

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Tuesday, the 2nd day of August A. D. 2016, the Commissioners' Court of Milam County, Texas, convened in Special Meetings 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:

Franklin Stewart

Sheriff David Greene

Chris White, Chief Deputy

Sherry Mueck, Tax Assessor Collector

Frank Summers

Denise Wallace, County Judge's Secretary

Susan Reinders, HS/EMC

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

REVIEW 2016 EFFECTIVE TAX RATE AND ROLLBACK TAX RATE CALCULATIONS

DISCUSS AND MAKE DECISIONS ON PROPOSED 2016 TAX RATE AND 2017 REVENUE AND EXPENSE BUDGET

CALL MEETING TO ORDER & ESTABLISH QUORUM – 10:00 A.M.

Judge – we are here to discuss the 2016 Effective Tax Rate & Rollback Rate and discuss the 2017 Revenue & Expense Budget

Judge – I'm going to let Sherry go over the Tax Rate & Rollback because she needs to get back to her office.

Sherry – Figure and then stated 1,561,972,300 in Value

Calculated on a 90% collection because of the litigation with Luminant. We can go down to 80 if we need to but I think we should use 90%.

Judge – We must also use the contested values

- **Tax Rate this year is less than last year**
- **2016 is higher than 2015 and includes contested amounts. The Appraisal District increased the value on many properties and several are contesting that value.**
- **The Appraisal District Review board does not have Luminant in the 40 million contesting their value.**
- **The effective Tax Rate is lower than actual certified roll.**
- **Roll back rate is .70 cents per \$100**
- **5 cents tax increase will bring the taxes up to 70 cents, just under the roll back rate and we can raise it without being acceptable to be a roll back Election**

Sherry – Also not in here is the new properties but it will be added in

- **\$24,181,187 new improvements**
- **Approximately \$150,000 taxable amount**

Sheriff – I'm sorry Judge but did you say Luminant settled?

Judge – Luminant is settled with the Appraisal Review Board.

July budget –

\$690,000 spent from July General Fund

\$1,467,000 balance

\$825,000 in reserves

\$3.2M left

September will have three pay periods

\$1.3M balance

Basically good to go with 5 cents tax rate increase

Proposals – same as last report but added the Jailers and Dispatch employees

Danica –

\$55,000 for jail increases - \$1000 per employee plus benefits –

\$705,000 put in housing (Revenue) -

39 jailers & 8 dispatch jailers and Helen who is the Dispatch Supervisor –

Judge -

Revenue from Ad Valorem includes 5 cents increase based on 70 cents, 4.8% actual

–

2% salary increase for January 1st but won't start until Luminant is settled and if we have the money

Watkins - \$1000 for Sheriff also in January?

Judge – I would like for it to start September this year. This will say to this group “we recognize what you are doing”. Next year they will get the same increase as others.

Shuffield – this raise, do we need to run it through Court?

Judge – we will put it on the agenda for Monday

Sheriff – my understanding from the last meeting was \$1000 now and \$2000 next year with 2% raise

Judge – I don't remember that

Shuffield – I think so

Judge –

I'm thinking it (Luminant) will be settled by end of 2017 but not in time for the 2018 budget preparation.

I'm concerned with making too many commitments.

We have some others beside the jailers on the salary schedule due to advancement in the pay scale.

It's a very modest adjustment

Shuffield – I can see that but I can see the position David is in. The employees get trained then Sheriff loses them if we don't get the salaries up.

Sheriff – if we weren't housing prisoners we would not have this much money –

We got the lawsuit Tuesday morning and the Texas Rangers have been at my office everyday since and again today.

Don't mind other salary adjustments waiting until next year, my Deputies understand. I know if the money is not there I cannot gripe.

Muegge – so you would be ok with it

Sheriff – I will be back to ask for the \$2000 plus 2%

Judge – this will add \$110,000

Shuffield – the amount will be different because he's talking about ALL his employees.

Judge – we can't go up on taxes over 70cents

Sheriff – I'm not asking for all employees if the money is not there.

Vansa – with Sheriffs adjustments are the others the judge proposed a few weeks ago effective also

Judge – yes, if the money is in your budget you can give increase, if not in budget you cannot give increase

Vansa – I have extra in the Election budget and waiting on the Democratic party to pay their part from the March primary and May runoff elections.

Judge – we have to let the elected officials know if we are proposing raises for them.

Danica –so in this budget is 70 cent tax rate with extra \$1000 for the Sheriffs employees

Judge – we will not get anymore than what's there

Vansa – my understanding has been and from Westerman is you cannot spend it if it's not in the budget. So if Luminant pays and we don't have it budgeted then it cannot be spent.

Frank Summers – Barbara & the Judge are both right – can't spend if it's not budgeted and Elected Officials salary must be preapproved.

Judge – Government Code: Notify all elected officials by written notice –if they want to protest.

Danica – will give a copy to each department supervisor.

Judge - money from Luminant for this year's amount will go in your (Commissioners) budget. We're not going to have \$240,000 extra; do we want to spend down our reserves again? If we put \$240,000 compensation for Sheriff we would have to put anticipated payout from Luminant that's not here at this point. We need to leave as is.

**Muegge – if there is nothing there we need to wait until it's resolved
Fisher – until resolved**

Judge – The “extra” money will go toward the loan and replenish the reserve funds that will have been used plus \$200,000 back in the R & B accounts. Anticipate replenishing reserve can we have an emergency budget hearing? Line item adjustments for pay increases?

Shuffield – is there any certain criteria before you can call an emergency budget meeting? I don't think salaries would be an emergency.

Judge – well maybe so.

Shuffield – we need to get this settled. What you are saying is the \$1000 would be effective now?

Danica – September 3 payroll and receive on the 16th

Judge – everybody good to go with that? Put it on the agenda – proposed salary of 2% to take place at time of lawsuit being resolved?

Muegge – hinges on Luminant. We need to be sure we have the correct verbage for the jail increases.

Judge – Barbara suggested increase for Jodi out of election budget. How do you (Commissioners) feel about that?

Muegge – I don't have a problem with that.

Watkins – did you find out anything for Bartlett Fire Department?

Lara – we have \$1000 left in that account.

Watkins – Bartlett owns the truck, they get money for fire calls but no money for emergency calls. The truck insurance is \$2000.

Danica – Bill Torrey gave money out of the forfeiture fund this year

Judge to Danica add another 1,000 to that account. I think we should give Davilla \$2000.

Susan – High Profile Vehicle was used for rescue and they have been providing Mutual Aid with Buckholts and Thorndale VFDs.

Franklin Stewart – they are going to put in a helipad in area designated by the station

Judge to Watkins – Do you want to designate it for insurance?

Susan – You would make the check to Bartlett Fire Department Station #2 -Davilla

Shuffield – I think we mentioned last couple meetings to pay the Fire Departments in full at the beginning of the year.

Muegge – how many Volunteers does Bartlett have?

Susan – 6 trained and have bumper gear with room to increase. Not sure the funds need to be designated - they know they have bills (insurance, fuel, etc.) whatever they need they either receive donations or they have fundraisers.

Franklin Stewart – have 6 may be up to 9 volunteer firefighters.

Shuffield – is the tobacco money guaranteed every year?

Danica – every year it goes down and it's a lot of paper work

Judge – Indigent Defense – they are riding me because I ride such a tight court, biggest expense is in Judge Youngblood's Court. They are wanting me to give a court appointed attorney to anyone who requests one. We got \$31,000 last year and \$7000 the year before.

ADJOURN – Motion by Commissioner Muegge, seconded by Commissioner Shuffield 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 8th day of August 2016.

County Judge, David Barkemeyer

County of Milam:

State of Texas:

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 02 2016.

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

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL - August 02 2016

Commissioner of Precinct No. 1

Commissioner of Precinct No. 3

Commissioner of Precinct No. 2

Commissioner of Precinct No. 4

**Minutes from the August 02 2016 Milam County
Commissioners Court meeting ends on**

