

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Tuesday, the 28th day of July A. D. 2015, 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

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 absent, 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:

BUDGET REVIEW FOR 2016

Judge Barkemeyer established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

The supporting documents listed below are recorded in Volume 74 of the Milam County Commissioners Court Minutes.

- **Ad Valorem Tax Calculations – Judge Barkemeyer**
- **Certification of 2015 Roll – Tax Assessor / Collector, Kolette Morgan**
- **Budget Workshop Assistant – Account Listing – With Certified Values – dated 07/28/15 – Treasurer, Danica Lara**
- **Budget Workshop Assistant – Account Listing – Without Luminant – dated 07/28/15 – Treasurer, Danica Lara**

Discussion:

Judge gave a summary of the workshop then asked Morgan to start the workshop with explaining the Certification of the 2015 Roll.

Morgan – I first want to apologize to you (Judge). The effective tax rate I gave you was incorrect, it should be .649200.

Judge – mentioned you (the Court) will need to make changes on the sheet I gave you to reflect the correct amount.

Morgan -

2015 Certified Appraisal Roll Information (ARB Approved Totals)

- **Net taxable value = \$1,713,408,808**
- **Undisputed taxable value = \$9,412,000**
- **Total New Value Taxable = \$24,980,777**

2015 Effective Tax Rate Worksheet

- **Certified Value used to calculate = \$1713408808**
- **Value of Property in CERTZ Zone (Pct 3) = \$45286633 – does not include minerals**
- **Added back to certified value for 2015 = \$9,412,000**
- **New improvements = \$24980777**
- **Effective tax rate = .649200**
- **Maintenance and operations (M&O) tax rate = .615200**
- **Additional tax sales (comptroller office has these figures) =**
- **Taxes in TIF – CERTZ property - = (-) \$7530**
- **2014 Effective maintenance and operations rate = .689100**
- **2014 rollback maintenance and operation rate = .744228**
- **2014 Debt = \$622755**
- **Certified anticipated collection rate (Jail) = 100%**
- **Debt tax rate = .041000**
- **Rollback tax rate = .785228**

Current Tax Rate = 65.2

Judge – referring to Ad Valorem Tax Calculation handout

- **Debt Service = \$553K**
- **Revenue – General Fund**
 - **2016 start out with \$5.523(-1M)**
 - **Housing inmates = \$450K (+20K)**
 - **Traffic fines = \$400K No changes**
 - **Sales Tax = \$1.2M No changes**
 - **County Judge Supplement (State) = \$25.2K (+10.2K)**
 - **CSR Salary Contribution = +12K (+12K)**
 - **EMPG – Susan**

- **Don't know if we will conserve reserves this year – doing an excellent job on expenses, spending.**

Budget increases

- **Regional Public Defender Program – assist with murder trials = \$11693 to \$15591 (+\$3,898)**
- **Election budget – Primary, Runoff & General Election - \$15,000 approximate reimbursement from parties)**

Budget decreases – presuming Luminant lawsuit

- **Normally spend about \$9.7M per year (departments)**
- **Possibility of cuts other than listed on handout**
 - **Cleaning – Donald has talked with some offices, suggested other means of cleaning**
 - **District Judge's secretary**
 - **Museum – Charles King, not ready to retire, possibly April 2016**
 - **Fire Departments – did not list – suggest pay quarterly**

Muegge – discussed taking \$200,000 from each precinct

Shuffield – where's the other to make up the \$800,000

Judge – you can put back what you want next year

Judge – if Luminant would settle we could come back and do budget on actual, hopefully before Budget approved

Morgan – I see the tax office mileage / travel allowance being removed

Judge – not agreed on yet

Vansa – could use travel approved by Commissioners Court – 55cents per mile

- **“In County” use odometer reading**
- **“Out of County” use Map quest**

In my budget meeting I did agree to move \$25,000 to part time help in my office from the microfilm account. I am also told I will lose an employee.

