

**STATE OF TEXAS:**

**COUNTY OF MILAM:**

**BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Monday, the 24th day of August 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 "OPEY" 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 – 10:07 a.m.**

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

- **August 04 2015 – Budget & Tax Review for 2016**
- **August 10 2015 – Regular Meeting**

**#4 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

***SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION RECORDED IN VOLUME 75 OF  
THE MILAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES.***

**Jack Brooks representing the Milam County Historical Commission –**

- **Item #10 – Galbreath Bridge – moving bridge to Rockdale**

**Frank Stewart –**

- **VA Service Officer – I made comments during the public hearing. Ken is doing a good job; there is other help here**

**Yvonne Hanel representing VA**

- **This lady (Gifford) told you earlier how ken & Karen helped her**
- **Museum –**
- **I see nowhere that the museums have provided anything close to this that has affected so many with so much.**
- **Sales Tax – 1.2 (2012) – 1.5 (2013) – just over 1 mill last year**

**Les Davenport representing Veterans / Budget cut for Veterans Office**

- **Reinstate what I said earlier –**
- **Continually cutting the Veterans Service Office & realize there is other funding**
- **I look at the budget and see the museum – I am a historian but when it comes to having inadament objects but cut out a \$17,000 clerk, Please think about that, leave money so someone can come in & wipe off dust**
- **We know how to get help in Rockdale, go to Veteran Service office**

**Wayne Horkheimer – handout but no presentation**

**#5 – UTILITIY INSTALLATIONS – none**

**#6 – PERMISSION FOR ENTRY AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS –**

**Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Permission for Entry and Waiver of Claims by **Linwood Tatum** consenting to Milam County and its employees to enter his property located on CR145, Precinct 1. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

**Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the Permission for Entry and Waive r of Claims by **Barry Parker** consenting to Milam County and its employees to enter his property located on CR429, Precinct 4. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

**Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Permission for Entry and Waiver of Claims by **William Hrachovy** consenting to Milam County and its employees to enter his property located 3092 CR CR145. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

## **#7 – DISCUSS THE DUTIES OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND THE 2016 PROPOSED MILAM COUNTY BUDGET WHICH INCLUDES COUNTY CLERK OFFICE PERSONNEL CUTS –**

**August 24 2015 Milam County Commissioners Court Agenda**

**Item #7 – Discuss the Duties of the County Clerk and the 2016 proposed Milam County Budget which includes County Clerk Office personnel cuts**

**My presentation is based on The County & District Clerks Association, Texas Duties of the County Clerk brochure ----- The Judge and Commissioners have been given this brochure with other information regarding the County Clerk's Office numerous times.**

- **Responsibilities of County Clerk – The County Clerk is the record keeper of the most information affecting our lives. It is our objective to file and maintain the following records in the most efficient and up to date method available. While also filing and maintaining these records, it is our goal to always improve public access and convenience to these records, while upholding the laws of our office. Some of the duties listed may differ by county.**
- **Clerk of All Misdemeanor Courts –**
  - **Probate & Civil – cases E-filed by attorneys for Probate & Civil – currently in the permissive stage; mandatory 01/01/16**
  - **Criminal – Criminal Clerk handling some court coordinator duties which takes a good bit of time, if the Clerk's office loses an employee these duties will go back to the department it should be handled by.**
- **Clerk of Commissioners Court -**
  - **Suggestion to the Court – I would recommend adding an item to the agenda prior to the “Adjournment” to sign documents pertaining to the meeting. This suggestion is because once the meeting is adjourned a quorum should not be present. (Ex: After the August 10, 2015 meeting adjourned there was a discussion regarding the 2016 budget with ALL the court present)**
- **Elections –**
  - **03/02/2015 – Primary**
    - **Early Voting – 02/16 thru 02/19; Saturday 02/20 and 02/22 thru 02/26**
      - **Election school for workers**
  - **05/24/2015 – Runoff**
    - **Early Voting – 05/16 thru 05/20 & 05/18 from 7am to 7pm**
  - **11/08/2015 – General**
    - **10/24 thru 10/28; Saturday 10/29 from 7am to 7pm and 10/31 thru 11/04**
      - **Election school for workers**
  - **If I am cut an employee, Sherry the Election Clerk is one of two at the bottom of the totem pole and will be up for termination.**
  - **These cuts will also affect the Tax Assessor Collectors Office because they are the voter registrar.**

**Financial Responsibilities –**

- **Take and record minutes for numerous budget workshops & hearings**
- **Keep fees & court cost current with changes**

**Vital Records –**

- **Births & Deaths – consolidated with City of Cameron in 2014 and TDSHS / BVS asked last week if I would still consider taking on the City of Rockdale records if they would agree to it & I said “yes”. It would be a good move to have all Milam County Vital records in one location**

**Miscellaneous –**

- **Military Records – Veterans Service Office refers to these for their clients; clients use these to apply for benefits.**
  - **No longer public record**
  - **I think the VSO needs a clerk whether it be Karen or someone else**
- **Notices – meetings for numerous entities, foreclosures, case hearings**

**Continuing Education –**

**Government Code 51.605 requires a clerk to complete 20 hours of instruction regarding the performance of the clerk’s duties of office during each calendar year that begins after the clerk’s election or appointment to office. (Explain how I get the 20 hours)**

