

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Tuesday, the 4th day of August 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 VANSA, 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 & TAX 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.

- **Letter from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**
 - **July 2016 Designations – 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard – Judge Barkemeyer**
- **County Judge's Article dated 8-5-15**
- **Milam County Clerk – 2016 Budget Proposal (Clerk's use for budget workshop 8-5-15)**
 - **Proposed General Fund Expenses / 2016 Budgeted Increases & Decreases presented by Judge Barkemeyer @ the July 28 2015 workshop (Clerk's use for budget workshop 8-5-15)**

Discussion:

Judge – Handout to the Commissioners, Tax Assessor / Collector & County Clerk – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – thought I would give this to you to see what may happen.

- **Budget performance through July given to the Commissioners**
 - **Appraisal District hasn't been paid & report reflects we will have money without going into reserves**
 - **\$720,000 Reserves in General Fund should be available to start 2016**
- **Road & Bridge Reports to Commissioners**
- **Judge's article for newspaper but not submitted**

Go over where we are – numbers based on Luminants rendering

(-)\$340M / (+)110M assests (no indication what it's based on)

Split 65/35 last year / 5.280M General Fund / 2.843M R&B (\$710,000 to each precinct) / .623M Debt service / \$8.746M Ad Valorem Tax – amount if Luminant takes us to court

90% in till by January / 100% in July

\$878M (\$878,079) – 2015

Until lawsuit is settled you (Precinct) will get \$710,000

Proposal 68/32 - \$5.524M General / \$2.599M Precincts / .623 Debt Service / \$8.736M

Each pct \$60,000 = \$240,000 General

Shuffield – what's the reason you (Judge) want the \$240M in the General Fund January 1st?

Judge – Budget \$349M other sources / spend all \$720M in reserves

68/32 = 9.593M

Budget to spend in budget proposal \$10.58M

As pointed out last week we generally spend \$9.75M (2015) will probably spend same in 2016

2014 – 9.74M / 2012 – 9.74M

Cut almost \$300,000 for 2016

What do we have to do if we run out of money & cut payroll? We cannot make it with \$9.34M.

May have to borrow money if Luminant doesn't settle – 2017 deficit in General fund we would have to make up; we would have to raise taxes to cover the shortfall.

Muegge to Judge – do we have to cut %? ---- no response

Judge – can only raise 1.5% tax increase

Guys, what do we want to do?

Muegge to Judge – another way besides %? --- no response

Morgan – always have done the %.

Judge – Appraisal District rendering 65/35 - \$6.523M General / \$3.512M R&B (\$878K to each precinct) / .553 Debt service / 2014 collected \$10.508M

66/34 (2016) / \$6.72M General Fund / \$3.619M R & B (\$905,000 each) / .623M (10.962 total tax)

If we win, we will collect.

Calculating 66/34 – may not have figured right

Watkins – what are you thinking? Don't do the split?

Muegge – leave as is, line item

Shuffield – you can take out of line item reserve through a workshop session; I have \$265,000 in line item reserve – leave \$200,000 in my account and will give if needed next year

Judge – I am 100% in effort in improving our roads.

Muegge –we do not know what's going to happen

Judge – going to transfer into her (Morgan) account

Muegge – leave until Emergency

Judge – I don't think we can take from reserves – if we can it's no problem

Muegge – can we set aside amount in reserves?

Judge – if Luminant settles early in year we don't have a problem; leave % same unless we can't move money

Vansa – are you talking about just precincts or all of it? That means I'm not losing an employee?

Shuffield – what about the fire departments? / Judge – left same

Shuffield – not taking from them / Judge – left same

Shuffield – leaving the museum the same? I do not agree, we talked last time about him leaving. We don't have to put him in the budget. Use volunteers.

