

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Thursday, the 1st day of May A. D. 2014, the Commissioners' Court of Milam County, Texas, convened in SPECIAL Session in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Milam County Courthouse, 102 S. Fannin, Cameron Texas, with the following members of the Court present, to-wit:

DAVID BARKEMEYER, COUNTY JUDGE

CHUCK BALCH, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO.1

KENNETH HOLLAS, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2

JOHN FISHER, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 3

JEFF MUEGGE, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 4

JODI MORGAN, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

Other absent, to-wit:

BARBARA VANSAN, COUNTY CLERK

And the proclamation having been made the Court was in session, the following business came on to be considered:

**DISCUSS AND APPROVE PROCEDURES FOR
REVIEWING HEALTH DEPT. MATTERS THAT
REQUIRE COUNTY REVIEW**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ESTABLISH QUORUM – 10:10 A.M. - All Present

Judge Barkemeyer: Spoke to Jim Allison and he said that all grant request should come before commissioner court.

Patsy Gaines: Some Grants/Contracts/Amendments have a time period that there is a response time on, some as quick as 3 days.

Discretionary Funds should be handled by commissioner court , we would be in violation if not handled by the court. Our office is very detailed on the grants, we keep up with who has the contract and who we need to contact. The Health Department is Audited every year and often. Health Department was audited on Immunizations and the only thing wrong were the wrong thermometers in the refrigerator, state is the one who issued the thermometers to us. We are also audited on Financials and Clinicals.

Debbie Olbrich: (With the WIC Department) ,Keeps up with my contract people and contacts for the WIC Department. I also do Daily reports and monthly reports that have to match Patsy's reports. We are Audited by the State every 2 years. Our end of year surplus money is what pays for office supplies. Last year we were awarded \$50,000.00 to renovate the building. We make a list of items or things we need and submit to the state. The state then looks over and sends back what they will pay to have fixed or supplied.

Judge Barkemeyer: Understand that you all know what you are doing. Personally since I have been in office I don't know much about the Health & WIC Departments. We (me and the commissioner court) are openly responsible for the Health Dept and need to know what is going on. The question is how much do we want to get involved. I would like to be more involved. Jeff Muegge suggested we go on a quarterly bases, and they give a review on what is going on. We are not trying to interfere.

Frank Summers: The agenda should include all offices that have no elected officials not just Patsy. We supply money to MHMR and they are under investigation. Health Dept is audited by the state more than anyone else. I have highest praise for Patsy.

Judge Barkemeyer: We are not here to put Patsy on Trial.

Frank Summers: Don't understand why this department is being singled out when they are audited the most.

Patsy Gaines: It is not a requirement but I give an annual report which is also beneficial to my department so we can compare and plan.

Jeff Muegge: I don't think we should get too involved.

Debbie Olbrich: For the grant money we are asking for things like playscapes to keep the kids occupied, I talked to Andy Isaacs and asked about new toilets and sinks for the one stop center in Rockdale. These are things that our clients use. We will submit this to the state and the state will tell us what they will fund for. We must provide strict bids to send back to the state. When we get information back from the state on what they will fund we will then let the court know.

Judge Barkemeyer: I think it would be good to know what is going on. No problem to go ahead with your business, just keep us updated.

Jeff Muegge: Who pays salaries

Patsy Gaines: Some employees are paid with grant money. When we get the contract we look over on how to disperse the money. Look at the time spent on the grant, salaries, fringes, if there is a cap or not. We could use the whole grant on a salary, we just have to utilize the grant. County does not help with anything when there is a grant.

Judge Barkemeyer: All Salaries should be reviewed through Comm. Court. Health Dept is the responsibility of Comm. Court.

Patsy Gaines: I may pay a nurse \$5000.00 out of a grant, but next year the grant may be gone and so she will lose the \$5000.00. If we don't use the grant money it goes back to the state and we can be out on future grants. We have to break down the grants and the state approves it. We sit down and look at expenses like Immunizations we know we are going to use syringes. So we look at how many do we use in a year.

Frank Summers: When employees get extra money they are doing extra work for the grant.

Judge Barkemeyer: Some employees get paid by county salaries and grants.

Debbie Olbrich: If there is money at the end of the year, we buy supplies to get into the next year and then look into given raises.

Patsy Gaines: WIC employees may be making more than county employees.

Judge Barkemeyer: This is why we should get final say so.

Jeff Muegge: What happens to money if not used?

Patsy Gaines: Send back to the state.

Tank Balch: Is it extra work during normal business hours?

Patsy Gaines: Yes

Patsy Gaines: To apply for a grant we send in a template to the state, if the state does not like how it is budgeted it can be denied. We have never had to come to the county for money.

Jeff Muegge: Give Reports quarterly and annually.

