

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 1993 -- 8:30 A.M.

VOL. C26 PAGE 974

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TYLER ON THIS THE 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1993, the Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at the Commissioners' Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present, to wit:

JEROME OWENS	COUNTY JUDGE, Presiding
MAXIE L. RILEY	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #1
A.M. BARNES	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #2
JERRY MAHAN	COMMISSIONER, PCT. #3
DONECE GREGORY	COUNTY CLERK

the following were absent: Commissioner Sawyer thereby constituting a quorum. In addition to the above were:

JACKIE SKINNER	ASSISTANT COUNTY AUDITOR
JEAN PHILLIPS	COUNTY TREASURER

The Court convened in a public hearing to consider the proposed tax rate for the County and Hospital for the fiscal year 1994.

Judge Owens requested that each person wishing to speak limit comments to three minutes.

Dave Bordelon, Woodville, spoke in favor of the hospital tax increase giving personal accounts of his family utilizing services at the hospital.

Lola Scott, Woodville, spoke in favor of hospital tax increase commenting that without it Woodville would get to be a "dead town".

Jo Christoph, Ivanhoe, agreed that hospital was needed, however he felt better management would lessen the need for a tax increase.

Mike Stacy, Precinct #3, felt screening for indigents was not handled properly (i.e. illegitimate births); noted that he had circulated petitions collecting 700 plus names that was against tax increases for the hospital and the county; felt utility companies should pay for the moving of the lines - the utilities on Hwy 92 was not his utility company and it should be "user pay"; adjustments should be made to avoid tax increases.

Madella Higgins, Warren, perceives mismanagement was the cause for tax increase for the hospital, also, voiced concern about delinquent taxes. Commissioner Mahan responded the county was actively pursuing delinquent taxes for the last two years.

Jim Gsiney, Hospital Administrator, reported the federal regulations the hospital was under; presented expenses of health care provided; acquainted the audience as to equipment that was needed to be replaced to be able to "do a better job" (i.e. chemistry machine & mammography) and other large capital expenses such as building repairs to see to the medical needs of this community; taxes collected would only operate the hospital no more than one to one and one-half months; meet their obligations within the budget, however it is providing the care that the law requires, they have a problem meeting the obligation and therefore request the court to consider the tax increase favorably.

Judge Owens explained the difference in the set-up of the hospital district compared to other hospitals set-up under different charters which are private and charitable which receive no tax money and handle patients differently as to indigent care.

Gloria Newsome, Mt. Carmel, rationalized that although the county hospital was not as "technically high" as some, more personal care was received than in larger hospitals. She spoke in favor of the increase for Highway 92 extension, which will divide her property "in the middle" to which she will be donating right-of-way.

Judge Owens explained the tax increase will improve other roads in the county, although the focus is on Highway 92.

"Jigs" Kenneson, Woodville, was applauded for expressing his confidence in the leadership of this county, as well as the school, library, and hospital. He pronounced his observance of improvements within the county through his long tenure. Mr. Kenneson encouraged to keep taxes as low as possible and spend the capital wisely.

Harvey Blankenship, Colmesneil, inquired as to the County having a "say" as to amount of funding by the Department of Human Resources. He pointed to the abuse within that system. Judge Owens responded the county did not have control of the funding - it was controlled by the state. Mr. Blankenship continued with his favor toward the the hospital. He inquired as to whether county employees were paid for days that were "rained out"; whether their time was used wisely toward repairs, etc. He showed concern for delinquent taxes.

Dr. James M. Brown, Woodville, representing the local physicians of Tyler County Hospital, spoke in favor of the hospital tax increase giving the relevancy of the necessity; there has been operational cuts and changes made; the increase will be used for maintenance and not luxury items; he alluded to the new physicians coming to Tyler County

Stanley Humphrey, Colmesneil, supports increase of taxes for hospital and also supports increase of taxes for road and bridge.

Frank Walker, Woodville, upholds tax rise reminding citizens the Woodville ISD has increased taxes four times compared to the County not raising taxes in the last four years.

Betty Jo Davis, Holly Fork, in favor of the hospital tax hike; expounded on the struggle for hearings, etc to get the extension of highway 92 - helps Colmesneil ISD, growth of area, recreation, evacuation of golden triangle, longest area of dirt road to be maintained creating a savings for the County if maintained by the State.

Robert McCombs, Woodville, long time resident seeing the improvements made in Tyler County; retired persons moving to Tyler County because of the improvements such as the hospital, library, etc.; commended the Commissioners on a job well done; acknowledged the presence of persons in opposition, however explained that he felt there were also large groups of "contented people", but was harder to get these persons to make the effort to come to thank the commissioners.

Paul Saunders, Woodville, alluded to his confidence in the hospital administrator and the board of directors, along with the county administration.

Cherry Rawls, Highway 92, spoke favorably for the extension of the highway project; implied, "if the tax appraisal office would appraise property the way it's supposed to be and not way high, people could afford the taxes.

Scott Gilchrist, favors hospital tax increase; concerned for the importance toward the support of the Court for the Allen Shivers Library.

Doris Davis, Highway 92, rationalized "everything goes up"; in favor of the increase for progress.

Ona Lee Seamans, President of Hospital Board, summarized the need for the hospital for basic care and consultations by doctors; touched upon the past indebtedness of \$425,000, that to the new manager and administrator, the hospital is now current in their bills, however, without a cushion.

Gloria Newsome, inquired as to the County's obligation for procuring the land for right-of-way; persons donating land will be helping the County, not the funding of the State.

Johnie Hickman, voiced the complaints of moving the utilities should be voiced to state and federal officials to change the law. He added the bad debts of the hospital are turned over to a collection agency, however, these debts are much higher than the cost of indigent care.

Judge Owens synopsised the active pursuance of bad debts of the hospital; and, the institution of aggressive delinquent tax policy due to the unfairness of those who pay taxes compared to those who do not. He added that giant strides have been made toward the clearing of the delinquent roles and more is to be done.

Commissioner Mahan thanked everyone for coming to the hearing and denoted the impression that people are keeping up with their government. Additionally, he enlightened the citizens present of the "utility law" was enacted in 1929 and is still in effect. He added that the board of managers indicated the tax increase will supplement the high cost of indigent care and cost of citizens obtaining care at the hospital in Galveston.

Judge Owens explained this opportunity is a means for citizens to tell their county government how they feel. This type of meeting will be carried on by the Governor's office and encouraged them to attend these meetings to voice their opinion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Riley to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. All voted yes.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED....9:45 A.M.

SIGNED: [Signature] Jerome Owens, County Judge

[Signature] Maxie L. Riley, Comm. Pct. #1

[Signature] A. M. Barnes, Comm. Pct. #2

[Signature] Jerry Mahan, Comm. Pct. #3

[Signature] Henry Earl Sawyer, Comm. Pct. #4

ATTEST: [Signature] Donece Gregory, County Clerk

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Tyler

I hereby certify that the foregoing instrument with its certificate of authentication was filed for record in my office on the 11th day of October, 1993 at 10:20 o'clock A. M. and was this day duly recorded at 9:00 A.M., in Vol. _____ Pages _____ et seq. COMMISSIONERS COURT Records of said County.

Witness my hand and official seal at office in Woodville this 17 day of December, 1993.

[Signature]
Clerk,
County Court, Tyler County, Texas



By _____ Deputy