

STATE OF TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

COUNTY OF COLLIN

On Monday, September 15, 2014, 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:

Commissioner Mark Reid, Precinct 1  
Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2  
Commissioner Chris Hill, Precinct 3  
Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Absent: Judge Keith Self

Commissioner Hill led the Invocation.  
Commissioner Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

1. Commissioner Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners' Court at 1:30 p.m. and recessed the meeting at 3:21 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:22 p.m. and recessed into Executive Session at 3:22 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:58 p.m. and adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Trustee Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 3:21 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Director Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Housing Finance Corporation at 3:21 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

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

1. AI-38779 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

**FYI NOTIFICATION**

1. AI-34688 Outstanding Agenda Items, Commissioners Court.

2. AI-38703 Budget amendment in the amount of \$9,936 for reimbursement to the DA Service Fund from the DA State Forfeiture Fund for prior year activity for DA Investigator cell phone supplement, Auditor.

## 2. Public Comments.

Ann Sampson, McKinney, opposes any tolling on US75 saying it is double taxation. The legislature can adequately fund transportation in 2015 as transportation is one of the more important functions of government. NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments) should not be controlling transportation for our local area. Ms. Sampson feels unelected officials do not care about the rights of taxpayers or the benefit and welfare of the community and asked the Court to keep the HOV lane untolled and sufficiently policed or opened up to the whole highway. (Time: 1:35 p.m.)

Laura Lutek, McKinney, continues to oppose the tolling on US75 and was shocked to find out it could cost nearly \$10 to drive from McKinney to Dallas during peak rush hour. Ms. Lutek hopes the County can find other means of funding to avoid tolling US75. NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments) represents a population greater than the population of 37 of our states and Ms. Lutek questioned the County's having any local control with that large of a population. (Time: 1:44 p.m.)

## 3. Presentation/Recognition:

### a. Service Pins, Human Resources.

Bob Hughes, CSCD (Community Supervision and Corrections), presented Steve Scales, a supervisor in the Plano office, with a service plaque for 25 years of outstanding service. Mr. Scales implemented and continues to work on the Sex Offender Program which helps make our community safer. (Time: 1:41 p.m.)

**4. Consent agenda to approve:** Commissioner Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled the checks to Schindler Corporation and Atlantic Relocation Systems. The Commissioner then pulled items 4c1, 4c2, 4d2, 4e2, 4e5, 4f6, 4f7, 4h1, 4j1 and 4j3. Commissioner Reid pulled items 4d1 and 4g1. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda and item 4g2 on the Supplemental Agenda. (Time: 1:37 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

### a. **AI-38823** Disbursements for the period ending September 9, 2014, Auditor.

All disbursements with the exception of Schindler Corporation and Atlantic Relocation Systems were approved with the consent agenda vote.

Commissioner Webb pulled the Atlantic Relocation System's check which was for moving election equipment. This was coming from the General Fund and the Commissioner thought much of this should be billed to the cities and taxing districts. Sharon Rowe, Elections, explained in primary elections the County is obligated by statute to fund early voting. Election Day is billed back to the political parties. Ms. Rowe had asked the Auditor's Office for a journal entry to move \$7,680 to the 033 Contract Fund because it has been billed to the political parties. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:01 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-618-09-15**

The Schindler check was held for a quorum at the next Court.

**HELD**

**b. Advertisement(s):**

1. **AI-38764** Insurance, Group Life & Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) (RFP No. 2014-304), Human Resources.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-619-09-15**

2. **AI-38766** Insurance, Short & Long Term Disability (RFP No. 2014-303), Human Resources.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-620-09-15**

**c. Award(s):**

1. **AI-38785** Services: Exterminator Pest Control and Termite Prevention/Treatment (IFB No. 2014-175) to Collin County Pest Services, Facilities.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item because the recommended award for pest control is \$29,000 with the next highest bid at \$48,000 and the highest bid at \$80,000. With such a huge discrepancy among the bids, the Commissioner wanted to make sure Purchasing was comfortable with the detail of the services and that all vendors were bidding the same thing. Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, said the two highest bids submitted a yearly price instead of a monthly price. Purchasing is satisfied with the vendor's references.

Commissioner Webb also wanted to make sure there was some way to get out of the contract if the County was not satisfied with the vendor. Ms. Rains confirmed there was a 30-day cancellation period. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:03 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Mark Reid  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-621-09-15**

**2. AI-38722** Detergents and Dispensers Laundry and Kitchen (IFB No. 2014-139) to Ecolab Inc., Sheriff.

Commissioner Webb asked, since there was only one bid, if Purchasing was comfortable with the pricing and asked if the County has any experience with this bidder. Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, explained this is the current vendor and the prices have not increased. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:04 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-622-09-15**

**d. Agreement(s):**

**1. AI-38700** Statewide Automated Victim Notification Services (SAVNS) Maintenance Grant Contract with The Office of the Attorney General for the period beginning September 1, 2014 through and including August 31, 2015 with a maximum liability of the Office of the Attorney General NTE \$27,715.32 and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute same, Auditor.

