

## Taylor County Commissioners' Court

August 20, 2013

The Commissioners' Court of Taylor County met in Special Called Session on August 20, 2013, with the following members present:

1. Judge Downing A. Bolls Jr., County Judge
2. Randy Williams, Commissioner, Precinct 1
3. Kyle Kendrick, Commissioner, Precinct 2
4. Stan Egger, Commissioner, Precinct 3
5. Chuck Statler, Commissioner, Precinct 4

When the following motions were heard:

1. Judge Bolls convened the Court in open session at 10:00 a.m.

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2. Commissioner Statler made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 13, 2013 and to adopt the agenda for the meeting of August 20, 2013 as printed and posted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kendrick and carried unanimously.

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3. Judge Bolls stated this agenda items was unnecessary as Invitation to Bid 2013-109 Coliseum Seating had already been approved and awarded and did not require additional discussion. Commissioner Kendrick made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried unanimously. [No Exhibit]

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4. Judge Bolls read a letter submitted to the Court from Judge Robert Harper, chair of the Taylor County Juvenile Board. In the letter, the Juvenile Board recommended that the Commissioners' Court close the Post-Adjudication facility. If in agreement, the Court would need to request that the State of Texas approve modifying the contract between it and Taylor County. In 1996 Taylor County applied for a state grant to build the facility with state and local funds. For their financial support, the State specified that the County would need to operate the facility for twenty years. To close the facility, the contract would need to be modified from twenty years to fourteen years.

The Court discussed the circumstances that contributed to the Juvenile Board's recommendations. In the mid 1990's adult and juvenile detention facilities were exceeding capacity. Texas government partially answered these problems by expanding state detention facilities for adult offenders and contracting with counties to provide expanded needs and new programs for juvenile offenders. The post adjudication facility was designed primarily to divert a specific group of juvenile offenders from Texas Youth Commission detention facilities. The post

unit would keep these juvenile offenders closer to home with the goal of involving their families in the rehabilitation and doing all this under local management of the program. Initially, it was believed that State's fiscal support and revenue from having juvenile offenders from other counties in the program as well as keeping money for Taylor County placements in Taylor County would cover almost all the cost of the post adjudication facility and program.

However, very quickly the State ceased its financial support it had pledged also the revenue from other counties placing their juveniles did not materialize at the levels projected. Additionally, the number of Taylor County juveniles has not remained at projected levels. During the past years, expenses have continued to increase regardless of the number of juveniles enrolled in the program. After analyzing the issue, the Juvenile Board has determined from a fiscal standpoint the best use of tax payer money would be to house these juveniles in other post adjudication facilities in Texas. Their recommendation was to close the facility April 1, 2014. Judge Bolts reported that it was the Board's intention to travel to the approximately twenty facilities in Texas to inspect, study and compare their programs to determine which program was best suited for Taylor County juvenile offenders.

After discussion, Commissioner Statler made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Taylor County Juvenile Board to cease operation of the Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center Post-Adjudication Facility by April 1, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Egger and carried unanimously. [Exhibit]

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5. Judge Bolts stated the Juvenile Board feels the State would approve a request from Taylor County to change the operational period for the Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center Post-Adjudication Facility due to the changes in circumstances since the contract was originally made. Commissioner Egger made a motion in accordance with Article XXII, Amendment and Severability of Project #TJPC-L-97-221 to request that the Texas Juvenile Justice Department amend the operational period on the Post-Adjudication Facility from 20 years to 14 years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Statler and carried unanimously. [Exhibit]

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6. Budget discussions began with Commissioner Egger recommending the County not purchase the requested stalls for the EXPO Center. He recommended that the County instead grant the budget request for additional paving and a storage building. The cost of each is \$25,000.00; the cost of the stalls would have been \$72,000.00. He noted that \$22,000.00 needed to be put in the budget for costs associated with the State e-filing mandate; specifically for courtroom expenses. The reduction in expenses from not approving every position the Sheriff had

requested would allow them to fund an additional vehicle, bringing the total to three cars and six Tahoe's.

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7. Judge Bolls and Bridget McDowell County Auditor discussed various tax rates, targets and goals. From the Chief Appraiser, the Effective Tax Rate is 47.47; the Roll Back Rate is 51.21. The total tax rate necessary to fund the proposed budget is 50.47; 47.91 to fund General Fund, 1.85 for Road and Bridge and 0.71 for Debt Service. Commissioner Egger noted that this tax rate is essentially the same as the tax rate in 2002. Commissioner Statler noted the average home value in Taylor County is \$105,397.00. The tax rate proposed for FY2014 would add approximately \$30.46 per year or \$2.52 per month based upon the average home. Judge Bolls reminded the Court that in the beginning budget requests totaled \$57,200,000.00 and now stands at \$54,600,000.00.

Commissioner Egger made a motion to approve the proposed budget of \$54,595,062.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Statler and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Egger made a motion to fund the budget just proposed by setting the tax rate of 49.76 for maintenance and operation and 0.71 for debt service. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried unanimously. [Exhibit]

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8. Commissioner Statler made a motion to schedule public hearings for September 3 and September 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried unanimously.

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9. Commissioner Kendrick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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The foregoing Minutes have been examined, read and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2013.

  
Larry S. Ball County Clerk, Taylor County, Texas  
William A. Boers County Judge, Taylor County, Texas