**Other discussion:**

**Originally seven offices were to be affected by employee cuts; now I believe it’s five but not sure which ones; I did visit with Mr. Torrey Friday and Mr. Redington this morning and their secretary / receptionist will not be cut but I am not sure where the funding will come from.**

**Public Hearings .... I attended the Public Meeting at the Courthouse this past Monday and I want to say THANK YOU to ALL VETERANS who were in attendance, those who were not & to the CURRENT MILITARY. To Mrs. Hanel & Mr. Davenport for their “plea” to SAVE the clerk position in the Veterans Service Office. To Mr. Davenport for his concern regarding other customer service positions.**

**To the Milam County residents & out of county customers .... With or without the current employee positions, the MILAM COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE will give our 100% dedication of CUSTOMER SERVICE to YOU!**

**Now on a personal note .... While I do not think it is appropriate, nor like to discuss “party affiliation” regarding County Government positions & duties, I do have to admit I have been given a pat on the back more than once by concerned citizens, friends and some county officials & employees. Concerns recognized have been because of the “party” I filed with, being a female and some decisions I have made seem to be a large part in the way the County Clerk’s Office is and has been affected. My comment to some of the concerned people - I do agree because of prior actions. There is one individual who is for cutting employees & making other cuts; has complained about the office even though we have helped them tremendously.**

**To the Commissioners Court .... While I am not for ANY employee being cut, I do not think the County Clerk having three employees, District Clerk having 4 and Tax Assessor having five full time employees is legit. One employee in the Tax Office is working in the Rockdale office. We each will have a part time person & that is good because they can be bonded & deputized, which allows them to act on behalf of that Elected Official – they can also collect money. I ask each of you to study the information I gave you regarding the comparison of number of employees in the County Clerk’s Office, District Clerk’s Office and Tax Office. The reason I keep mentioning these offices is because we are always “compared” including salaries, employees. I do not have written information regarding the duties of the District Clerk & Tax Assessor but would like for you to search it out and compare those duties to the duties the County Clerk is responsible for.**

**You have two more weeks to reconsider the employee cuts and I once again make my plea to the Court to reinstate my full time employee position in the 2016 Milam County Budget.**

**OFFICE PERSONNEL COMPARISON**

<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>	<b>CHIEF DEPUTY</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK III</b>	<b>Deputy II / ELECTION CLERK</b>		
<b>DISTRICT CLERK</b>	<b>CHIEF DEPUTY</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK II</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK II</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK III</b>	

<b>TAX ASSESSOR</b>	<b>CHIEF DEPUTY</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK IV</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK / VOTER REGISTRAR</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK II Rockdale Office</b>	<b>DEPUTY CLERK I</b>

**Each of the above offices will have funding within the General Fund for ONE part time person.**

- **County Clerk reduced microfilm budget to fund part time person.**

**The County Clerk's Office CAN provide funding for a salary determined by the workload regarding Records Management.**

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>2016 REDUCTION IN SALARY</b>	<b>2016 SALARIES</b>	<b># OF EMPLOYEES</b>	
<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>	<b>\$42,856</b>	<b>\$90,365</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>DISTRICT CLERK</b>	<b>\$26,160</b>	<b>\$119,605</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>TAX ASSESSOR</b>	<b>\$37,438</b>	<b>\$139,125</b>	<b>5</b>	

**Judge asked if anyone had comments for Barbara. No responses.**

**#8 – APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT FOR HCCAA HOME DELIVERED MEALS – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the Resolution Authorizing County Grant to Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

- **Yvonne Hanel – where does the money come from?**
- **Judge – In our county budget.**
- **Les Davenport – does it come from Grants**
- **Danica Lara, Auditor – comes from Texas Department of Agriculture**
- **Judge – Revenue & pass through the County Budget**

**#9 – GRANT PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY – PCT 4 –**

**Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to grant permission to advertise for bids on surplus equipment in Precinct 4. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

- **Muegge – advertise in paper**
- **Surplus equipment at precinct 4 shop**
- **Buyers premium 12%**
- **Bids to be opened September 14**

**#10 – GALBREATH BRIDGE, SHECKLES BRIDGE –**

**Chris Whittaker, Rockdale City Manager discussing the County donating Galbreath Bridge**

- **CR240 past ballpark road**

**Judge to John Redington – there are some hoops we have to jump through? We have done this before.**

**Redington – Dedication to give to city.**

**Whittaker – can you loan it to us?**

**Redington – may be some costs.**

**Judge – may keep it in the county name**

**Shuffield – is it non-profit?**

**Jack Brooks, Milam County Historical Commission –**

**Muegge – County doesn't own?**

**Whittaker – James Perry owner of the Sheckles bridge**

**Redington – I will get together with Chris and get appropriate resolution**

**#11 - BILLS – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$422,237.11 as presented to the court. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.**

**#12 - ADJOURN – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to adjourn @ 11:05 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 14th day of September 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 August 24, 2015.**

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

**STATEMENT OF APPROVAL**

**August 24 2015 Meeting**

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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**

**POWERPOINT  
PRESENTATION  
August 24, 2015**

**Minutes from the August 24, 2015 Milam County  
Commissioners Court meeting ends on**