



AUGUST 15, 2002

VOL S PG 487

STATE OF TEXAS *
 COUNTY OF HAYS *

ON THIS THE 15th DAY OF AUGUST A.D., 2002, THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS, MET IN A BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, TO-WIT:

JAMES L. POWERS
 DEBBIE GONZALES INGALSBE
 H. S. "SUSIE" CARTER
 WILLIAM "BILL" BURNETT
 RUSS G. MOLENAAR
 LINDA C. FRITSCHÉ

COUNTY JUDGE
 COMMISSIONER, PCT. 1
 COMMISSIONER, PCT. 2
 COMMISSIONER, PCT. 3
 COMMISSIONER, PCT. 4
 DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

WHEN THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, THAT IS:

FY2003 HAYS COUNTY BUDGET * WORKSHOP

DISTRICT CLERK – Cecelia Adair spoke of Court Clerks in her office that are graded the same as her File Clerk (Grade 20) – she has lost Court Clerk's to the District Attorney's office. She requested a new line item in Records Preservation for District Clerk Records Preservation – she would like to move records to CD's to reduce storage needed in her office – microfiche record is also needed for archival purposes – permanent records are stored off sight in the Records Building. Cecelia spoke of records preservation funds – it should not be used to purchase computer equipment – it should be used to preserve records. County Auditor Bill Herzog advised that he put \$98,000 in the Records Preservation Fund for permanent records supplies & services – the court has to take action on expenditures. He advised that the records preservation fund can be used by other departments for their records preservation. Cecelia Adair spoke of request for 10 slim-line (flat) monitors for her staff – this would free up needed desk work area – 3 of the monitors in her office need to be replaced anyway. She spoke of request for jury management office that would pull the juries for everyone, clean up the list, answer phone calls, address exemptions, etc. Would free up staff in the Clerk's offices. Would require one full-time person. Commissioner Molenaar spoke in support of central location for jury management.

INSURANCE FOR RETIREES [T1-481]

Commissioner Molenaar suggested that the county pay for health insurance for retired employees who have reached the "Rule of 75" and are retiring after Oct. 1, 2002 – you cannot make it retro-active for employees retiring prior to Oct. 1, 2002. Once the retiree reaches the age of 65 medicare would kick in. Commissioner Molenaar spoke of State, some counties, and private enterprise doing this as an incentive for employees. He suggested putting \$50,000 in the budget for insurance for retirees.

TAX RATE

Judge Powers proposed a tax rate of 44.61 cents – Commissioner Molenaar, Commissioner Burnett, and Commissioner Ingalsbe agreed with this proposal. Discussion was had regarding adopting a proposed tax rate. County Auditor Bill Herzog advised that you must adopt the budget before you adopt the tax rate. The agenda for today is not posted appropriately to take action on adopting the tax rate.

SALARIES

Commissioner Carter suggested taking \$526,000 out of the budget in salary adjustments – would leave \$200,000 for salary adjustments. Discussion was had regarding cost-of-living increases.

ROAD BOND PROJECTS

County Auditor Bill Herzog spoke of budgeting the Road Bond Projects - the court will determine the amount of each project as it comes up and a separate line item could be created for that road. [T1-1028] **A motion was made by Commissioner Burnett, seconded by Commissioner Molenaar to move total budgeted amount for debt of \$15,557,495.00 (page 125) to line item #49-493 (page 110) and have that as the bond line item. Commissioner Carter wanted the money divided equally between the four precincts. Commissioner Ingalsbe, Commissioner Burnett, Commissioner Molenaar and Judge Powers voting "Aye". Commissioner Carter voting "No".**

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE [T1-1087]

Discussion was had regarding travel allowance for members of the court. **A motion was made by Commissioner Burnett, seconded by Commissioner Molenaar to set travel allowance for each Commissioner and the County Judge at \$6,000 and delete travel line item in Precinct 3 budget. Commissioner Ingalsbe, Commissioner Burnett, Commissioner Molenaar, and Judge Powers voting "Aye". Commissioner Carter voting "No".**

BUILDING MAINTENANCE – UTILITIES [T1-1170]

Commissioner Ingalsbe asked about utilities for courthouse. County Auditor Bill Herzog advised that all the utilities are lower than expected. **A motion was made by Commissioner Ingalsbe, seconded by Judge Powers to reduce line item #01-410-5484 courthouse utilities from \$30,000 to \$27,000 and use the \$3,000 deduction to cover travel allowance increase. All voting "Aye".**

**COUNTYWIDE OPERATING-** [Pg. 30]

Independent audit #01-414-5442 line item. Commissioner Ingalsbe asked about this line item. County Auditor Bill Herzog anticipates an increase in audits because of new government auditing standards. #01-414-5711 office equipment = \$10,000. Bill Herzog explained that this contingency is for unexpected expenses for equipment.

CONSTABLES

Commissioner Molenaar spoke of paperwork being served by Constables for County Court at Law and District courts - they are only required by law to serve papers in their JP court. He recommends paying Constables more because they do more work and they are required to receive additional continuing education for civil process serving.

DPS/LICENSE & WEIGHTS [PG. 83]

Commissioner Molenaar spoke of need for maintenance of weight scales on IH35 - \$3,660 is needed for scale maintenance - telephone line item was decreased by \$1,160 and this amount needs to be put back in. [T1-1625] **A motion was made by Judge Powers, seconded by Commissioner Burnett to take \$1160 out of County-wide Operating line item #01-414-5711 (PG 30) and increase line item #01-470-5489 Telephone (Pg. 83). All voting "Aye".**

SOCIAL SERVICES [T1-1665]

Special Counsel Jacqueline Cullom Murphy spoke of recent AG's opinion regarding funding of social services. The ruling says we cannot fund an entity that does a function that we cannot do ourselves. Commissioner Burnett stated that their opinion will say that if you deem it a "public good or public necessity", you can fund it. Commissioner Molenaar spoke of need to look at all the social services.

TAX ASSESSOR/COLLECTOR [T1-1822]

[Pg 31] Line item #01-415-5473 equipment rent/lease - Commissioner Ingalsbe questioned the increase in this line item. County Auditor Bill Herzog advised that this increase is due to additional 3 RTS workstations from TxDot.

SHERIFFS OFFICE [T1-1866]

[pg 35] Commissioner Ingalsbe asked about line item #01-418-5271 fuel & lubes - appears to have an extra \$50,000. **A motion was made by Commissioner Ingalsbe, seconded by Judge Powers to reduce line item #01-418-5271 by \$25,000 (from \$225,000 to \$200,000). Commissioner Ingalsbe, Commissioner Carter, Commissioner Burnett, and Judge Powers voting "Aye". Commissioner Molenaar voting "No".**

TIME PAYMENT FEES [T1-1930]

County Auditor Bill Herzog spoke of this money being in reserves and spent as needed. He needs to work with the JP's to work out details. These funds roll-over and affect the overall budget very little.

CIVIC CENTER [T1-2030]

Commissioner Molenaar suggested leasing out the civic center. He will check on this option.

Court was adjourned. The next budget workshop is posted for Friday, August 16, 2002 @ 10 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED IN OPEN COURT ON THE 27th DAY OF AUGUST, 2002

JAMES L. POWERS, COUNTY JUDGE
H A Y S COUNTY, TEXAS

LEE CARLISLE, COUNTY CLERK
H A Y S COUNTY, TEXAS