Commissioner Reid pulled this item because there is a comment about equipment that might be purchased being the responsibility of the County. The Commissioner asked if there is any equipment associated with this. Jeff May, County Auditor, said we have never had to purchase equipment and it has only been for software over time. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:05)

Motion by: Commissioner Mark Reid  
Second by: Commissioner Chris Hill  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-623-09-15**

2. **AI-38762** 2015 State and Local Task Force Agreement - HIDTA with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item due to a typo in the number of officers assigned to the taskforce. Major Mike Anderson, Sheriff's Office, said there is only one deputy assigned. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the item with the correction showing "one" deputy. (Time: 2:06 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-624-09-15**

3. **AI-38796** Interlocal Agreement with the City of Princeton for Dispatch Services to be paid in quarterly installment payment of \$14,263.47 (totaling \$57,053.88) through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-625-09-15**

**e. Amendment(s):**

1. **AI-38797** No. 1 to Insurance, Excess Liability and Worker's Compensation (RFP No. 2013-333) with Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Human Resources.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-626-09-15**

2. **AI-38694** No. 1 to Insurance, Third Party Claims Administration (RFP No. 2013-332) with TriStar Risk Management to extend the contract for one (1) year though and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Human Resources.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item because of a drafting issue. On page 595 of the Court packet, "flat eee" should be "flat fee." Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, will have the correction made. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:06 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-627-09-15**

3. **AI-38776** No. 1 to Jury Management System (RFP No. 2013-179) with Xerox Government Systems, LLC to provide various changes to the contract and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Information Technology.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-628-09-15**

4. **AI-38669** No. 1 to Services: Digital Imaging (RFP No. 2013-155) with Databank IMX LLC to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Information Technology.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-629-09-15**

5. **AI-38768** No. 2 to Insurance, General Liability & Workers Compensation (RFP No. 06309-12) with Wells Fargo Insurance Services, USA to extend the contract for the period October 1, 2014 through and including September 30, 2015, new premium rate in the amount of \$355,930 for General Liability and \$26,464.70 for Healthcare Liability and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Human Resources.

Commissioner Webb asked why there is a reference to Workers' Compensation when there is no Workers' Comp in the item. Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, said this is an extension of an RFP conducted in FY2012 and the original RFP did have a Workers' Compensation scope in it. Under this RFP, no Workers' Compensation was awarded.

The Commissioner's second issue was he could not get the numbers to work and wanted to confirm the County is paying \$440,595 of which \$62,680 is Excess Liability, \$25,106 is Healthcare and \$3,131 is TRIPRA (Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act). Cynthia Jacobson, Human Resources, confirmed that the Commissioner's numbers were correct. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:09 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-630-09-15**

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

1. **AI-38789** No. 2 to Supplies, Janitorial (IFB No. 05263-12) with Pollock Paper Distributors for a price redetermination, delete various items and extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Facilities.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-631-09-15**

2. **AI-38788** No. 2 Signs: Road, Parking and Custom (IFB No. 2013-043) with Pathmark Traffic Products of Texas, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Public Works.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-632-09-15**

3. **AI-38787** No. 2 to Signs: Road, Parking and Custom (IFB No. 2013-043) with Custom Products Corporation to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Public Works.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-633-09-15**

4. **AI-38773** No. 3 to Supplies, Janitorial (IFB No. 05263-12) with Pyramid School Products to add various items to the contract and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Facilities.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-634-09-15**

5. **AI-38692** No. 3 to Testing: Postmortem Toxicology (IFB No. 07246-11) with NMS Labs to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2015 with an average price increase of 3% to various items and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Medical Examiner.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-635-09-15**

6. **AI-38790** No. 5 to Maintenance: Elevators/Escalators (IFB No. 02360-09) with Texas Independent Elevator Company to extend the contract for sixty days through and including November 30, 2014 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Facilities.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item because the Court Order didn't match the item. The Commissioner confirmed that it had been corrected and a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:09 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-636-09-15**

7. **AI-38791** No. 6 to Maintenance: Elevators/Escalators (IFB No. 02360-09) with Schindler Elevator Corporation to extend the contract for sixty days through and including November 30, 2014 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Facilities.

A conflict of interest prevented Commissioners Webb and Reid from voting on this item, therefore, it was held until the next scheduled court. (Time: 2:10 p.m.)

