

**Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court
July 8, 2024**

Be it remembered that the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Hemphill County, Texas met in a regular meeting on this the 8th day of July, 2024.

Those present and presiding were:

Lisa Johnson	-	Hemphill County Judge
Dawn Webb	-	Commissioner Precinct #1
Tim Alexander	-	Commissioner Precinct #2
Dale Schafer	-	Commissioner Precinct #3
Nicholas Thomas	-	Commissioner Precinct #4
Rosa Gandara	-	Ex Officio Member of Commissioners' Court

Others present were: Sheriff, Brent Clapp, Treasurer, Kay Smallwood and Tax Assessor/Collector, Chris Jackson.

Call to Order.

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

Approve Minutes from June 10, 2024.

Dawn moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024 commissioners court meeting. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Burn Ban.

No action was taken.

Public Comments.

No public comments were made.

Consider /Approve Smokehouse Creek Fire Disaster Declaration Extension.

Tim moved to approve the Smokehouse Creek Fire Disaster Declaration Extension to August 12, 2024. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider/Approve Sheriff's Fees for 2025.

Dale moved to approve the Sheriff's Fees for 2025, which will stay the same. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Receive Report from Ike Julian on Canadian Community Center Programs.

No action was taken.

Consider /Approve AirMedCare Network Full Census Membership for County Employees.

Tim moved to approve the AirMedCare Network Full Census Membership for County employees at the new price of \$75.00 per employee. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider/Approve Appointment of Oscar Ortega as the Local Rabies Control Authority.

Tim moved to approve the appointment of Oscar Ortega as the Local Rabies Control Authority. Nick seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Open/Consider/Approve bids on pickup for Precinct 2.

Judge Johnson stated that there has been no bids offered yet. No action taken.

Consider/Approve going out for bids on Road Material and set bid opening date on July 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Tim moved to approve going out for bids on Road Material and set bid opening date on July 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider/Approve TAC County Information Resources Agency Agreement for email hosting and services.

Dale moved to approve TAC County Information Resources Agency Agreement for email hosting and services in the amount of \$4,258.80. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider/Approve appointments of Election Judges, Central Count Judge and Early Voting Ballot Board.

Dawn moved to approve the appointments of Election Judges, Central Count Judge and Early Voting Ballot Board as presented. Tim seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Consider/Approve agreement with CISD for donation of road materials to Precinct 3.

Tim moved to approve Agreement with CISD for donation of road materials to Precinct 3. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

Budget Workshop

Judge Johnson and Treasurer Kay Smallwood explained to the court that there will be a raise in cost to County Employees health insurance of up to 8 percent.

Judge Johnson stated that the Clerk's Election Stipend of \$1,200.00 per election is going to be covered in the existing election judge's line item budget without increasing it.

Judge Johnson said that they added the line item for Locust Grove Volunteer Fire Department at a cost of \$3,000.00 annually.

Judge Johnson explained the spreadsheet that she gave to the court regarding decreases and increases in the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget.

There is a possibility for a tax raise of \$.05-\$.06 due to the decrease in tax valuation.

Announcements

Judge Johnson explained things that have been purchased for the Emergency Operation Center which includes, two television screens, a new camera, two way radio, printer and phone line. It has not been completed yet but it's estimated to cost about \$10,000.00 with Michael Kerrigan's time included.

Judge Johnson is still waiting on a second quote for the arena lights from B&G Electric.

Texas Forest Service Director, Al Davis, is taking steps to improve their wildfire response. Judge Johnson stated that they are taking great steps in improving the way they fight fires.

A fire mitigation meeting was held on July 2nd with Forest Service Team, City of Canadian, Fire Department and TDEM. Mitigation Project objects were discussed including clearing some dead trees down by the river, take out mesquite trees behind the Wilhelm's by Hackberry. There is a non-profit company that will help at no cost.

There was electrical damage to the walking bridge from the fire. Some repairs were made, but there is still more work that needs to be done.

Rodeo arena stalls have been ordered but still waiting for them to arrive to be installed.

Future Agenda Items

Judge Johnson stated that there will be a couple of road closures probably by the July 29th meeting, if not by August.

Judge Johnson said that they will be looking at proposed tax rates and the adoption of budget and tax rate in August.

Approve Bills, Budget Amendments, Treasurer's Report.

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

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

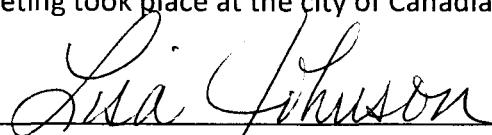
Tim moved to approve the hand stamped bills. Dale seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

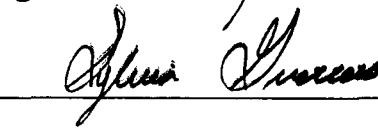
Dawn moved to approve seven invoices from Schafer Services for \$3,900.00, \$3,900.00, \$3,900.00, \$89.25, \$200.00, \$164.24 and \$190.58 for a total of \$12,344.07. Tim seconded the motion which carried with Dale abstaining.

Adjourn

Tim moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m. Dawn seconded the motion which carried unopposed.

The meeting took place at the city of Canadian, Texas on July 8, 2024.

ATTEST  COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST  COUNTY CLERK