

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Monday, the 28th day of March A. D. 2016, 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 VANSA, COUNTY CLERK

**Others present, to-wit
Kyle Nuttall, 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. – All present

#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,

- **March 14 2016 – Regular Meeting**
- **March 22 2016 – Health Department to discuss DSHS Region 7**
- **March 23 2016 – Tax Office to discuss External Audit**

#4 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

- **FRANKLIN STEWART – Public Information Act Request regarding the Audit of the Tax Collector Office. Distributed copies of the request & petition with**

signatures to Judge Barkemeyer, Kyle Nuttall Assistant County District Attorney and Vansa, County Clerk.

- **GRACE FIELDS – Sand Point Cemetery – road to cemetery still wanted – (Item 12)**
- **ANDY ISAACS – Audit – pass right now**

#5 – UTILITY INSTALLATIONS – NONE

#6 – PERMISSION FOR ENTRY AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Permission For Entry and Waiver of Claims by RALPH DIZZINE whose property is located on PR7056. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **Fisher – to be discussed in more detail later in meeting (referring to #12)**
- **Fisher – without road being prepared, taken care of you would have to go through his property that's the reason for this waiver.**

#7 – TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, HEALTH SERVICE REGION 7

- **We had a workshop last Tuesday to discuss discontinuing the County Health Department and have Region 7 take over Immunizations, Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV, Tuberculosis and Preparedness.**
- **Region 7 visited both the Cameron and Rockdale sites – we got an email saying there may be some modifications needed to the offices and Region 7 would take care of it with the Court's approval.**
- **Roof needs repairing at the One Stop but it is a \$50,000 or more job – there are a lot of county buildings that leak – the tax accessor's office and others but we don't have the money right now we just need to patch them and look for money to replace them one at a time**

Maribeth Sexton – roof repairs need to be shared by all departments in there – workforce commission, WIC, health department – everyone needs to pay their fair share

Judge – but with the exception of the roof the facilities are acceptable according to Dr. Melville & Debra Seamans.

Maribeth Sexton – we had rain Wednesday and Olivia was at the clinic and looked for water on the floor or fresh leaks – there was no water dripping or water on the floor – of course it was a blowing rain and I don't know if that makes a difference or not - at this point asked Andy if he could replace the ceiling tiles that are at risk on falling on someone in the waiting room and wait for the next rain to see if there are any active leaks.

Andy Isaacs – yes the roof needs to be replaced – there are some spots where you can daylight. But I will replace the tiles and we will just see the next time it rains but we are patching the patches at this point

Judge – Motion for a Memorandum of Agreement

Maribeth – before taking a vote someone asked at the workshop about the salaries. I have range of salaries for the nurse and clerk that I gave to you today – also a handout showing the # of clients seen all last year of 2771 – the average clients per month is 187 at a cost of \$113.00 per client with county and grant funds

Muegge – I talked to Byron @ AMR, not sure if he's here –

Byron with AMR – yes – ambulance & single person paramedic with Health Department personnel; County provides immunizations; our charge \$40 per hour

Maribeth – This last fall I approached Standards about assisting us with giving flu shots and they said they did not have the infrastructure to do so and didn't want anything to do with it and discussed it with Girling and their LVN wanted \$65/hour to do and when we agreed they said they did not want to do it after all.

Chris White, Sheriff Office – if we put preparedness at the regional level would we get it as needed; immunizations?

Maribeth – we will have a nurse and clerk assigned to this county and if we had an incident today I am not sure we could manage on our own with one nurse and clerk so today we would have to ask for assistance from the region.

Susan Reinders – we will have an exercise in May with the region 7 staff and will be testing with the region

Shuffield – how much of time were you (to Chris) aware of before today

White – some yes, some no. I want to make sure we will have the service we need.

Maribeth – any supplies or equipment bought by preparedness in Region 7 does not belong to anyone. Susan and Monica worked hard to make sure if there was an incident in Milam county we would have enough supplies to maintain ourselves for three days. Chris, the work that Monica and Susan have done on the PODs at the schools is excellent. We have a location, a layout of the where/how the clinic would be set up and how it would flow. Those agreements have been updated and will not go away.

Anything bought with preparedness funds belongs to the State and if there is a hurricane in Brownsville our supplies and equipment could be asked for and would go where they are needed

White – don't want the region to say they don't have staff. Are they on call 24/7?

