

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
March 13, 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 were Judge Johnson, Commissioners Mike Wright, Robert Head, Dale Partin and Jason Williams, County Treasurer – Summer Campbell, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom: Kim Avants – Justice of the Peace, The Goldthwaite Eagle, Dana Allison – Hamilton EMS, David Son – Goldsmith Solutions, Sam Goldsmith -Goldsmith Solutions and Jackie Brooks. Audience sign-in sheet is attached to the minutes.

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

Agenda: -

1. Judge Johnson called the meeting to order noted the presence of a quorum; Judge Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Williams provided the opening prayer.
2. Review of minutes - Minutes of February 27, 2023 and March 6, 2023 – Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – Yvonne Meadows Galindo addressed the Court. Ms. Meadows Galindo wanted to know what the increase for the Sheriff's Credit card was for and wanted details on receipting practices etc. Ms. Meadows Galindo wants to be repaid for the loss of fence and repair work along with the loss of one cow.
4. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Commissioner Williams moved to approve with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda was reviewed by the Court as follows: (taken out of order)

- a. Monthly County Treasurer Report
- b. MCAD Monthly Collection Report
- c. County Clerk Report
- d. District Clerk Report
- e. Tax Assessor
- f. County Extension Reports
- g. Facilities Report
- h. Sheriff's Office
- i. Justice of the Peace
- j. County Judge's Report
- k. Hamilton EMS
- l. Veterans Services Officer

motion made by Commissioner Williams to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wright, Motion Carried 5-0.

5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban- Three of the four fire chiefs agree to leave the burn ban off at this time. No action taken.

6. Consider and Act on increasing the credit limit on the Sheriff office's credit cards- handout provided from Treasurer Campbell. Sheriff Hammonds addressed the Court. Sheriff reported there have been situations where after paying for hotel rooms, card is declined due to over the limit. Asking for Credit increase for Melissa Womack and deputies. Treasurer provided that the County has been written up in prior audits for not having receipts matching up for expenditures. Sheriff proposing 4 deputies increased from 1500 to 2000. This increase would affect John Fincher, Son Drake, Bruce Malloy and Caleb Hopson. Commissioner Williams moved to increase the limit from \$1500 to \$2000. Second was provided by Commissioner Wright Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Dale Partin voted against the increase.

7. Consider and Act on bid specs for camera system at the Jail and Courthouse - Sam Goldsmith addressed the Court via Zoom. Commissioner Williams, Judge Johnson, Sheriff Hammonds and Goldsmith collaborated to combine the Sheriff's proposal with the Goldsmith proposal. Goldsmith has provided the cover letter, RFP and notice to be placed in The Goldthwaite Eagle. Dates need to be added. Court agreed to advertise the RFP on March 15 and March 22 in the Goldthwaite Eagle. The walk-through dates of March 29, April 3 and April 5 were agreed upon. Bids must be submitted by April 21 and opened in Court on April 24. Court would determine approval of bids at their discretion. Mills County website would have the details, with the paper listing only showing the minimum of information with instructions available after vetting process. Bidders would have to request the detailed information as publishing security details is not standard practice or safe. RFP number will be 0313. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the bid specs as presented with the changes of adding a 180 day option on page 11 and the date changes on the cover letter. Commissioner Head provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Consider and Act on the County to pay an additional \$2,800 expense for the baseboards in the 1888 Historical Jail – Guy Burns addressed the Court that due an oversight, the baseboard painting was not included in the original paint bid. The work that has been completed looks very good. Judge Johnson made a motion to approve the bid with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Consider and Act to approve the recommendation of the Mills County Historic Commission to install the mini split and the related wiring to the 1888 Historical Jail and to use funds from the Special Restoration account and General account – Guy Burns spoke that the Mills County Historical Commission will be billed directly to pay for this work to be completed. Court approval needed as property is County owned. Work would be completed by the end of the month. Judge Johnson moved to approve the work to be completed on the 1888 Jail with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Consider and Act on adding contractor to approved County Road Access Agreement – Commissioner Wright provided that a contractor, DW's (Doug Orasco), would like to be added as a contractor. Commissioners would like to have a workshop to discuss contractors, County Road access agreement and roadwork and Subdivision Ordinance. Commissioner Partin moved to have a workshop on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 9:00 am with a second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Discussion of allowing Community Service for the County – Commissioner Wright noted that he has been contact by an individual that proposed picking up trash as a form of Community Service. Judge has spoken with the Justice of the Peace office and the County Attorney spoke to the Court that the issue is supervision and administration. There is also a serious liability issue for the County. No action. Discussion only.

12. Consider and Act on Resolution from TxDOT for bridge repair on CR 508 – Commissioner Partin spoke with Justin Reyes of TxDOT. Resolution must be completed before additional work may commence. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution for bridge repair on CR 508. Judge Johnson provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consider and Act on right-of way and drainage on CR 417 at Yvonne Meadows Galindo Galindo’s ranch – Commissioner Williams addressed the Court with regards to the information Ms. Galindo provided at the last Commissioner Court. By Statute, Commissioner Court is responsible for the maintenance of county roads. Old fence is still present, do not see how work completed allowed livestock to get out. County Attorney provided that historically we follow historical fence lines. Certified letter was sent in August that was not received. New landowner requested the culvert removed. Commissioners Wright and Head inspected the road as well and agrees that Commissioner Williams has followed the statutes. County Attorney provided that the County can not allow landowners to crowd the county roads. No action or other discussion

14. Consider and Act on EMS building – Guy Burns spoke to the Court. Commissioner Williams noted that the Court agreed to build a Communications Room at the end of the building. How do we separate the electric for the building from EMS and Communications. Adding a separate panel will allow for a split in billing. This addition will be \$20,000. Subpanels will allow for separate service if needed. County Treasurer stated that this cannot be completed with ARPA funds. Burns provided that fixtures are quality, budgeted and he is making the decisions/choices unless otherwise directed by the Court. Estimated completion date of August 1, 2023. No action.

15. Commissioners’ Reports and request

Commissioner Wright, Pct. 1 – Cutting brush, meeting with landowners, hand to workshop in Early this week.

Commissioner Head, Pct. 2 – widening road 249.

Commissioner Partin, Pct. 3 – blading some roads and hauling on two roads. Will resume 10-hour days M-Th starting today.

Commissioner Williams, Pct. 4 –working on 417. Repair and rebuild from wash out. Worked on bridge at Prescott creek. Installed a larger culvert. Ms. Martinez in the Clerk’s office repaired the directory hanging in the Courthouse. Thank you. Pecan Bayou Bridge work has started. Red light will be back in service with a 2-3 minute wait for bridge repairs. Bridge repair will be one lane at a time. Project completion date has not been provided. Bridge out will effect voting precinct accessibility.

16. Judge Johnson – Old EMS station is being used for storage. TxDOT has removed the older gas station on the southeast side of the light to make more room for trucks to turn in that intersection.

11. Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn; Commissioner Wright seconded. Motion Carried 5-0

Sonya Scott

Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk

March 13, 2023

