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Mills County
Commissioners Court Minutes
September 26, 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 Johnson, Commissioners Williams, Partin, and Garren, County Attorney – Gerald Hale, County Clerk – Sonya Scott, and Treasurer – Summer Campbell. Present via Zoom: Jacki Brooks, Commissioner Mike Wright – arrived late, Sheriff Clint Hammonds, 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 September 12, 2022 and September 20, 2022- Correction to Precinct 3 commissioner report of Sept 12, 2022 Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve with correction with a second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Wright joined the meeting after the vote.
3. Audience with Individuals – Ed Smith – Presentation of Texas Flag to former Judge Smith for his years of service. Judge Smith appreciated the recognition and wished everyone good luck in the coming terms.
4. Presentation to former Mills County Judge, Ed Smith – taken out of order.
5. Review and Act on Accounts Payable – Clarification on that road and bridge does not have the funds to repair the belly dump truck. Funds will be used from Pct 1 for these repairs. Motion from Commissioner Williams to approve with a second from Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Consider and Act line-item budget amendment. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the line-item budget amendments with second from Commissioner Garren. Motion carried 5-0.
7. Consider and Act on interlocal Jail Agreements for Bell, Callahan, Coryell, Hamilton, Mason McCullouch, and San Saba counties - Sheriff Hammonds addressed the court that this is a standard contract with a price increase to \$75 per day starting January 1, 2023. Commissioner Garren moved to approve the agreements from Bell, Callahan, Coryell, Hamilton, Mason, McCullouch, and San Saba Counties. Commissioner Williams provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.
8. Discuss the transfer of ballistic vests from the Mills County Sheriff's office to Goldthwaite CISD and Mullin ISD – Sheriff Hammonds clarified that the department has two vest that are overstock and have been kept in storage. Sheriff Hammonds would like to give these to the schools at this time as a gift. Ballistic shields have arrived from private funding. It was also noted that no action can be taken on this item as it is listed as discussion only. Will be moved to the next meeting for action.

9. Consider and Act on declaring Huebsch heavy duty washing machine and Huebsch dryer at the jail as scrap. – Sheriff Hammonds noted that these items are no longer functioning. Judge Johnson moved to declare as scrap. Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Williams will pick up the items to transport to sell as scrap metal.

10. Consider and Act on declaring multiple items in the portable as salvage – Commissioner Wright noted that several of these items are usable. Per County Attorney, the action the court took last time, Commissioner Wright was working on the list. The Court voted to determine the items as surplus or salvage but the list was not itemized at the last meeting. Per County Attorney a detailed designation should be noted on each item. Commissioner Wright would like to open the building to see if other departments would like any of the items. Commissioner Wright moved to table the item. No second – motion dies for a lack of second. Commissioner Williams made a motion to declare page one as salvage and page two as surplus. Second provided by Commissioner Partin. Motion carried 5-0

11. Consider and Act on declaring old computer equipment as salvage to be recycled. Sheriff Hammonds provided that these computers have been replaced. Judge Johnson moved to approve the items as salvage and Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Consider and Act on Employee Handbook changes – County Treasurer noted that the added verbiage is to clear up ambiguity. All changes and the handbook in general has been approved by the Texas Association of Counties and the in-house handbook committee. Commissioner Garren provided the motion with a second by Commissioner Partin to approve the handbook as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Consider and Act on Courthouse Christmas lights – presentation by Guy Burns. Discussion of taking the issue to the community. Deadline for action is October 3 if we choose to use this company. Judge Johnson moved to table this item until Thursday and changing the scheduled Commissioner Court meeting to 1:00 pm. Second provided by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Consider and Act on New EMS Construction cost - Guy Burns addressed the court. The fence has been moved, new fence in place, surveyor should be here next week, and Commissioners need to make a determination on the color of the new EMS station. Mr. Burns suggested to go with the same color as the law enforcement center. Commissioner Williams noted that the construction cost has been updated from the last meeting. The Court will need to make a motion to accept the new price and change orders. Colors chosen are Galvalume Plus, Desert Tan and Saddle Leather Brown. Commissioners need to discuss road hands completing the pad work that needs to be completed prior to construction. Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the change order and price to \$803,381.82 and the colors noted above. Second by Judge Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Consider and act on draw for \$250,000 to Basic IDIQ – Treasurer Campbell noted that this has already been approved during accounts payable. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the payment. Commissioner Garren provided the second. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Consider and Act on old EMS building, 901 4th Street. – Judge Johnson noted that the sale on the courthouse steps was unsuccessful and did not meet the minimum amount set by the court. Judge Johnson recommended that the county proceed with a sealed bid process to sell the building. County Attorney

noted that the Court needs to re-group. Three options are still available. Possible appraisal/cost needed. Can sell without an appraisal. Did have an interested buyer, but the minimum bid is too high. After discussion Commissioner Williams made the motion to research an appraiser and bring this item back to court with a cost amount for the appraisal. Judge Johnson 2nd the motion. Carried 4-0 with Commissioner Wright opposed.

17. Commissioners request and reports:

Pct 1 Commissioner Wright: Down to 1 road hand, working on cr. 315,318,327 post job this week

Pct 2 Commissioner Garren: Hauling materials to various roads and blading it in.

Pct 3 commissioner Partin: concrete project should be complete this week on CR 199, hauling materials on CR 549

Pct 4 Commissioner Williams: Using the rock crusher on 414 and 512, blading roads 414, 512, 416, 406, 408, and 430. Attended Hill Country Community Action last week, Child Welfare Board meeting and nominated and approved to be a delegate for State Board. Worked late help the County Clerk move office around in preparation for new hire. Need to do some things at the new EMS building. Need to shred and also do some drainage work.

18. Judges report: Appointed to several Boards to represent Mills County, Goldsmith finished up new phone lines. Currently no burn ban in Mills county.

19. Commissioner Williams to adjourn; Commissioner Garren second. Motion Carried 5-0


Sonya Scott
Mills County Clerk



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