

SEP 12 2024

BOBBIE DAVIS
COUNTY CLERK, PANOLA COUNTY, TEXAS
BY B. Davis DEPUTY

State of Texas
County of Panola

On this 27th day of August 2024, the Commissioners' Court of Panola County, Texas met in a regular meeting of the Court at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Courtroom of said County with the following members of the Court present:

Rodger McLane	County Judge
Billy Alexander	Commissioner, Precinct #1
David A. Cole	Commissioner, Precinct #2
Craig M. Lawless	Commissioner, Precinct #3
Dale LaGrone	Commissioner, Precinct #4

Also attending were Vicki Heinkel, Administrative Assistant to the County Judge/County Commissioners' Coordinator and Bobbie Davis, County Clerk. Attached to and made a part of these minutes is a list of other attendees and the office or organization that each represent. The following proceedings were held at this meeting:

PRAYER: Commissioner David A. Cole gave the prayer.

OPEN MEETING:

1. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Mr. Gary Kelley addressed the Court on the proposed budget and tax rate.

Mr. Jerry Jones asked questions of the Court about recent property purchases and improvements at the courthouse and voiced his concern over the proposed tax rate and the effect on his rental properties.

Mr. Les Cooksey spoke to the Court about local, state and federal taxes and spending.

Ms. Sheila Moore voiced her concerns on the proposed tax rate, increased prices across the board in the last few years and the effect on rental properties she owns.

The County Judge and Commissioners responded to the questions and echoed the concerned citizens' apprehension over rising costs, explaining that materials used to build and maintain roads and the costs associated with providing services to the citizens of the County have increased in price as well.

2. **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

Commissioner David A. Cole reported that road building season is coming to a close for the year, and stated that he was not able to repair/maintain all the roads in his precinct that needed work this year due to the rising cost of road materials.

3. **COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:**

There was no County Judge's Report.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

PERSONNEL

- a. To record the employment of Reid Peace as a Deputy Sheriff with the Panola County Sheriff's Department effective August 17, 2024 at the rate of \$25.70 per hour plus uniform allowance.
- b. To record the resignation of Rylee Tilbury as a Temporary Clerk with the Panola County District Clerk's Office effective August 9, 2024.
- c. To record a change in status of employment for Billy Stutes from Mechanic to Operator with the Panola County Road and Bridge Department, Precinct #1 effective August 28, 2024 at the rate of \$22.29 per hour.
- d. To record the termination of employment for Luther Fannin as an Operator with the Panola County Road & Bridge Department, Precinct #4 effective August 21, 2024 at 7:30 AM.
- e. To record a change in status of employment for Randy Payne from Deputy Sheriff to Criminal Investigator with the Panola County Sheriff's Department effective August 24, 2024 at the rate of \$26.15 per hour.

ROAD & BRIDGE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

- a. To record July 2024 Treasurer's Reports.
- b. To record July 2024 Auditor's Monthly Reports.

- c. To authorize the County Auditor to advertise for sealed bids for Panola County Airport-Sharpe Field repairs and hangar replacements. Bid specifications are available in the County Judge's Office, 110 S. Sycamore, Room 216-A, Carthage, Texas. Bids will be opened September 24, 2024 at 9:00 AM.
- d. To set fees to be charged with services by the Offices of Sheriff and Constables in compliance with Section 118.131 of the Local Government Code and to authorize posting of notice of such fees as required by Section 81.007 of the Local Government Code.
- e. To record Statement of Officer and Oath of Office forms for Panola County Deputy Sheriff Reid Peace.
- f. To record Statement of Officer and Oath of Office forms for Panola County Tax Assessor-Collector Deputy Clerk Lindsey Nagle.
- g. To record Texas Association of Counties Health and Employees Benefits Pool (TAC HEBP) Dental Benefit Plan Election forms.
- h. To record compiled financial statements form Panola County Emergency Services District #1 for year ending December 31, 2022.

REQUESTS FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- a. To approve and record a Request for Attendance at a Conference form(s) for the following Panola County elected official(s)/employee(s): Panola County Auditor Jennifer Stacy; Panola County Extension Agents Clarissa Moon and Lee Dudley; Panola County Criminal District Attorney Investigator Jim Holder; Panola County 1st Assistant District Attorney Joey Fenlaw; and PCSD Telecommunications Officer Ashley Esquivel.