- **Here (the decrease information) shows me to reduce 1 clerk, add part time); District Clerk reduce 1 clerk, add part time; Tax Assessor reduce 1 clerk (no part time listed for tax ofc) – I have talked to Karen several times about the budget and she has said she does not have enough money to fund an employee. So where is her part time money coming from?**
 - **Judge – some records management then general account**

- **Vansa – we are being told we have to cut back, I agreed to decrease one account to add a part time position which would include benefits, I have to “have” the money to do this and yet there is money to give her (District Clerk) for part time. I do not want to see any employees cut again but I do not see that it is fair to give her money when I have to provide for myself. I am already funding one salary from Records Management. It’s not my fault, hers or any of ours that she doesn’t have the money, the fees collected for these services are set by the state not by Milam County.**
- **Lara to Vansa – he could have taken it out anyway**
- **Vansa – yes I now but it’s not fair to do for one & not another**
- **Morgan – I could use part time also**
- **Judge – you had it last year and used it**
- **Morgan – I had temporary help not part time**
- **Vansa to Lara – maybe if you explain temporary help & part time help to Kolette she will understand the difference, I know it helped me when you explained.**
- **Lara – temporary help – start / stop / no benefits and part time help you provide benefits**

- **Morgan & Vansa – it is important in our offices that the employees are bonded and deputized**
- **Vansa – Not saying anyone is worthless but having someone work in our offices & the district clerk’s office who is not bonded or deputized is a worthless position because they can only answer the phone, file & make copies – cannot act on behalf of the elected official, cannot take money, cannot file anything.**

Judge – us 5 have to make a decision

Morgan asking Fisher – have you heard from anyone, complaints on cutting back the Rockdale office and or cutting employee

Fisher – no

Morgan – I have, we get several calls nearly daily about closing the Rockdale office

Shuffield – I’m going to say this and may make some mad but ..

- **Museum – complete, done with, no part time**
- **Janitorial – cut back or out, use community service**
- **VA – ok**
- **Fire Dept – leave alone, don’t cut**
- **\$200,000 – I do not like giving up; I still think there’s a way to go next year and amend budget**

Watkins – don’t want to raise taxes; hate to see anyone go but have to do something; cut my employee like others

Judge – not for pulling out of precinct funds to fund general account

Muegge - \$200,000 does it have to go to General fund? If we do it, it does effect us (commissioners); could it be a line item, separate account?

Increase in inmate money / Ad Valorem should be \$500-600,000 next year

Lara - \$200,000 short this year

Judge - \$2M short until lawsuit is settled

Muegge – put money in for help cleaning

Shuffield to Muegge - not on the same page, this was not discussed

Lara - we cannot do it, I'm not going to come after hours to clean; Polly will not have community service do this

Shuffield to Lara – you told me you would clean (discussed back & forth), we discussed this three times in your office

Vansa – I'm not asking for extra money for cleaning my office

Shuffield to Judge – I take back janitorial proposal, now being told something different than discussed

Morgan – I have talked to my girls and we will do what we have to, to keep customer service

Vansa – we are already gathering the trash on Tuesdays and putting it outside for the janitorial lady to pick up; she comes in Thursday's to clean, does a very good job but if cutting it out would help keep an employee I'm all for it.

Muegge – giving Charles an option to work through April?

Judge – so he can draw his social security

Morgan – I love history but more important to keep office with customer services

Fisher – I don't want to raise taxes; but sure want to get money back & it's hell to get back once given

2:35 p.m. – Muegge excused himself, had an out of town meeting to attend

Judge – we have to do whatever to cut where needed; we have a serious problem

Vansa – what are our chances @ getting something out of the lawsuit

Morgan- we will get something

Judge – surely we will know next year where we will be with Luminant.

Shuffield – been told hearing up to two years

Vansa – I can't afford to lose another employee next year.

Morgan – can we go out for bids for janitorial?

Judge – she will probably resubmit her bid, I told her it was brought up to remove the janitorial service

Lara – suggest asking for bid on each office

Judge – anything else to alter? Do we want to vote on this now?

Vansa – next meeting is August 4 & would need to make decisions then because the budget should be filed with my office August 7

Watkins – wait until next meeting to decide

Judge – leave tax rate @ 65.2 for 2016 budget

Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to adjourn the workshop at 2:55 p.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 10th day of August 2015.

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 July 27 2015.

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

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

Commissioner of Precinct No. 1

Commissioner of Precinct No. 3

Commissioner of Precinct No. 2

Commissioner of Precinct No. 4

**Minutes from the July 27, 2015 Milam County
Commissioners Court meeting ends on**