

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2020-1146-11-16
Commissioners Court	§	

**An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the October 19, 2020 minutes.**

On Monday, October 19, 2020 the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in Regular Session in the Commissioners Courtroom, Jack Hatchell Collin County Administration Building, 4th Floor, 2300 Bloomdale Road, City of McKinney, Texas, with the following members present, and participating, to wit:

- Judge Chris Hill
- Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1
- Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2
- Commissioner Darrell Hale, Precinct 3
- Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Commissioner Hale led the invocation  
 Judge Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance  
 Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

1. Judge Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners Court at 1:30 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Housing Finance Corporation at 3:05 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 3:16 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

**DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:**

1. AI-49298 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.
2. AI-49299 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

**FYI NOTIFICATION**

1. AI-49247 Intra-County transfers transmitted on September 30, 2020, Auditor.
2. AI-49304 County overtime for the pay period ended October 4, 2020, Human Resources.

**3. Notification of budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**

a. **AI-49285** \$27,311 for the continuation of increased salaries for two (2) Deputy Sheriffs and fund the salaries of two (2) Professional Standards Deputies, utilizing Federal Forfeiture funds, Sheriff.

**2. Public Comments**

Letha Pilgrim, McKinney, told the Court she is a small business owner running the Collin County Homeschool Fine Arts Program which provides band and orchestra for homeschooled students. Ms. Pilgrim sees approximately 100 to 125 students per week and has seen the strain on the children from having to wear masks and being isolated. She asked the Court to allow individuals to make the choice of whether or not to wear a mask. Depression with seniors is also an issue. The virus can be overcome, but the negative and lasting impact of the isolation may be there for a long time.

Jim Garrison, McKinney, addressed the Court regarding the vote on May 29<sup>th</sup> which gave Collin County's responsibility of collecting and reporting data to the State. There is a special city council meeting in McKinney tomorrow which will be looking at repealing the mask mandate. Mr. Garrison said he has spoken with many city council members throughout Collin County, and they are looking to Commissioners Court for correct and accurate data so they can make wise choices in their city governments. Mr. Garrison spoke to the inaccuracies in the data on the cities' dashboards, and that there will be families that will never be able to recover from this economic disaster. Mr. Garrison said the restrictions, ordinances and mandates will far outweigh anything the virus could have done. He encouraged the Court to revisit the May 29<sup>th</sup> vote.

Jim Westerheid, McKinney, addressed the Court regarding the faulty thinking around social distancing having any scientific merit. Mr. Westerheid said, if you analytically work the problem using engineering science or physics, the answer is significantly different from what the public has been told for months. (Time: 1:42 p.m.)

**3. Presentation/Recognition.**

**4. Consent agenda to approve:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the consent agenda. (Time 1:42 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

a. **AI-49249** Disbursements for the period ending October 13, 2020, Auditor.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1018-10-19**

b. AI-49250 Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1019-10-19

c. **Award(s):**

1. AI-49279 Construction, Controls Replacement, 900 & 920 Park Blvd Buildings, Plano (IFB No. 2020-344) to Dallas Mechanical Group, LLC and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute construction agreement for same, Construction & Project.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1020-10-19

2. AI-49276 Maintenance: VMware (Coop Quote No. 2020-425) to Mvation Worldwide, Inc. through GSA Contract No. GS-35F-0119Y, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1021-10-19

d. **Agreement(s):**

1. AI-49277 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the North Texas Municipal Water District concerning construction of Park Boulevard extension, Special Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1022-10-19

e. **Amendment(s):**

1. AI-49245 No. 1 to Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services (Agreement No. 2020-219) with Farmersville ISD to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2021, make various changes to the contract, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1023-10-19

2. AI-49258 No. 1 to Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services (Agreement No. 2019-392) with Farmersville Fire Department to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2021, make various changes to the contract, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1024-10-19

3. AI-49269 No. 1 to Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services (Agreement No. 2020-033) with the City of Melissa to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2021, make various changes to the contract, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1025-10-19

4. AI-49261 No. 5 to Election Voting System & Services (Contract No. 2018-241) with Election Systems & Software, LLC to add hourly rate for elections services, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Elections.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1026-10-19

5. AI-49262 No. 11 to Voter Registration & Early Voting Software (Contract No. 02376-09) with VOTEC Corporation to add Mail Ballot Activity Portal and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Elections.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1027-10-19

**f. Change Order(s):**

1. AI-49280 No. 1 to Construction, Roof Replacement, Collin County Central Plant (IFB No. 2020-132) with Nations Roof Central, LLC to make various changes to the contract, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1028-10-19

**g. Contract Renewal(s):**

1. AI-49268 Uniforms, Law Enforcement & Related Items (Contract No. 2017-288) with Galls, LLC to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including August 6, 2021, utilizing the City of Frisco Contract No. 1804-060 - Law Enforcement Uniforms, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1029-10-19

**h. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**

1. AI-49185 \$36,456 to establish the budget for the FY 2021 Community Mental Health Program grant, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1030-10-19