Commissioner Dale LaGrone moved and Commissioner Craig M. Lawless seconded the motion to approve the Consent Items. The motion carried unanimously.

A COPY OF EACH LETTER, AMENDMENT, REQUEST, AND/OR BOND IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES.

- 5. Commissioner David A. Cole moved and Commissioner Billy Alexander seconded the motion to approve payment of current Panola County bills as prepared and submitted by the County Auditor. The motion carried unanimously. SEE PAYMENT REGISTER ATTACHED.

6. Commissioner Craig M. Lawless moved and Commissioner David A. Cole seconded the motion to approve payment of Panola County payroll as prepared and submitted by the County Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously. SEE PAYROLL DISTRIBUTION REGISTER ATTACHED.
7. The Panola County budget hearing for fiscal year 2025 was held pursuant to notice and publication thereof as required by law (Local Government Code, Section 111.007). Mr. Gary Kelley asked the Court to table the vote and cut expenses before approving the budget. SEE PUBLIC NOTICE ATTACHED.
8. Commissioner Dale LaGrone moved and Commissioner Billy Alexander seconded the motion to adopt the Panola County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, with an amendment to Constable, Precincts #1 and #4 budget (Local Government Code, Section 111.008). The motion carried unanimously. SEE BUDGET ATTACHED.
9. Commissioner Dale LaGrone moved and Commissioner Craig M. Lawless seconded the motion to adopt the 2025 Elected Officials Salaries upon adoption of the Panola County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, upon successful application and approval of SB22 Grant from the State of Texas, pursuant to notice and publication thereof as required by law (Local Government Code, Section 152.013). The motion carried unanimously. SEE SALARY SCHEDULE ATTACHED.
10. Commissioner Craig M. Lawless moved and Commissioner Billy Alexander seconded the motion to adopt Order 2024-11 setting the 2024 Tax Rate and Tax Levy and authorizing the Tax Assessor to prepare tax statements and approved tax rate (Local Government Code, Section 111.010). The motion carried unanimously. SEE ORDER ATTACHED.
11. Commissioner David A. Cole moved and Commissioner Craig M. Lawless seconded the motion to reject all bids received for Panola County Airport-Sharpe Field repairs and hangar replacements (opened and tabled from August 13, 2024 session of Commissioners' Court). The motion carried unanimously.
12. No bids were received for the lease of 130 acres of specified land at the Panola County Airport-Sharpe Field for the sole purpose of cutting and baling hay. No action taken.
13. Commissioner Dale LaGrone moved and Commissioner Billy Alexander seconded the motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Gary Independent School District and Panola County for road construction at Bobcat Trail and Williams Street. The motion carried unanimously. SEE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ATTACHED.
14. Commissioner Dale LaGrone moved and Commissioner David A. Cole seconded the motion to approve a Notice of General Election for November 5, 2024. The motion carried unanimously. SEE NOTICE ATTACHED.

15. Commissioner Billy Alexander moved and Commissioner Dale LaGrone seconded the motion not to impose extra fees on vehicle registrations in Panola County. The motion carried unanimously. SEE INFORMATION ATTACHED.
16. Commissioner Billy Alexander moved and Commissioner Craig M. Lawless seconded the motion to declare a 2000 Caterpillar RR250B road reclaimer, unit #5790, S/N 3RR00194 surplus property for Panola County Road and Bridge Department, Precinct #1. The motion carried unanimously. SEE REQUEST ATTACHED.
17. Commissioner Billy Alexander moved and Commissioner Craig M. Lawless seconded the motion to approve 2024 Budget Amendment No. 13. The motion carried unanimously. SEE BUDGET AMENDMENT ATTACHED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Dated this 27th day of August 2024.

Rodger G. McLane

SEP 10 2024

Rodger G. McLane, County Judge

Date

State of Texas
County of Panola

I, Bobbie Davis, County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the authorized proceedings of Commissioners. Court held on August 27, 2024.

Bobbie Davis

9/10/24

Bobbie Davis, County Clerk

Date

