

**STATE OF TEXAS:**

**COUNTY OF MILAM:**

**BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Monday, the 9th day of January A. D. 2015, the Commissioners' Court of Milam County, Texas, convened in Regular 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**

**RICHARD WATKINS, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO.1**

**DONALD SHUFFIELD, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2**

**JOHN FISHER, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 3**

**JEFF MUEGGE, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 4**

**BARBARA VANSAN, COUNTY CLERK**

**Others present, to-wit:  
John Redington, Legal Counsel**

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

**#1 – CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ESTABLISH QUORUM** – 10:00 a.m. – Quorum established

**#2 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – U. S. Flag. “Honor the Texas Flag”, I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one State, Under God, one and indivisible

**#3 – MINUTES** – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the minutes as presented to the court. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **January 26 2015**

**#4 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** –

- **Ronnie Faust – Veterans Service Off.**

- **Robyn Black – Veterans Rep**
- **John Shuffield – Vet’s Officer**
- **Alan Gielbont – Secretary VA**
- **Linda Gifford – Milam County Veterans Affairs**
- **Charlie J. Janak – did not speak**
- **Dorothy D. Clark – Veterans Service Office Funding**
- **Yvonne Hanel – VA**
- **Larry Cissna – TVC Office**
- **Lt. Col Les N. Davenport USA ® - Veterans Increase in Staff**

**Judge skipped to Item #10**

**#10 – DISCUSSION OF JOB DUTIES AND PROPOSED CHANGES OF VETERAN’S OFFICE ASSISTANT**

– Motion by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the reinstatement of the Veteran’s Office Assistant as a full time position effective tomorrow, Tuesday, February 10, 2015. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being 4 yes (Commissioner 1,2,3 & 4) and 1 no (Judge Barkemeyer).

- **Judge – couple folks commented “doing away with Karen’s job. I went to Bill Torrey’s office and asked if he would consider taking ½ of Veteran’s assistant & he agreed. Reduced Veteran’s budget by ½ in 2014 and 2015 set at same level. Ken did ask to be on agenda & I told him couldn’t up the budget for 2015; can do a line item transfer through year.**
- **Mr. Torrey, County & District Attorney – I am a Vet; have met with Ken, Jeff & Judge to discuss this. I propose the ½ time budget in the DA office be moved to Veterans Office for Karen Kunkel full time position.**
- **Judge – for remainder of year; will not have any effect on County Budget; upcoming budget**
- **Mr. Torrey – making sure I understand correctly – ½ salary paid by the county will remain same**
- **Judge – now 2 ½ time salaries, once transferred will have one ½ time salary or if you choose to fill full time you will have to fund that salary.**
  - **Also took heat from other departments because they had to lose an employee due to County Tax Base going down & raising tax rate, cut manpower.**
  - **Reduce assistant to ½ now to full time position; no assurance that will be for next year**
  - **Judge asked for comment from Commissioners**
- **Donald Shuffield – How many of you are a Veteran or Veterans spouse or currently serving? I expect Ken to work with us and discuss how we get money.**
- **Jeff Muegge – lot of discussion**

**#5 – FINANCIAL / AUDITORS REPORT** – Refer to the POWER POINT on the Milam County website.

- Good news from Kolette (Tax Assessor / Collector) – Luminant paid their taxes in full for 2014
- \$40,000 for Bea’s Kitchen from the Williams Foundation

**#6 – TREASURERS REPORT** – Refer to the POWER POINT on the Milam County Website.

- Balance as of January 2015 - \$8,368,459.78

**#7 – JP OFFICES FINANCIAL UPDATE** – Refer to the POWER POINT on the Milam County Website.

**#8 – COMMISSIONERS**

- PCT 1 –
- PCT 2 – blading, cleaning around shop; getting ready for the February 17 sale & will continue through May
- PCT 3 – hauling gravel; ditch work
- PCT 4 – patching pot holes; dug up soft spots

**#9 – COURT CASE UPDATES** – Refer to the Power Point on the Milam County Website.

**#10 – DISCUSSION OF JOB DUTIES AND PROPOSED CHANGES OF VETERAN’S OFFICE ASSISTANT** – discussed after Item #4 Public Participation

**#11 – INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXTENSION OFFICE EMPLOYEE** – Donald Kelm introduced Floyd O. Ingram IV of Stephenville to the Court as the applicant for the County Extension Agent position through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Mr. Ingram’s position will be effective February 23, 2015.

**#12 – DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION ON CONTRACT PROSECUTOR FOR JP COURTS 1-4** – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the hiring of Leslie A. Whitten, Attorney at Law as Contract Prosecutor for Milam County Justice of the Peace Courts 1-4 with the salary of \$1500 per month. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- John Redington, Assistant DA presented the court with information pertaining to this position. Michelle Lehmkuhl presently serves Precinct 3 & 4 while the DA’s office serves Precinct 1 & 2. Currently Mrs. Lehmkuhl is paid \$1000 monthly and is not interested in all 4 precincts @ \$1500 month.
- Judge – Transaction Fee account funds this position and it does not come out of the county budget

**#13 – APPROVE TAX ABATEMENT FOR “PROJECT GREEN HORNET”** – Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the tax abatement request dated December 2, 2014 for “Project Green Hornet” for their anticipated \$500,000 improvements. Said abatement would be for 3 years at 80% at \$5710.00 per year or a total of \$17,131.00 for the three years. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#14 – APPROVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH HOLT FOR 2 GRADERS / PRECINCT 2** – Motion by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the purchase of two graders @ \$1200 per month for three years per grader. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#15 – APPROVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH HOLT FOR 2 GRADERS / PRECINCT 3** – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the purchase of two graders @ \$66,079.99 each. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- Jerry Hawthorne, HOLT Representative said Milam County has been participating in the Buy Back Program for the past 40 years.

**#16 – APPROVE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 84<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SUPPORT ALLOWING GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO USE MONEY OBTAINED FROM WATER TRANSPORT FEES FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS** – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the Resolution REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE 84<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SUPPORT ALLOWING GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO USE MONEY OBTAINED FROM WATER TRANSPORT FEES FOR PURPOSES RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- Judge – transfer of fees for financing infrastructure
- Fisher – Still have to apply
- Judge – legislative process

**#17 – APPROVE MEMBERS OF THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2015-2016** – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the Members of the Certified Local Government Committee as presented to the court. (See power point for names & positions)

**#18 – ACCEPT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT CERTIFICATE OF COURSE COMPLETION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS** – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to accept the Public Information Certificate of Course Completion for Donald Shuffield, Commissioner Precinct 2; Karen Berry, District Clerk and Barbara Vansa, County Clerk. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#19 – ACCEPT THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLERK’S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AWARDED TO BARBARA VANSAN, MILAM COUNTY CLERK FOR COMPLETING THE REQUIRED 20 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR 2014** – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to accept the County and District Clerk’s Association of Texas Certificate of Completion for 2014 for Barbara Vansa, County Clerk. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#20 – ACCEPT THE OPEN MEETINGS CERTIFICATE OF COURSE COMPLETION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS** –Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to accept the Open Meetings Act Certificate of Course Completion for Karen Berry, District Clerk and Barbara Vansa, County Clerk. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#21 – APPROVE RESOLUTION THAT MILAM COUNTY CONVEY THE PROPERTY OF LOTS 11,12 AND 13, BLOCK 2, CITY OF ROCKDALE TO ROCKDALE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT FOR THE SUM OF \$1.00** – Motion by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Resolution that the County Of Milam shall convey all of its interest in the properties described in the Resolution to the Rockdale Municipal Development District for the sum of \$1.00. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#22 – APPROVE TAX REFUNDS** – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the tax refunds in the amount of \$1958.77 as presented to the Court by Kolette Morgan, Tax Assessor / Collector. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

**#23 - BILLS** – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$314,524.33 as presented to the court. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- Contracted with Hux Janitorial; Routine Maintenance Contractor; and I.T. Service

**#24 - ADJOURN** – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to adjourn @ 11:33 A.M. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

The above and foregoing Minutes examined and approved in Open Court this 23rd day of February 2015.

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County Judge

State of Texas:

County of Milam:

**I, Barbara Vansa, County Clerk, Milam County, Texas, attest that the foregoing is a true and correct accounting of the Commissioners' Court authorized proceedings for February 9, 2015.**

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**County Clerk and Ex-Officio Member of  
Commissioners' Court, Milam County, Texas**

**STATEMENT OF APPROVAL**

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**Commissioner of Precinct No. 1**

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**Commissioner of Precinct No. 3**

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**Commissioner of Precinct No. 2**

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**Commissioner of Precinct No. 4**

**P O W E R P O I N T  
P R E S E N T A T I O N**

**February 9, 2015**

**Minutes from the February 9, 2015 Milam County  
Commissioners Court meeting ends on**