2. AI-49264 \$5,262 to reallocate funds for the Spay/Neuter Program, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1031-10-19

**i. Filing of the Minute(s), County Clerk:**

1. AI-49265 September 21, 2020.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1032-10-19

2. AI-49270 September 28, 2020.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1033-10-19

j. **Miscellaneous**

1. AI-49017 Re-appointment of Jason Browning as the County Fire Marshal for a two (2) year term, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1034-10-19

2. AI-49311 Designation of the 2021 Commissioners Court regular term meeting dates and times, Commissioners Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1035-10-19

3. AI-49284 Final plat and sign plan for Providence Point Phase 2, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1036-10-19

4. AI-49300 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1037-10-19

5. AI-49301 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1038-10-19

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

5. AI-49260 Public Hearing - FY 2021 Preservation, Restoration, and Records Archive Plan, District Clerk.

Judge Hill said this item would be held for a future Court. (Time: 1:43 p.m.)

HELD

6. AI-49189 Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, Commissioner, Precinct 4.

The Court returned to this item after discussing item 7 on General Discussion.

Commissioner Webb introduced Julie Partain, Bracewell, who gave an overview of the program. It is a method to encourage energy and water efficiency projects by providing a lower cost to a property owner to construct and install energy efficient improvements to their property. A qualified improvement means a permanent improvement fixed to real property and intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand. This is for commercial or multi-family properties. This would be a tri-party program for lenders, property owners and the County.

The process for establishing the program requires the Court to adopt a resolution evidencing intent to establish a program, hold a public hearing, and finally adopt a resolution establishing the program. A program administrator must be selected to administer the program for the County and find qualified projects and property owners. It is an assessment and has the same value as ad valorem taxes. The assessment is enforced by foreclosure. The County may impose fees to offset the costs of administering the program that are paid by the property owner. The County may recover costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, in a suit to collect a delinquent installment of an assessment in the same manner as in a suit to collect a delinquent property tax.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made to begin the process of setting up the Collin County PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program open to any and all administrators. (Time: 12:55 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 4 – 1 Passed

Nay: Commissioner Darrell Hale

**COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1039-10-19**

7. **AI-48410** COVID-19 Update, Administrative Services.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, said the County continues to operate, and all equipment that has been delivered has been installed. The PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) inventory is well stocked.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if the County has the capacity to take over the case counts, investigations and contact tracing. Mr. Bilyeu said the County does not have the capacity to do that internally. The County does not have the hardware to do it, and there is an extreme shortage of base level laptops available on the market. Also, money was not budgeted for after January 1st so there would be no funding available. Lastly, the County is currently struggling to fill open positions.

The staff used before was managed by the epidemiologist which were the second-level review. The baseline people who were making the phone calls were County staff. Since the County has fully reopened, those employees have gone back to their regular duties. The epidemiologists do not have the capacity to take on contact tracing. Their shifts are full now dealing with businesses and schools. Commissioner Fletcher also asked, if we were doing the work internally, would the numbers be drastically different than what we are getting from the State. Mr. Bilyeu said the County would have the same sources for the data as the State.

Judge Hill asked what the State is doing on the County's behalf in terms of contact tracing. Mr. Bilyeu said the State takes every file into the system and makes calls. The County does a sampling of case files to make sure calls are being made. However, nationally fewer people are taking the calls, and some are starting to decline giving out information regarding who they have been around.

Candy Blair, Healthcare Administrator, said they spoke with Chicago, New York City, Denver and Los Angeles last week to see if they are also experiencing difficulty with people answering the phone calls or giving a list of contacts. Many of the individuals are calling their contacts themselves. We are experiencing COVID fatigue. By staying with Texas Health Trace, Ms. Blair said we are able to keep businesses and schools open.

She has received no complaints from County citizens saying they have not been contacted or were not given guidance. Ms. Blair introduced Daphne Lynch, Epidemiologist, to present a PowerPoint presentation on Collin County Health Care Services – Epidemiology and COVID-19.

Ms. Lynch explained the difference between contact tracing provided by DSHS (Department of State Health Services) and contact tracing completed at CCHCS (Collin County Health Care Services). Before June 1, 2020, COVID-19 cases were reported via NEDSS (National Electronic Disease Surveillance System) and through faxes. Labs from NEDSS and faxes had to be manually entered into Laserfiche. Thirty-nine Health Care employees were assisting full time with data entry of the labs and faxes. Cases were then assigned to an investigator also referred to as a contact tracer. There were 159 trained Collin County employees (non-healthcare) for contact tracing. Many of these employees had to return to their jobs, so there were only 60 employees actively working on cases when the transition to THT (Texas Health Trace) was implemented on June 1, 2020. Also, Laserfiche required multiple full-time employees for the IT Department. At this time, data management and the dashboard updates continued to be maintained by Collin County IT and internal staff at CCHCS. Positive labs from NEDSS were now able to be imported directly to THT. Positive labs from faxes were sent to DSHS for manual data entry into THT by DSHS staff. After the THT implementation and DSHS took over contact tracing, the epidemiology staff were able to devote resources to outbreaks occurring at businesses and schools. Individualized attention from epidemiology has diminished fears, cleared up confusion, and allowed for establishments to remain open. There have also been 2,079 other disease reports that were non-COVID related handled by epidemiology since January 2020.