Morgan – I have been cussed at, yelled at about the Rockdale office closing, Barbara also got complaints

Vansa – yes we have had several people in & complained about it

Judge to Morgan - send them to me

Shuffield to Judge – “send them to my office isn’t going to help”

Vansa – I still feel it’s not fair to give to district clerk money for part time when I have to fund my own part time and Kolette doesn’t get part time

Morgan – during elections voter registration takes lady off from other duties

Shuffield – originally discussed \$100,000 each precinct; go up on taxes; decided to foot bill on taxes; value of land; postpone taxes; keep head above water

Judge – I agree what we are doing this year – not raising taxes

- **Look foolish, cutting services, don’t think we’re going to win hands down,**
- **Include museum, hold off tax increase, may get lucky & we win**
- **EPA results may take to the negative side**

Fisher – can we gamble & meet in the middle

Judge – no, I think it’s the right thing to do – if Donald’s right about the line item reserves

Shuffled to Vansa & Morgan – do ya’ll have part time

Donna Orsag, County Treasurer – doesn’t the Health Department have an office that’s open 2 or 3 days a week?

Morgan & Vansa – that’s not the same

Vansa – not this year, my girls have to be bonded & deputized, can act on my behalf / Morgan – temporary help (can’t be bonded)

Muegge to Vansa & Morgan – do you have seasonal work?

Vansa – election time and we have 3 plus early voting next year, Kolette will have three and the cities & schools. Our employees have to be bonded & deputized.

Morgan – taxes & vehicle registration also

Donna Orsag, County Treasurer – doesn't the Health Department have an office that's open 2 or 3 days a week?

Vansa to Morgan – that's not the same

Judge & Lara - \$25000 county clerk / \$12500 district clerk split in half

Vansa – sounds like it's a done deal regardless

Judge – Do you want to give tax office part time help?

Watkins – do we want to give to tax office?

Judge – do we want to vote?

Shuffield – wait a minute. I want to talk to Barbara. I'm giving up \$200,000. Vansa – I understand where you are coming from. Shuffield – it's good you have the money to help. Vansa – yes it is but it's still not fair. Shuffield – I appreciate you. My responsibility to Precinct 2 is larger than my responsibility to the entire county.

Judge – started out closing down the Rockdale office.

Muegge – I have a part time secretary who works about 24 hours a week.

Judge –

- **close Rockdale office when shortage. To Shuffield, I'm ok with your questioning. I got a call from Kerry at the dealership.**
- **Surprised we don't have more veterans here**
- **Having to bite the bullet; Barbara said can't cut, we're at the limit @ cutting**
- **Don't want to shut down the museum**

Vansa – so the museum. Is the whole salary being put in the budget, or just the time he needs

Shuffield to Vansa – you have heard what I said / Vansa – I know what you're saying

Shuffield – not fair to ya'll (Vansa & Morgan)

Morgan – it's not fair to the public

Vansa – not to the public or us

Shuffield – delete the museum

Judge – let's do what you want to

Motion made by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to move money to Kolette for part time help. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being 4 to 1 with Judge Barkemeyer opposing.

Motion made by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to do away with museum. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being 2 to 3, Commissioner Shuffield & Muegge voting yes; Commissioner Watkins, Fisher & Judge Barkemeyer voting no.

- Judge – I sleep with one of the volunteers
- Shuffield – that's a conflict of interest

Judge – motion on proposed budget? – no motion made

Muegge – Part time out of District & County Clerk budget

Judge – How did we do it?

Vansa – transfer from microfilm account

Karen Berry, District Clerk – no response

Lara – District clerk part time out of microfilm / Tax office add money to general fund

Watkins – who is going to check on the funding through line item reserves

Muegge – we all need to, so everyone knows

Motion by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to vote the 65/35 pending a response from TAC. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

Vansa – so I will lose 1-1/2 employees, actually 2 because the girls in my office can't afford to work part time. I was elected by the Milam County voters to serve the public, fill the duties of the County Clerk. If I don't have the staff, regardless if you are an elected official or appointed when you need something from my office we will direct you to it but you will have to do it yourself.

Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to adjourn the workshop at 2:45 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 24th 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 August 4 2015.

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

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

For August 4, 2015

Commissioner of Precinct No. 1

Commissioner of Precinct No. 3

Commissioner of Precinct No. 2

Commissioner of Precinct No. 4

**Minutes from the August 4, 2015 Milam County
Commissioners Court meeting and Volume 74 of the
Minutes of the Commissioner Court ends on**