**HELD**

**g. Ratification of the County Judge's prior approval:**

1. **AI-38854** Grant an exemption to the bid process per VTCA LGC 262.024(a)(3) "an item necessary because of unforeseen damage to public property" and per VTCA LGC 262.024(a)(4) "a personal or professional service", to diagnose and repair power outage at the Collin County Courthouse on September 9, 2014, Purchasing.

Commissioner Reid asked for an explanation of this item. Dan James, Facilities, explained this exemption was to get the courthouse back on line as soon as possible after the power outage. Mr. James believes they have found the problem and the total expenditure should be under \$20,000 which is far less than anticipated. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:11 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Mark Reid  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-637-09-15**

**1. Supplemental Agenda Item:**

2. **AI-38887** Selection of additional Salary Grievance Committee members, Administrative Services.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-638-09-15**

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

1. **AI-38833** Budget amendment in the amount of \$1,415.92 to purchase two (2) chairs and one (1) Transaction Counter, CCL4.

Judge David Rippel, County Court at Law 4, explained the transaction counter is a box that sits on the desk, gives a nice appearance to the court and provides privacy. Commissioner Webb pulled this item because the furniture is only two years old and none of the other courts have transaction counters. Judge Rippel said nothing is being replaced; this will be a second transaction counter for the bailiff's desk and the Judge is also withdrawing his request for the two chairs. The Judge explained he is not asking for more money but only to shift budget funds and make the purchase with money already in his budget. The funds would come from his uniforms account.

Commissioner Webb stated none of the other courts have transaction counters and, more importantly, allowing an elected official to redistribute funds near the end of the budget year in order to spend the rest of their budget would be a precedent setting vote.



Commissioner Hill said the courts are standardized and he is concerned about making changes which the next elected official may want to change back. Commissioner Reid appreciates Commissioner Webb's concern about taking funds at the end of the budget cycle and using the funds for something else, but he also likes the idea of allowing elected officials to be able to spend their budget within reason as they see fit. Commissioner Reid asked if it would be better to have this item added to the budget.

Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, estimated the cost of the transaction counter and service fee to be approximately \$275. Commissioner Hill suggested adding this to the FY2015 budget to avoid shifting funds at the end of the year.

Commissioners Reid and Williams suggested adding the transaction counter to the list of other items being considered for the FY2015 budget. (Time: 1:55 p.m.)

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

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

1. **AI-38769** August 25, 2014.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-639-09-15**

**j. Miscellaneous**

1. **AI-38744** Acceptance of the FY2015 TIDC Discretionary Grant through the Texas Indigent Defense Commission to continue the Mental Health Managed Counsel Program and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item because he could not get the numbers to work. The amount of the grant is \$283,000 and the Commissioner wanted to confirm that is correct irrespective of what the packet shows. Alyse Ferguson, MHMC Attorney Director, came forward and said she would have to look into what the Commissioner was referencing.

Jeff May, County Auditor, explained the original grant was for \$313,000. TIDC (Texas Indigent Defense Commission) crosses out what they don't want in the new grant. This grant was approved for \$283,000 over the next five years with a reduction of 20% per year. Therefore, the numbers won't tie because it is based on a percentage of the \$313,000. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:15 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-640-09-15**

2. **AI-38802** Acceptance of a private offer from Mr. Lee Schmitt of Nextlots Now, LLC in the amount of \$200 for property located in Reece (CJO), Josephine, Texas (Lot 20) as recorded in the Collin County Deed Records (Account No. R101500002001) and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute the associated documents, County Judge.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-641-09-15**

3. **AI-38801** Acceptance of a private offer from Mr. Lee Schmitt of Nextlots Now, LLC in the amount of \$3,000 for property located in Lake Lavon Highlands, Nevada, Texas (Lot 186) as recorded in the Collin County Deed Records (Account No. R076600018601) and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute the associated documents, County Judge.

Commissioner Webb pulled this because these items usually have a breakdown of the costs and a division of the proceeds and this has neither. The Commissioner wanted backup as to where the \$3,000 goes. Since Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, was not present, the item was held. (Time: 2:17 p.m.)

