

Marshal had a power point presentation which started with the requirements for an operational permit. The permit fee, which hadn't increased in eight years, is \$30, but the applicant can send a written request to the Fire Marshal's office ten business days prior to the expiration date and they will be granted a 90-day extension at no fee. His office received complaints from people that bought a permit but could not use it due to the burn ban. The Fire Marshal said their time can be flipped around.

Claude Frazier of McKinney came forward to speak. He's the caretaker for 270 acres of land in Collin County that's been in his family for 154 years. Burning brush and downed trees is necessary for pasture maintenance. He thought the increase was outrageous. Mr. Frazier stated it's not right to charge a fee to burn brush on ag land. The six counties that surround Collin County do not charge a fee for ag land burn use; four of those six counties do not require burn permits. After talking to the Fire Marshal Mr. Frazier said he can understand why it is an advantage to the county to have a permit because then they know where people are if fires get out of control. He respectfully asked the Court to eliminate any fees for burn permits for ag land use. (Time: 7:16 p.m.)

The Fire Marshal's plans for 2012 are:

- make the applications available online so the customers can complete the burn permit applications online
- make it possible for the customer to pay for applicable permits online
- make it possible for the applicant to print their own permits without having to drive into McKinney

Following discussion, Commissioner Webb said he is okay with doing something for agricultural purposes on ag land. Commissioner Jaynes made a motion for no fee on pasture or agricultural land as long as it can be defined. Commissioner Webb seconded as long as it's for agricultural purposes. (Time: 7:27 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Joe Jaynes

Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2011-962-12-05

9. AI-34538 Letter to legislators regarding NorthStar funding, County Judge.

Judge Self led this discussion. He said the sense of the Court last time was that we take a very hard line on this; therefore, Mr. Bilyeu drafted the letter that is the subject of this discussion. The letter was requesting that Collin County be permitted to withdraw from the NorthStar program. Since then the state has reinstated \$5 million in funding to NorthStar but that is still a very low level of funding. The Judge stated, for all its faults, NorthStar gives treatment at some level to our citizens. Some of our providers are concerned that we may have no money from the state. The Judge referred to the Phase Three Report prepared by the UNT Health Science Center, saying it had a

halfway measure that the County has not followed up on, which is to form a better method of providing services within Collin County, within NorthStar. The Judge noted our judges have been very helpful with moving mental health inmates through the judicial system faster. Judge Self thinks we need to move back to the Phase Three Report in terms of improving services in Collin County. Commissioner Williams agreed with Judge Self.

Bill Baumbach, Wylie, came forward. He was present as a result of the letter, so he was glad to hear what the Court said. Mr. Baumbach went to a meeting of the Behavior and Health Authority and he feels there is room for fixing the organization. He said we need the legislature's help but the solution is not to secede from it and go play lone wolf. His question to Judge Self is what about these other counties? He asked if the other counties could be forming an alliance so they can speak with one voice to help the legislature and the Authority reform itself or do we have to go alone and try to fix it and make it look like we're complaining that we're not being treated fairly? The Judge replied there is frustration on the NTBHA (North Texas Behavioral Health Authority) board due to funding from the state. (Time: 7:33 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

10. Board/Committee Appointments, Commissioners Court:

a. **AI-34594** Re-nomination of Pat Hatchell to serve as a member on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC). (Time: 7:47 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Joe Jaynes
Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2011-963-12-05

b. **AI-34567** Historical Commission.

Commissioner Jaynes re-appointed Diane Miller and Paula Ross to the Historical Commission. (Time: 7:47 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Joe Jaynes
Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

c. **AI-34568** LifePath Systems Board.