

**MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS COURT, MOORE COUNTY, TEXAS
SPECIAL CALLED, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023**

STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF MOORE }

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS 7TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2023 there came to be held a Special Called Meeting of Commissioners Court, in the Commissioners Courtroom in the Courthouse in Dumas, Moore County, 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 County Clerk Brenda McKanna, County Clerk.

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to table any action on the \$500,000.00 payment to Plains Internet until such time they come to the court and give an update on the project. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan. Motion carried.

There was some discussion in regards to the CTIF Grant for the Road & Bridge Dept. It was stated there was approximately \$286,000.00 that has been reimbursed in the CTIF Grant Fund. Raymond stated he still has \$100,000.00 in his seal coat fund. Commissioner Garcia asked Raymond if there was enough rock to complete 5 miles of road for the road project. Raymond stated he does have plenty of rock. Raymond stated it would take approximately \$372,000.00 to seal coat with two layers three miles of road. Coy stated the court needs to make sure the \$286,000.00 can be used to complete the roads in Precinct 1 before they dedicate those funds to the road project. Commissioner Mixon asked Raymond to get him a list of what roads the \$286,000.00 was reimbursed for.

There was some discussion in regards to the Road & Bridge Dept. employees. Judge Rhoades stated he would like to cut one road grader operator and one truck driver. He presented a list of items he would like to cut out of the budget. Commissioner Garcia stated the Road & Bridge Dept. has not accomplished any of what the county said they would do in regards to building roads. He stated the county had to spend \$1.2 million to do the work that Road & Bridge should have done. He stated they are not solving the problems within the department by hiring two more employees. Commissioner Vaughan stated the court needs to have a strategic plan in regards to the responsibilities of the Road & Bridge Dept. He stated if you look at the wages and benefits that the county has spent on the department in the last 18 months the county has lost money. Commissioner Garcia stated he is not in favor of growing the department and believes there are people within the department that can step up into the position of an operator. Commissioners Vaughan and Garcia have seen Road & Bridge employees coming in early and parking their equipment and propping their feet up and being on their phones when they could have got another hour of work done. Raymond stated the Road & Bridge Dept. should just be a maintenance department and not build roads. Copy of list attached and made a part hereof by references.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mixon to approve the employment of Edward Hernandez as a truck driver for the Road & Bridge Dept. effective August 14, 2023 with a starting salary of \$26.52 per hour with a .50 increase every six months for two years with a \$40.00 per month cell phone allowance. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Farni. Commissioner Garcia and Judge Rhoades Voted "No". Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farni to approve the employment of Parker Garmany as a truck driver for the Road & Bridge Dept. effective August 14, 2023 with a starting salary of \$26.52 per hour with a .50 increase every six months for two years with a \$40.00 per month cell phone allowance. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mixon. Commissioner Garcia and Judge Rhoades Voted "No". Motion carried.

During budget work session Coy Barton and Melissa Martinez were present for the fourth budget work session. Coy presented the fourth draft of the budget with a deficit of \$2,415,897.00 which does not include the \$500,000.00 to Plains Internet or the \$450,000.00 for the road project. He stated for every .01 increase in taxes it would raise approximately \$295,900.00. Judge Rhoades presented a list of cuts he would like to take out of the proposed budget. He stated he would like for the Sheriff's Dept. to use the SB22 funds they will be receiving to fund the two new positions they are requesting. Brandon Jones, Lieutenant stated they have received a request from Park Services and they were looking at the possibility of purchasing a side by side out of the SB22 funds and pay for the law enforcements portion of the digital radios. Commissioner Mixon stated the DPS should be handling their own employee and he would like to allow the Tax Assessor to have a new position as requested.

Motion was made by Commissioner Vaughan to keep the Tax Assessor's request in the budget and eliminate the DPS Secretary position. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Mixon. Motion carried. Judge Rhoads and Commissioner Farni Voted "No".

Coy would like to encourage all Elected Officials and Department Heads to not spend funds that are budgeted if it is not an absolute necessity. Judge Rhoades will send out an email asking officials and department heads to be careful about nonessential spending. The court directed Coy to make necessary adjustments to the budget and report back at the next budget hearing on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

It appearing that there was no other business to come before the Court at this time, motion was made by Commissioner Mixon that the meeting stand adjourned. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vaughan 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.

Daniel Garcia
Commissioner Precinct 1, Daniel Garcia

- Dee Vaughn -
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

