

**Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court  
August 12, 2024**

Be it remembered that the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hemphill County, Texas met in a regular meeting on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

Those present and presiding were:

Lisa Johnson	-	Hemphill County Judge
Tim Alexander	-	Commissioner Precinct #2
Dale Schafer	-	Commissioner Precinct #3
Nicholas Thomas	-	Commissioner Precinct #4
Rosa Gandara	-	Chief Deputy Clerk and Ex Officio Member of Commissioners' Court

Others present were: Sheriff, Brent Clapp, Treasurer, Kay Smallwood, Tax Assessor/Collector, Chris Jackson, County Attorney, Kyle Miller, City Manager, Joe Jarosek and Salem Abraham.

**Call to Order.**

Judge Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She noted that all members of the Court with the exception of Dawn Webb were present.

**Approve Minutes the July 29, 2024 meeting.**

Tim moved to approve the minutes from the July 29, 2024 commissioners court meeting. Nicholas seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Burn Ban.**

No action taken.

**Public Comments.**

Salem Abraham made comments regarding Salem Street. He stated that this street should have been closed a long time ago. He also presented an idea to the Commissioner's Court regarding SPS and Xcel by condemning and taking away SPS from Xcel to get back to how things used to be.

**Consider/Approve Smokehouse Creek Fire Disaster Declaration Extension.**

Tim moved to approve the Smokehouse Creek Fire Disaster Declaration Extension to the September 9, 2024 meeting. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Consider/Approve Order of Election for November General Election for County Offices to be held on November 5, 2024.**

Dale moved to approve the Order of Election for the November General Election for County Offices to be held on November 5, 2024 as presented. Nicholas seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Consider/Approve Petition for closure of Salem Street.**

Tim moved to approve the Petition for closure of Salem Street. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Consider/Approve proposals for upgrade of lighting at the Rodeo Arena.**

Nicholas moved to approve the proposal from Techline Sports Lighting for the grand total of \$188,540.00 for new Rodeo Arena lighting stipulating the new 70 foot poles as presented. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Consider/Approve Interlocal Agreement with the City of Canadian to clean up area around their brush burning site.**

Tim moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Canadian to clean up area around their brush burning site with the addition of the indemnity clause. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Budget workshop**

1. Judge Johnson stated that she has increased the Solid Waste Disposal Tipping Fees line item by \$20,000 making it \$130,000 and decreased Public Facilities Capital Outlay by \$20,000 making it \$110,973.
2. The certified values for M&O are \$1,135,977,159 and for Road & Bridge are \$1,138,692,349. Our Certified Values are down 29% from last year or \$485,906,693. One penny will generate \$113,597 on the M&O.
3. The NNR Rate is .620456, the VA Rate is .642469 and the De Minimus Rate is .664438. Judge Johnson stated that if it is agreed to go with her proposal, we will be .09 below the NNR Rate.
4. Judge Johnson is basing her proposed budget on a .08 increase in the total tax rate. Increase of .05 for M&O and .03 for Road and Bridge. This would put the tax rate at .5300 which will generate \$6,024,751. The tax revenue will be down \$1,025,443 from last year if we go with this tax rate.
5. Along with the \$293,410 that we will not receive from the wind farm, that brings the decrease in revenue to \$1,318,853.
6. Judge Johnson has budgeted \$1,029,812 from General Fund Reserves and \$278,119 from Road & Bridge Reserves to cover the shortfall.
7. Judge Johnson asked the court if they would like to make any adjustments, they all agreed everything looked fine.
8. Judge Johnson said that we received a request from the Texas Panhandle War Memorial Center to contribute annually \$1,000-\$5,000. The Court agreed that this is not the best to add to our budget.

**Vote to propose a tax rate for 2024 to support the 2024-2025 Budget (the proposed consideration will not increase the tax revenue)**

Nicholas moved to set the proposed tax rate for 2024 to .3800 for the M&O and .1500 for the Road & Bridge for a grand total of .5300. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Schedule the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

Tim moved to schedule the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Schedule the vote to adopt 2024-2025 Budget on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

Dale moved to schedule the vote to adopt the 2024-2025 Budget on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Nicholas seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Schedule the vote to adopt 2024-2025 Tax Rate on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.**

Nicholas moved to schedule the vote to adopt the 2024-2025 Tax Rate on August 26, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

**Announcement**

1. The Fall Panhandle CJCAT meeting is in Amarillo on September 5. Judge Johnson told the commissioners that if they need Courtney to register them to let her know.
2. North Plains Electric and CoBank have donated \$1,050 to each of the 7 Volunteer Fire Departments in our area as they have done in the past. Judge Johnson informed the Court that checks have already been sent to the Fire Departments.
3. Judge Johnson informed the Court that Cox Fencing from Pampa was the lowest quote on the softball fence and gate at \$9,402.94. The other quote was \$14,000. Judge Johnson has contacted Kenneth Cox to put us on their schedule.
4. Judge Johnson said that the materials for the stalls at the rodeo arena have been delivered and Bryan Bartlett is lining up 4K to put them up. They will but putting in 38 stalls.

**Future Agenda Items**

Judge Johnson stated that Dale is ready for the second road closure, which is County Road 29.

**Approve Bills, Budget Amendments**

Tim moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Dale moved to approve the computer generated bills. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

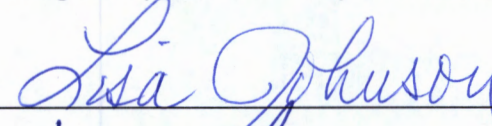
Tim moved to approve the hand stamped bills. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

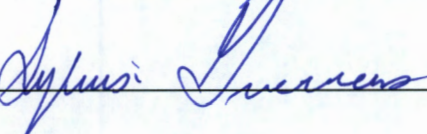
Tim moved to approve the invoices from Schafer Services for \$60.00, \$131.90, \$74.86 and \$200 for a grand total of \$466.76. Judge Johnson seconded the motion which carried unopposed with Dale abstaining.

**Adjourn**

Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

The meeting took place at the city of Canadian, Texas on August 12, 2024.

ATTEST  COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST  COUNTY CLERK