WW 03 FCC ID no C5F7NF61MO6000 and Model No. JES636WK01 Serial No SH920917U), truck springs, truck rims and misc. scrap iron. Commissioner Williams motioned to approve scraping the (2) cement culverts in PCT#2 with a second from Commissioner Head. Carried 5-0. Commissioner Williams then motioned to surplus the remaining items listed to be salvaged, seconded by Commissioner Head. Carried 5-0.

16. Discussion of soda machine in Courthouse - Guy Burns mentioned there was no contract with Dr. Pepper for the machine on property now, he proposed that the courthouse buys their own soda/snack machine or find a lender to loan and restock. Commissioner Williams questioned if the machine gets used enough to continue with replacing it, Treasurer Campbell confirmed yes. Judge Johnson asked Guy Burns to reach out to other vendors. Discussion only.

17. Discussion of the Old EMS building on 4th street - Judge Johnson proposed an auction agreement, there is still underground storage tanks on the property which will cost to be removed. Judge Johnson is wanting an agreement on a starting bid for the public auction. Treasurer Campbell suggested to wait and sell this piece of real estate until the market begins to pick back up. There is no push or hurry to sell at this time. Discussion only.

18. Consider and Act on new EMS Building - Guy Burns presented information that the insulation has been installed and the bay doors are on the property and can also be installed. Weather permitting the completion date is around August 8, 2023. Discussion Only

19. Commissioners Request and Reports:

-Commissioner Wright spoke with Sam Swan about the Rolling Oaks subdivision road improvements but is unable to get ahold of Doug Moresco which handles the development. They have been clearing brush, hauling materials and patching potholes. Commissioner Wright received a call from an individual about community service and has put a call into sheriff office along with probation to see what can be done.

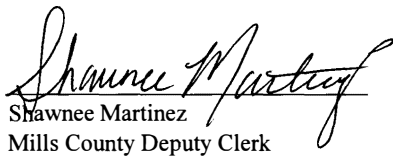
-Commissioner Head, stated they have bladed and on CR 229 and have been hauling materials to build up ditches.

-Commissioner Partin, hauling dirt on CR 265 and had a tractor down mid-week but is now back to working as of Friday.

-Commissioner Williams, hauled material on CR 508 and 406 with an abundance of right of way work on CR 549. Attended a meeting for Child Welfare Board in Austin last week along with a Human Resources meeting to discuss an employee being out a longer amount of time due to a medical issue's and will be needing to discuss and prepare on getting a volunteer to help.

20. County Judge's Report – Attended a conference on February 21-22, 2023 that discussed budgeting, emergency management etc. Needs further training on bond's, class is online and eight hours are requested.

21. Adjournment - Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0?


Shawnee Martinez
Mills County Deputy Clerk

February 27, 2023