Rae Beth Summers – no

Maribeth – Yes, Region 7 is on call 24 / 7 for a public health emergency

Shuffield – one day in Cameron & one day in Rockdale? I've lived here all my life and we have 17 to 20% poverty level. Some don't have way to drive; as it is now we have 2 days here, 2 in Rockdale, we can count on this. Too many probables of it not working.

Maribeth – if we need it here more they will be here - today if we have a client come into the Cameron office and we are in Rockdale we tell them and 99% of the time they say I will come back when they are back here – they don't travel to Rockdale

Shuffield – When you were hired you were asked to look for Director & have some answers that haven't been answered – when we first started we were going to look for a director and as far as I know a director hasn't been looked for

Maribeth – today we have a nurse 4 days a week – you would be losing 1 day; I want to come to the Regions defense, they have a lot of staff and can pull other staff into our area if needed. If the nurse is out we don't see clients. It is hard for change – only 4 counties our size still have health departments –we do not enough grant money to fund 100% of everything – and the State won't allow it – the county has to be fund portions of the costs. Today we don't go to Thorndale, Gause, Davilla & Milano.

Rae Beth Summers – we do go to Milano

Maribeth – we only go to Milano and Thorndale to vaccinate the school teachers

Judge – what Donald is saying is right. It boils down to what we don't know. How we come out with Luminant, the attorneys don't know, may be a jury trial. I'm trying to prepare us for the 2017 budget, may not have a settlement before then, trying to plan for less expenditures; it's a matter of what do we do; my plan is cut some more cost; take step to hire a Director.

Linda Meyer – if you decide to turn it over to the State & it doesn't work is there any way to get it back?

Judge – probably not.

Patsy Gaines - " You keep going back to " we are a small health department" and I was a member of the TACCHO (Texas Association of City and County Health Officials) and we met every other month in Austin. If there were any decisions and votes that needed to be done for rulings of the a law or anything legislative, Milam County's vote counted just like a large health department with a population of 1 million or more. When we had to go to the Capitol, our little county was just as important as a large one.

Just because we are small - we are important just as any other health department in the State of Texas.

Maribeth – yes you are right we do have a voice but the grants are coming up soon for renewal – we have two vacant positions now that are grant funded but I did not want to hire someone and let them go in four to six months -

Shuffield – it's easier to give up after the Luminant settlement; I think Jeff said he's still looking into some things also, I think we should wait

Maribeth – I was here one month & sat in on the budget workshop – departments were having to cut; we are the only one who can take the cut and maintain services

Frank Summers – one of my main concerns: I talked to Maribeth after the meeting last week and she said if the county goes belly up the Region would have to take on the responsibility.

Maribeth – yes if we do away with the health department the region has to take over but as the Judge said should we plan for the worst & hope for the best – if we wait for the health department to go belly up then we are guaranteeing our county citizens that they will have services only one day a week until the Region can get their staff approved and I don't know how long this would take

Muegge – I got a call this morning from a guy that is looking into some things

Maribeth – from who?

Muegge – they didn't want their name out. They asked to put off until Wednesday. I'm not going to vote for it or against it today. I think we need more time.

Fisher – I feel the same way, too many things about the space is unknown

Muegge – April is when we have to apply for the Preparedness grant?

Maribeth –The preparedness grant goes through July 1st

Curtis Chubb – is it possible for the grant to be transferred to the Region?

Maribeth – no, the Region does not get their funding through grants like a local health department. They are funded through State and Federal dollars through appropriations. If there is any questions, I don't want you to think I am being biased, you can talk directly to Region 7, I have their contact information.

Judge – sounds like turning it down or table until next meeting

Watkins – turn it down until next meeting

Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to table until next meeting. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

#8 – WOMEN INFANT AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to table until next meeting, April 11th. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

#9 – INDIGENT HEALTHCARE PROGRAM AND THE SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to table until next meeting, April 11th. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

#10 – MILAM COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve Grant 3143101, a JAG Grant submitted for 53,468 dollars worth of Special Investigative Narcotics Interdiction Equipment. There is no match requirement with this grant. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve Grant 3081001 is a State Funded Grant that assists Law Enforcement Agencies to apply for funds that will go directly to equipping front line first responders with body cameras. The grant was initiated in response to probable future legislation that will require law enforcement first responders to be equipped with body cameras. This is a grant that, upon approval, will require a 25% match in granted funds. The 25% match must be spent first before granted funds. The Resolution commits Milam County to spend a minimum of \$ 4,252.00 which is based on the initial application amount of \$ 17,005.00 requested to fund the Milam County Sheriff's Office body camera program. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **White stated these are the Resolutions which are required by the State before any grant is authorized.**
- **White stated we may be forced to wear body cameras – the County would be asked to fund for 14 front line deputies**
- **Judge – what was the grant money from TAC**
- **Lara – we can apply for it**
- **Judge – we need to apply law enforcement money**

#11 – ROAD NAME CHANGES FOR ALL 4 PRECINCTS – Motion by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the County Road changes in Precinct 1 as presented on the Milam County website power point. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

Motion by Commssioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the County Road changes in Precinct 2 as presented on the Milam County website power point. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **Trying to clear up for AMR who has had issues with it. I have had EMS three times come to my house & ask for directions.**
- **Shuffield to Joe Clark – do ya'll get your mail out there? On you private road?**

Sherry Mueck, Tax Assessor Collector – can we get these changes?

Elizabeth Leatherwood, CTCOG – yes. We will get the changes to the post office, AMR, emergency personnel, county.

Byron – who is responsible for the signage?

Shuffield – the county is. Hopefully in the next 2 months. I want to put all new signs as the others have.

Curtis Chubb – why the change?

Leatherwood – emergency response

Shuffield – if we can save one person's life with the change it's worth it.

Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the County Road changes in Precinct 3 as presented on the Milam County website power point. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

Susan – we will have workshops to notify people of the change

Leatherwood – PR7051 will be looked at after changes are made

Motion by Commssioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Fisher to approve the County Road changes in Precinct 4 as presented on the Milam County website power point. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

Muegge – Opey also has a CR 422.

White – format for PR is set up for 4 digits

Leatherwood – we look at 41219 again; CR 313 to 313A wasn't listed and neither was 306A to 306

#12 - SAND POINT CEMETERY – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Resolution granting Precinct 3 authority to improve the general public's access to Sand Point Cemetery. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **Pct 3 Commissioner to make limited changes**
- **Ralph Dizzine doesn't mind maintaining it if he has something to maintain**
- **Burials back 100 years**

#13 – R & B PRECINCT 2 BIDS – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to appoint Donald and Danica to a committee to open the bids and award the bid to the highest bidder. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **31 bids received**

#14 – ELECTION / RUNOFF PRIMARY ELECTION – Motion by Judge Barkemeyer, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to approve the Notice of Joint Democratic and Republican Runoff Primary Election for the May 24, 2016 Election. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- **Early Voting – Milam County Clerk's Office**
- **Election Day – Milam County Courthouse, Buckholts Community Center, Regional Juvenile Justice Center and Thorndale V.F.W. Hall**
- **Ballot by Mail request must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 4, 2016**

#15 – JP PRECINCT 4 NO LONGER SUBSTATION FOR TAX OFFICE – The Commissioners Court acknowledges Notice dated March 14, 2016 to the Tax Assessor Collector from Gary Northcott, JP Pct 3 that his office will no longer be a sub-station for the Tax Office, due to the inability of the Tax Office to fund the sub-station as agreed upon in October 2014.

- **Lara stated the clerk's pay was increased to the max**

- Mueck stated it was not the Tax Assessor Collectors decision to do this – it was Mr. Morthcott’s decision.
- Judge stated there have been concerns

#16 – PUBLIC ROAD OR RIGHT-OF-WAY – Motion by Commissioner Shuffield, seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the Order of Acceptance of Dedication of Right-of-Way on CR235 being an 0.14 acre tract. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- Shuffield stated this road is a TIF grant road

#17- BILLS – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$272,357.53 as presented to the court. This motion having been put to vote prevailed, the vote being unanimous.

- Transfer \$22,000 to the Museum budget

#168 - ADJOURN – Motion by Commissioner Fisher, seconded by Commissioner Muegge to adjourn @ 11:12 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 11th day of April 2016.

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 March 28 2016.

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

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

March 28 2016

Commissioner of Precinct No. 1

Commissioner of Precinct No. 3

Commissioner of Precinct No. 2

Commissioner of Precinct No. 4

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

March 28 2016

**Minutes from the March 28 2016 Milam County
Commissioners Court meeting ends on**