

Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
September 25, 2023 – 9:00 p.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 Attorney – Gerald Hale and County Clerk –Sonya Scott; present via Zoom County Treasurer – Summer Campbell, Kim Avants – Justice of the Peace 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 and Act on Minutes of September 11, 2023 and September 18, 2023 – Motion made by Commissioner Wright to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Audience with Individuals – none.
4. Consider and Act on Accounts Payables – Correction to page 10 on the ARA fund so that taxes were not included. Motion made by Commissioner Williams to approve as presented with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Consider and Act on Burn Ban– All Fire Chiefs were in agreement to continue with the Burn Ban. Commissioner Head moved to continue the burn ban with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Consider and Act on Budget Amendments – Commissioner Wright moved to approve the budget amendments as presented with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Consider and Act on approving Surety Bond for Deputy James Purcell – Commissioner Williams moved to approve the bond for Deputy Purcell with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Consider and Act on Facilities monthly report – Roof leaks at the Community Center have been identified. The roof is still under warranty and repairs have been completed at no cost to the county. Courthouse doors will be sandbagged until a repair can be decided for the drain. Law Enforcement Center had a power supply fail and the security doors were not functioning. Guy Burns reported that we were able reroute an additional power supply to keep doors functioning. Judge Johnson made a motion to table approval of this report until the next meeting with a seconded from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.
9. Discussion on proposed energy storage project from Valor Infrastructures – presentation to the Court. Not looking for an abatement but would be interested in PILOT program. Two of these projects

are currently operating in Mason County. Discussion only. No action taken at this time. Judge Johnson will be signing the MOU with the removal of the last sentence upon approval of the County Attorney.

10. Consider and Act on Jury Selection Plan for Mills County – District Clerk provided plan from the Secretary of State. Judge Johnson moved to approve with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Consider and Act on Approving 2023 Sheriff's and Constable's fee schedule – This is an annual election that is required to be approved by Commissioners' court prior to submission to the State. There are no changes from last year. Commissioner Williams noted that Stephanie Brown is still listed as the presenter of the schedule. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the fee schedule with a second provided by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Consider and Act on Employee Handbook changes – Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Employee Handbook with no changes. A second was provided from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Discussion on Subdivision Regulation changes – Commissioner Williams provided documentation for the changes provided by the Governor's office. The biggest change is that the Court may now designate a person/entity to handle all subdivisions aspects. There were no other substantial changes. County Attorney addressed the court with regards to the changes coming to subdivision regulations. Commissioner Williams stated that this needs to be monitored but no actions at this time.

14. Consider and Act on Courthouse flooding issues – Guy Burns addressed the Court. Flooding has been an issue for years on the basement level of the Courthouse. James Bonnett and Brian Isabel have been discussing possible solutions. Judge Johnson would like to keep looking for options/solutions. Prominence Painting will be here this week to review the problems caused by the storm with regards to the windows in the courthouse. Some of the window repairs will be covered under warranty work. Judge Johnson moved to continue pursuing options to correct the flooding issues with a second from Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Consider and Act on the Sale of the Ridge School House Property – Commissioner Williams addressed the Court noting that a survey has been completed on the property. How does the Court wish to proceed with selling the property? Judge Johnson would recommend methods of either a sealed bid or a public auction. The Historical Commission has provided approval for selling the property. A minimum amount can be established, and Court is not required to accept any of the bids. The County Attorney noted that a minimum bid is not required. Judge Johnson made a motion to sell the Ridge property via sealed bids. Notice for sealed bids should also include the particulars for closing cost. Judge Johnson withdrew his motion. Commissioner Williams moved to table the sale of the Ridge schoolhouse until the next Commissioners' Court. A second was provided by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 4-1 Commissioner Wright voted against tabling the item.

16. Consider and Act on Kirbo's equipment lease for District Courtroom – The District Court Judge has requested to have a printer/copier in the District Courtroom. The District/County Clerk will fund and have control of the printer. Commissioner Head moved to accept the agreement to start October 1, 2023 for the lease in the District Courtroom with a second by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

17. Consider and Act on declaring Precinct 2 items as surplus property
- a) Quality Shop Hoist-Serial No. 15951
 - b) Truck Hand Lift 4000LV Ccapability – Model No. 27X48X405
 - c) Shop made Dolly for Cutting Torches
 - d) GMC Dump Truck General – Lic Plate No. 1238344, Vin No

Commissioner Wright moved to declare the items as surplus with a second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

18. Consider and Act on declaring carpet from the Treasurer's Office as scrap – The carpet was flooded during the recent storm. Judge Johnson moved to declare the carpet as scrap and to be disposed of with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.

19. Consider and Act on declaring office desk furniture from the Treasurer's Office as salvage – Judge Johnson noted that the furniture was damaged in the recent flooding and has mold. The furniture was donated. Judge Johnson moved to declare the desk as salvage with a second from Commissioner Wright. Motion failed 2-3. Commissioners Williams, Partin and Head voted against. Commissioner Williams moved to allow Precinct 4 to use the furniture from the Treasurer's office with a second by Commissioner Head. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Wright voting against.

20. Discussion of proposed subdivision of the Hoof and Horns Ranch. – Marcus Kujawa of Liberty Bankers Life Insurance Company addressed the court with regards to the 1600-acre ranch outside of Zephyr. Lots would be from 5-50 acres with a total lots for sale of 164. Water testing has been completed. Proposing for each lot to have their own well. Commissioner Partin noted that some roadwork has been completed prior to the Plat being presented to the Court. Main concern from the Commissioners is adequate water for the project. Kujawa will email the water study to Judge Johnson. Commissioner Partin noted that the preliminary plat has a checklist of items that need to be presented. Submitting a preliminary plat does not have to be on the Commissioners' Court.

21. Consider an Act on new EMS building – taken out of order, Patrick Cobb addressed the court. Moving into the new building today. Open House for the new building will be Wednesday at 10:00 am. Guy Burns also addressed the Court noting that a walkthrough this morning verified that the completion list is good with the exception of the bay doors that have not been installed. There is a one year warranty on the building from Basic IDIQ. A digital lock will be installed on the front door. CTTC will be transferring the internet. Utilities have been moved from old building to the new building.

22. Commissioners' Reports and Requests –

Commissioner Pct 1 – blading and hauling materials. Very busy with washouts and trees/limbs down from the storm. Replacing motor on belly dump.

Commissioner Pct 2 – bladed after the rain. Working on roads.

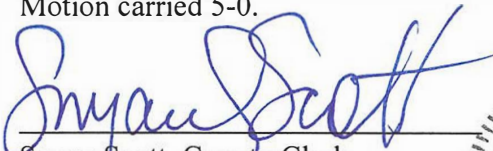
Commissioner Pct 3 – working on washouts. Attended Texas Association of Counties training this past week for continuing education. Patching and road repair. TxDOT proposed a county grant that

is approximately \$76,000 for Mills County. Grant does not have to be precinct to precinct. Commissioners need to look at possible uses for this money.

Commissioner Pct 4 – worked on blading and washouts from storm. TxDot Bridge reports were emailed to each precinct Commissioner. Working to schedule a safety meeting. TAC will also be scheduling some safety meetings. IT meeting this week.

23. County Judge’s Report – Senate Bill 22 – sheriff and deputy pay increase. This was not pursued in the budget process. It can be readdressed in the next budget cycle. Texas Comptroller needs to provide the details as to how the grant funds may be used. Open house for the new EMS is this Wednesday at 10.00 am.

24. Adjournment Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Head. Motion carried 5-0.


Sonya Scott, County Clerk
Mills County Clerk



September 25, 2023