Commissioner Williams said, while not comparing influenza to COVID, the prevalence of influenza is similar to COVID yet we do not track it or other viral types of disease. Ms. Lynch said influenza is only reportable in outbreak circumstances.

Ms. Lynch explained there have been 467 DSHS contact tracers assisting with Collin County contact tracing through THT since June 1, 2020. Based on the average number of cases reported per day, to move back to in-house contact tracing the County would need 39 additional full-time employees and six additional full-time team leads working seven days a week to complete contact tracing. Additional employees would be needed as relief staff to alleviate the burden of seven days per week. The County would also need three additional full-time employees for data entry into THT seven days per week plus relief staff. This would also include IT staff to deal with data management. The focus from the epidemiology staff would move to the logistics of in-house contact tracing and data entry which would take away the attention from current schools and business assistance. This would likely lead to more closures and outbreaks in the community.

The hiring process for 48 full-time employees would take four to eight weeks and training the new staff would take approximately four weeks. The County would need new office space and workstations, 48 computers, physical phones and phone lines.

Regarding the dashboard management, Ms. Lynch said updates to NEDSS and the overwhelming amount of backlogged cases has nothing to do with contact tracing being completed by DSHS. Backlogs will continue to occur regardless of who completes contact tracing. Healthcare providers and testing sites will continue to fail to report in a timely manner. CCHCS recommends the County continue to use DSHS-funded contact tracers to complete contact tracing through THT, and the County epidemiology staff should continue to place full-time focus on schools and businesses.

Commissioner Hale said the data will be the same going into the dashboard whether the County or the State puts it in. Commissioner Williams said, when the tests come in, they can be from any time in the past several months. When the backlog is continually being put in as new cases, it overstates what the new cases are each day and artificially inflates the numbers. Commissioner Williams wants the public to know, because of the backlog of cases, we will not get clean data whether we are putting the numbers in or the State is. Ms. Blair believes things will smooth out over time because some of the providers are new. Sam Grader, Health Care Coordinator, said every new case has a specimen collection date, so they are able to differentiate between the new cases and those from the backlog that may have already recovered. There was a brief conversation regarding how other counties are handling the data. Denton County is the most similar to Collin County, and Judge Hill said he has not heard that they are in a dire situation handling the responsibilities. Commissioner Williams said, if we have to track COVID every year, it will be a near impossible task. It may be a financial decision in the future.

Judge Hill said there are no Executive Orders in place in Collin County restricting behavior, movement or businesses. However, there is a disaster declaration in place for Collin County. On September 24, 2020, Judge Hill wrote a proclamation to cancel the disaster declaration, but he did not sign it. After reviewing the proclamation, it was determined if it were signed, the federal aid that was provided for the family assistance program and small business program would be stopped. The County has promised to help out through the end of December 2020, so the Judge did not sign the proclamation.

Commissioner Williams said the mask mandate is related to the Governor's orders and we cannot usurp his orders. The County would need to have 14 straight days of no more than 20 new cases per day. (Time: 2:37 p.m.)

**NO ACTION**

8. **AI-48414** Utilization of CARES funding, Commissioners Court.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, showed a map of all of the small businesses that had completed their submissions for the small business program. Another \$1.1 million in small business grants were approved today. Regarding



outside agencies, there was a request for reimbursement of \$2,654 for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from the Community Health Clinic which is a non-profit operating within the county. If the Court takes action on this, Mr. Bilyeu will reach out to the other non-profit clinics. A motion was made to fund the Community Health Clinic for their PPE expenses provided they submit receipts showing they are COVID-related expenses. (Time: 2:59 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher  
Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale  
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2020-1040-10-19**

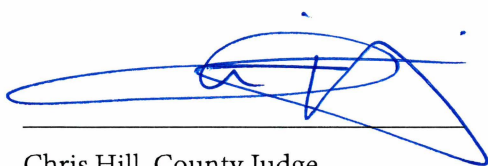
9. **AI-33858** Regional Transportation Council monthly update, Commissioner, Precinct 4.

Commissioner Webb said the main item of interest was the 2021 (UTP) Unified Transportation Program and Regional 10-Year Plan. The Texas Transportation Commission decided to reduce the allocations that were recommended by the RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) related to freeway projects. As a result, Collin County lost tens of millions of dollars previously allocated to US380 and another North-South freeway east of US75. (Time: 3:05 p.m.)

**NO ACTION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Court did not recess into Executive Session. There being no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

  
Chris Hill, County Judge

  
Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3

  
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1



  
Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4

Not Present  
Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2

  
ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk