

TYLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Regular Meeting

August 24, 2020 --- 11:00 am

THE STATE OF TEXAS                      ON THIS THE 24th day of August, 2020 the Commissioners' Court in and for Tyler County, Texas convened in a Regular Meeting at the District Courtroom in Woodville, Texas, the following members of the Court present, to wit:

JACQUES BLANCHETTE	COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING
MARTIN NASH	COMMISSIONER, PCT 1
STEVAN STURROCK	COMMISSIONER, PCT 2, teleconference
MIKE MARSHALL	COMMISSIONER, PCT 3
BUCK HUDSON	COMMISSIONER, PCT 4
DONECE GREGORY	COUNTY CLERK, Ex-Officio

The following were absent: none thereby constituting a quorum. In addition to the above were:

JACKIE SKINNER	COUNTY AUDITOR
LEANN MONK	COUNTY TREASURER
KEN JOBE	JP #2, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
BRYAN WEATHERFORD	SHERIFF
TINA CLEBERG	VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

After calling the meeting to order, Judge Blanchette stated "it is the practice of the court to exercise an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag." "Anyone who may not be comfortable with the practice may wish to mute their phone for 20-25 seconds (for those attending by teleconference) or step out into the hall and rejoin once the portion of the agenda begins with public comments." The invocation was delivered by Judge Blanchette. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Minutes were not presented.

Budget amendments/line item transfers were not presented

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to approve the **allowances and accounts payable**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Veterans Service Report-** written report was submitted

**Commissioner Marshall** made a motion to approve the **monthly report of the District Clerk**. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Judge Blanchette** motioned to renew the Service Level Agreement with **Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office** for the provision of technology services and support. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Nash**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

**Judge Blanchette** motioned to accept the **Statewide Automated Victims Notification Service (SAVNS) Grant** for 2021, Contract 2111904. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

Commissioner Sturrock explained the court will be looking for a formula for jail services that is fair to everyone. A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to suspend the City of Woodville payments for **dispatch and jail services** until further notice. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Marshall**. Judge Blanchette added the payments were not being eliminated. Commissioner Nash asked that if an entity does not have a police force, are they required to make payments? Commissioner Sturrock responded that cities that do not have law enforcement, if fell to the sheriff's office to provide dispatching. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** to approve the **Joint Election Agreements** with other political subdivisions, including but not limited to Cities and Schools, as requested by the County Clerk. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hudson**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

The County Clerk presented a list of Election Judges and Alternates for appointments. She pointed out the vacancies that would need to be filled before the General Election. A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** to appoint **election judges and clerks**, as presented. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hudson**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

The County Treasurer reported Delta Dental was not accepting new enrollees; therefore, the county could not offer this benefit to new employees. **Commissioner Marshall** motioned to change the Tyler County dental coverage from Delta Dental to **AFLAC Dental Policy**. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. Commissioner Nash expressed concern that employees may lose the money they've paid-in to the present policy. Mrs. Skinner replied that Delta was not allowing a renewal, Mrs. Monk responded, AFLAC does not have a waiting period. All voted yes and none no.

Leann Monk presented a report of recommendations from the CARES Act CRF Committee:

- Out of the \$879,000 the county was awarded that \$479,000 to be divided among the five school districts on a per student enrollment, being aprx. \$127 per student
- Reimbursement grant so the schools will have to submit receipts to the committee
- General consensus to wait until around December to disburse funds due to uncertainties of expenses that may arise due the pandemic that would cause a reconsideration of the disbursement formula
- Schools need to be allowed to reserve budgeted amounts for the additional state grants.

The schools have a deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup> and will need a "reservation letter"

Leann clarified that the committee is responsible to recommend how the money is to be divided amongst the schools. This is not a guarantee, promise or obligation, as understood by the schools represented in the committee meeting. "Things could come up" unexpectedly

In discussion:

**Commissioner Nash**- understood the court decided to participate only at the request of the schools because the county didn't want to participate

**Judge Blanchette**- initially he and Ken couldn't see the impact was significant for the county, but as conversations developed saw the value to have at least the availability for mitigation or what ever it may be. The five school districts and St. Paul's were eligible for funds. Acted to participate but it was not binding. A committee was activated to come up with a formula for distribution. The allocation of the grant by the state was determined at \$55 per county resident. Commissioner Sturrock added, "excluding the incorporated areas"

**Commissioner Sturrock**-need interlocal agreement with the schools

**Leann**- wanted to keep some of the money for the county's expenses

**Commissioner Marshall** motioned to accept recommendations of the Committee on how the CARES Act CRF funds will be distributed: divided per student in each school district.

**Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

The County Treasurer request temporary part-time help for COVID-related work (payroll research & reporting) under the court but working with the Treasurer/HR office, to be paid out of the CRF funds. A motion was made by **Commissioner Hudson** to authorize temporary part-time help for COVID-related work (payroll research & reporting) under the court but working with the Treasurer/HR office, pending that it be paid out of the CRF funds; and, that Commissioner Hudson will be responsible for the payroll sheet; and, that the temporary part-time employee be paid at a rate of up to \$15 per hour with a maximum of 29 hours weekly. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. In discussion:

**Commissioner Sturrock**- would the Court do the hiring; when would be the end date of employment; hourly rate?; would duties be COVID related only

**Judge Blanchette**- offered to be the supervisor and accept the responsibility of the employee on behalf of the court; willing to be the supervisor, as the liaison to represent the court and being next door, glad to work with Jackie and Leann

**Leann**- wants to have a say of who is hired; proposed temporary position to end date of December 31<sup>st</sup> (end of the grant); pay rate would be \$14 to \$15 per hour up to 29 hours weekly; highly confidential records; someone to get them through the initial part of the CRF grant; supporting the County Treasurer and County Auditor; the administration is part of the 75% allocation of the grant

**Commissioner Marshall**- this person needs to be hired at the beginning of the project rather than later

**Commissioner Nash**- under the impression there wasn't any administration allowance in this grant

**County Auditor**- who will be verifying the hours and signing the payroll sheets?

All voted yes with exception to Commissioner Nash voting no and Judge Blanchette abstaining.

**Commissioner Hudson** motioned to purchase **thermal scanners** for each county building expensed out of CRF monies. **Commissioner Sturrock** seconded the motion. Leann stated this expense was covered under Covid mitigation. The cost varies from \$3200 to \$3700. All voted yes with exception of Commissioner Nash voting no and Judge Blanchette abstaining.

**Commissioner Marshall** motioned to purchase **E-Mist machines** and solution for sanitization/disinfecting purposes, for each county office (22 offices), expensed out of CRF monies. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. All voted yes with exception of

Commissioner Nash voting no and Judge Blanchette abstaining. Commissioner Sturrock stated the county may need to hire temporary personnel for sanitizing and additional cleaning.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** and seconded by **Commissioner Nash** to keep the **TCDRS matching rate** for 2021. All voted yes and none no. The county is now 102% funded.

The County Auditor requested clarification as to who is authorized sign bills for Fund 048, “Is the court over the fund or is the County Judge?”. Commissioner Sturrock suggested the court due to expenses made by Road & Bridge and public health. Commissioner Nash said some items have to be expensed in an emergency. He felt it was both the court and the county judge. Commissioner Nash and Commissioner Sturrock both agreed there should be a limit, but not limited to Declarations of Emergency. Ken added that in case of emergency it can be difficult to get five people together to approve expenses in a disaster event. A motion was made by **Commissioner Marshall** and seconded by **Commissioner Hudson** to give authorization to the County Judge. **Commissioner Sturrock** presented an amended motion: to set requirements of the **Emergency Disaster Relief Fund (fund 048)**, is to authorize the County Judge to expend up to \$20,000 with an emergency event being a declared disaster by the County Judge; expenses over \$20,000 would have to be authorized by the court. **Commissioner Hudson** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

**Judge Blanchette** motioned to accept the resignation of **Constable Pct. 2, John Fuller**, effective September 28, 2020. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Hudson**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

A motion was made by **Commissioner Sturrock** to appoint Casey Whitworth, Republican Nominee for Constable Pct. #2, to fill the vacancy of the unexpired term of retiring Constable, John Fuller. **Commissioner Marshall** seconded the motion. All voted yes and none no.

Ken Jobe updated the court as to CDC recommendations for a non-congregate sheltering. **Commissioner Nash** motioned to approve the emergency shelter Agreement with Camp Niwana to house local citizens only, not an “open” shelter. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Sturrock**. All voted yes and none no. SEE ATTACHED

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT: tax office remodeling – no report

EXECUTIVE SESSION was not held

Motion made by Commissioner Nash that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sturrock seconded. All voted yes none no.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:31 am

I, Donece Gregory, County Clerk and ex officio member of the Tyler County Commissioners' Court, do hereby certify the fact that the above is a true and correct record of the Tyler County Commissioners' Court session held on August 24, 2020.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this 8th day of September, 2020.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donece Gregory, County Clerk, Tyler County, Texas