

**MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS COURT, MOORE COUNTY, TEXAS
SPECIAL SESSION, MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023**

**STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF MOORE }**

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY, 2023 there came to be held a Special Session of Commissioners Court of Moore County, Texas in the Commissioner's Courtroom of the Courthouse in Dumas, Texas. The following persons were present to wit: Rowdy Rhoades, County Judge; Daniel Garcia, Commissioner Precinct 1; Miles Mixon, Commissioner Precinct 2; Dee Vaughan, Commissioner Precinct 3; Colt Farni, Commissioner Precinct 4 and Brenda McKanna, County Clerk.

Court having been opened according to law the following proceedings were had to wit:

Brandon Jones, Lieutenant reported the Ballistics Shield Grant for the Sheriff's Dept. has been fully funded in the amount of \$121,825.00.

TxDot will have an open forum at the Community Building on August 15, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. where TxDot officials will be available to answer any questions or concerns from the public.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughan to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 10, 2023. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni that the bills as presented by Coy Barton, County Auditor, be approved for payment and the County Treasurer is hereby directed to issue warrant-checks thereof. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mixon. Motion carried.

There were two bills presented for Special Handling:

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughan to amend the amount of the Resolution that was approved in July, 2022 for Meals on Wheels to \$1,000.00 instead of \$4,000.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to approve the payment to Texas Restaurant Equipment in the amount of \$2,616.66. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Judge Rhoades declared the meeting open for a public hearing at 9:16 A.M. in regards to a request from Texas Northwestern Railroad to close Nitrate Road. J. J. Talamantes, representative from TWNRR was present and asked the court to close the road. He stated they have received a grant and will be installing an additional set of tracks. He stated they would be responsible for placing all of the signage of the road closing and building a turn around. Judge Rhoades stated he has received a call from the school in regards to the school bus and stated it is not time but the extra miles they are concerned about. Commissioner Farni asked if the railroad had contacted the land owners and he stated they have contacted Commissioner Vaughan and the dairy. Commissioner Garcia stated he knows when traffic had to be re-routed due to an accident that Nitrate Road was heavily used and if a life depends on the road being opened it is not worth closing the road. There was some discussion in regards to drug deals being made in that area and the court believes it

would make it easier for drugs deals to be made. Commissioner Vaughan is a land owner on Nitrate Road and he stated he allowed the railroad to take down a fence years ago and now the railroad has started encroaching onto his property. Commissioner Garcia asked if the railroad just wanted the road closed so they did not have to break the trains and it was stated the reason was because of four tracks going across the road would make it a safety hazard. Mr. Fuston, representative from the Moore County Hospital stated that emergency services rarely used the road but when they do need to use the road time is a factor. Judge Rhoades declared the public meeting closed at 9:32 A.M. and opened Commissioner Court for routine business.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to not allow the closing of Nitrate Road as requested by Texas Northwestern Railroad. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried. Commissioner Vaughan "Abstained".

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to table action on participation in the Public Defender Expansion Program. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Farni. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mixon to allow the disaster declaration to expire based on the recommendation from Tommy Brooks, EOC. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to appoint Kassondra DeLeon, Cactus PD Officer to the juvenile board for a two-year term effective immediately. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Brandon Brown, District Attorney Investigator reported that it would cost the county \$139,190.40 to purchase a digital system. He stated PRPC will place equipment in Sunray and Cactus to help with hand held coverage in that area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to table until the budget work session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Farni. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mixon to table discussion on inmate transport agreement with A&B Bail Bonds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mixon to accept the donation from Epic Fuels in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the purpose of Crime Stoppers Fundraiser to be held at the airport. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mixon to authorize expenses up to \$3,000.00 with exact expenses to be presented at the next meeting in regards to using funds from Epic Fuels for the Crime Stoppers Fundraiser at the airport. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to approve the bond for Cullen Cook, Assistant District Attorney 69th Judicial District. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to approve the employment of Ezequiel Padilla with a starting salary of \$24.64 per hour with a .50 increase every six months for one year with a cell phone allowance of \$40.00 per month and a \$100.00 clothing allowance effective July 24, 2023. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mixon. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to approve the purchase of a new garage door opener in the amount of \$1,450.00 at the Sheriff's Office Barn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mixon. Motion carried. Commissioner Mixon stated he wants to go back to what Coy Barton, County Auditor stated for Elected Officials and Department Heads not to be spending money just because they have it in the budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to approve the purchase of vest carriers for the Sheriff's Dept. in the amount of \$3,321.76 with expenditure to be paid out of seized funds. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to approve the employment of Faron Samuels as maintenance/custodian employee effective July 11, 2023 with a salary of \$19.80 per hour with a .50 increase every six months for two years with a \$40.00 cell phone allowance. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

Raymond Tate, Road & Bridge Supervisor gave a report on the department. Raymond stated they are helping the City of Dumas seal coat this week. Commissioner Vaughan stated he would like to re-evaluate the county helping the City of Dumas when the county roads aren't being maintained but yet the county employees are helping the City of Dumas. He wants to have a discussion before the 2024 seal coat project begins. Commissioner Garcia stated he received some preliminary numbers for the road work at \$120,000.00-\$150,000.00 per mile.

During budget work session Coy Barton and Melissa Martinez were present for the third budget work session. Judge Rhoades stated he doesn't feel like the county needs to eliminate the position of Tara Vera, DPS Secretary just so the county can create a new position. Jason Rogers and Tara Vera with DPS appeared in regards to Tara's job duties with DPS. Tara stated what she does on a daily basis does benefit Moore County. She enters information for the troopers so they can be out on the roads issuing tickets, which she stated if she did not do that work the troopers would have to be in the office entering their reports instead of being out working traffic. She stated approximately \$450,000.00 has been generated in the past year. Commissioner Mixon stated it's not a question of what Tara's job duties are but whose responsibility it is to be funding her position and what benefits the county receives from her position.

Commissioner Vaughan stated as of right now with the budget request there is a \$1,535,409.00 deficit. The court asked Coy to see how much each 1% cost of living increase would cost. The court directed Coy to provide a total of all budget requests versus how much revenue is coming in and report back at the next budget work session.

Commissioner Vaughan stated he would like to have a very strategic plan of what the court would like the Road & Bridge Dept. duties to consist of. He stated he would like to research how much monies could be saved if the court contracted road work.

It appears there is no other business to come before the court. Motion was made by Commissioner
Mixon to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Farni. Motion carried.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES HAVING BEEN READ AND
APPROVED, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THEY BE AND ARE HEREBY
APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

J. Daniel Garcia
Commissioner Precinct 1, J. Daniel Garcia

Dee Vaughan
Commissioner Precinct 3, Dee Vaughan

Brenda McKanna
Attest: Brenda McKanna, County Clerk

Miles Mixon
Commissioner Precinct 2, Miles Mixon

Colt Farni
Commissioner Precinct 4, Colt Farni

Rowdy Rhoades
County Judge, Rowdy Rhoades