Kenneth Hollas: If salaries, I think you should explain to us why. I don't know enough to tell you how to run it.

Judge Barkemeyer: I think we need to be involved enough to know what's going on.

Frank Summers: What about all other departments.

Judge Barkemeyer: We are talking about the Health Department

Patsy Gaines: I would like to know also

Judge Barkemeyer: Subject of this workshop is the Health Department

Tank Balch: Shouldn't be a problem, Patsy you are still in charge

Patsy Gaines: I would like to let you all know that we have a monthly staff meeting and I can email the minutes or put them in your (Comm. Court) boxes. We discuss past, present and future items.

Kenneth Hollas: If you give us the minutes you need to explain what they are because I wouldn't know.

Dr. Sidney Richardson: I think we have a Five Star Health Department. We are a good rural health department with good people working. I don't think it is a need to overburden the court when there is other important business.

Jeff Muegge: A citizen from Lee county stopped me the other day and was applauding our department, our nurses go over there sometimes to do blood work.

John Fisher: I don't know if we have the right to say if the grant money is put aside for salaries but be gone next year. It is not the counties money.

Tank Balch: Patsy, make a small summary what you think is viable to us.

Patsy Gaines: I can do that

Judge Barkemeyer: John Fisher we can have a say so in it and be involved or not be involved and not have control. I think we should have some kind of control. I am not saying she is not doing it, I have not been involved in three years. I feel like I need to be more responsible, not trying to interfere and to make sure salaries are done right.

John Fisher: Do you have a reason to believe it's not being done?

Judge Barkemeyer: I do not like her approving raises, especially for herself without us having a review.

Kenneth Hollas: Is it county money?

Judge Barkemeyer/Tank Balch: No its grant money

Tank Balch: Once she makes us aware of it, it becomes our responsibility. Just need communication.

Judge Barkemeyer: If they hire someone we should know about it, not approve it but just know who it is.

Frank Summers: Good idea, the court should know who the new person is. Should come to court and be introduced.

Patsy Gaines: All of the grant's I have fought very hard for. This involve's, extra travel to Austin, headache and work for me.

Kenneth Hollas: That is all good for us to know.

Judge Barkemeyer: We are not trying to stop this. When you have a short notice on something, it won't hurt to call me when you have something. Then I can call the other four commissioners or you can. Let's start with a quarterly approach and I will try to be at all staff meetings.

Jeff Muegge: Patsy you can email me the monthly reports

Debbie Olbrich: On raises' other employees have asked about raises if they are not on the grant they don't get the money. If the money is in the budget I would like to give raises. Can I produce to Patsy and she bring to court?

Judge Barkemeyer: That is the same for all employees.

Jeff Muegge: Need to look at options if there is money left and you don't give bonuses to employees working on grants, it just goes back to the state. Then the employee may not work as hard the next time.

Tank Balch: Are we going to approve the raise? Do we just want to know about it?

Kenneth Hollas: I don't think we should

Judge Barkemeyer: What do you all feel?

John Fisher: Just let us know about it

Judge Barkemeyer: Employees that are on grants only you all proceed to do what is needed and tell us about it. The half and half salaries we want to look at.

Jeff Muegge: How many salary employees?

Patsy Gaines: WIC – None ; Half and Half, Diane, 2-Nurses; and me

Judge Barkemeyer: We can decrease a salary if they get an increase due to grant money.

Patsy Gaines: But if we lose the money the next year how do we get the salaries back to where they were?

Judge Barkemeyer: There is always money in the county budget to keep a salary where it needs to be.

Frank Summers: There have been no raises for five years

Judge Barkemeyer: Nurses are hard to find

Patsy Gaines: I am upfront when I hire nurses: this is what you will be paid with county salary and if there is a grant this money may be here today but gone tomorrow. Nurses make with the county about \$40,000.00 and sometimes only \$2,000 or \$3,000.00 is added from grants.

Judge Barkemeyer: Let's look at the budget next time on the county side. Start with a quarterly report to be given to us.

Jeff Muegge: If the nurse gets \$10,000.00 for a grant then we drop her salary, we are going to lose a nurse. If you are working extra hard then you should get the extra money. I think we should leave that alone.

Judge Barkemeyer: We may need to uproot their salary if they lose the grant money.

Jeff Muegge: We have had no problems with the Health Department

Patsy Gaines: If there were any problems with audits the state will notify comm. court.

Curtis Chubb: Are there other departments that get grants, that give raises? Do they give raises without Comm. Court approval?

Judge Barkemeyer: No

Patsy Gaines: There are only 61 Health Departments in the State of Texas out of the 254 counties.

Judge Barkemeyer: We will start with a quarterly report.

Meeting Adjourn: 11:35a.m.

Motion by: Jeff Muegge

Seconded by: John Fisher.