**HELD**

4. **AI-38771** Trade in, one (1) UPS/SYA16K16RMP/Serial #IS1013004454 per Local Government Code 263.152(a)(2). Trade in will go toward the purchase of one (1) APC Symmetra LX16KVA, one (1) APC Service Bypass Panel 200/208/240V Symmetra LX 4-16KVA (1) L14-30R, (3) L5-20R, (1) 100A hardwire and Rack PDU, Basic, Zero U, 20A, 120V, (24) 5-20, Facilities.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-642-09-15**

5. **AI-38761** Re-designation of Private Road 5615 to Texas Trail (with associated address updates), GIS/Rural Addressing.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-643-09-15**

6. **AI-38725** Reject all bids received for Zebi Storage Appliance Project (RFP No. 2014-226), Information Technology.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-644-09-15**

7. **AI-38795** Reimbursement of fencing materials in the amount of \$5,508.10 to Christopher E. Easterling for property along CR 339 and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute the Agreement for Payment of Damages and Release and Waiver of Liability, Public Works.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-645-09-15**

8. **AI-38836** Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-646-09-15**

9. **AI-38781** Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-647-09-15**

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **5. AI-38739 Public Hearing – FY 2015 Preservation and Restoration Plan and Records Archive, County Clerk.**

Commissioner Hill opened the Public Hearing on the County Clerk's FY2015 Preservation and Restoration and Records Archive Plan at 1:59 p.m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, the Commissioner closed the Public Hearing at 1:59 p.m. The Court later returned to this item with a motion to approve. (Time: 2:17 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

### **COURT ORDER NO. 2014-648-09-15**

### **6. AI-38777 Public Hearing – FY 2015 Preservation, Restoration and Records Archive Plan, District Clerk.**

Andrea Thompson, District Clerk, and Stacey Kemp, County Clerk, came forward to present their FY2015 Preservation and Restoration Plan and Records Archive Plans which are very similar in nature. These Plans outline the plans for those funds for next year. Ms. Thompson explained these funds do not come from the General Budget but are specifically collected by statute for the purpose of preservation, restoration and document record storage from each of their offices.

The State Library and Archives Commission requires permanent retention of any records older than 1950. The District Clerk's Office will undertake two preservation projects in FY2015. The first will be moving the oldest case files into more archival-quality boxes and folders. The second project will focus on imaging files that have not been previously digitized and stored. This will give electronic viewing access to the District Attorney, Sheriff, Juvenile Probation, CSCD, Judges, Constables and the public.

Ms. Kemp said last year's preservation project for the County Clerk's Office included the Commissioners' Court Minutes and Commissioners' Court Orders with 40 more volumes to be completed this year and the Criminal and Civil Court Minutes.

Commissioner Hill opened the Public Hearing on the District Clerk's FY2015 Preservation, Restoration and Records Archive Plan at 1:59 p.m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, the Commissioner closed the Public Hearing at 1:59 p.m. The Court later returned to this item with a motion to approve. (Time: 2:18 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams  
Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

### **COURT ORDER NO. 2014-649-09-15**

**7. AI-38595 Homeland Security presentation for 2014, Homeland Security.**

Dr. Kelley Stone, Homeland Security, gave an overview on the progress of Homeland Security over the past year. There are 78 Fusion Centers in the United States. In 2013, Guam was the fourth territory to come on board. The role within the NCTFC (North Texas Fusion Center) is to receive, analyze, disseminate and share both classified and unclassified data between the federal, state and local partners.

The Executive Advisory Board consists of 33 members representing federal, state and local law enforcement, emergency management, public health as well as fire. There is a great cross section of leadership from within the region on the Board. From this Board came the JIOITF (Joint Intelligence and Operational Interagency Task Force) which includes 15 law enforcement agencies from Collin, Denton and Hunt Counties and Homeland Security Investigations to focus on local problems.

A Homeland Security Investigation Agent has been assigned to this task force to focus on problems here like transnational gangs, gangs in general and major criminal enterprises. The task force is working on problems in our community and the federal government is not deciding what those investigation focuses should be. It is being decided locally by police chiefs and sheriffs.

The NCTFC has an analyst with top secret clearance that is embedded within the Dallas FBI Field Intelligence Group. While the Executive Advisory Board is the backbone which facilitates and moves us forward in this region and gives the Fusion Center direction, the FLO (Fusion Liaison Office) Network is the glue that brings that together.

The first FLO Network class was in March 2013 and the fifth class will be September 2014. The current participation after four classes includes 147 members representing 87 agencies and organizations such as colleges and universities, security with major companies and law enforcement. These become the contacts when something is going on in the region. Security Clearances were awarded to 25 members. Over the last year, we have received 220 requests for information from those FLO Network participants and in return have received over 20 Situational Awareness Information from them.

There have been three investigations opened by the JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force) based on information from these FLO Network members. Link and phone toll analyses for large-scale investigations provided analysis used to identify a North Texas narcotics trafficking/distribution organization which led to arrests and assets seizures over \$1 million. The FLO Network also provided assistance with 12 major criminal conspiracies and aided in the conviction of an individual involved in the homicide of a child. There have been over two dozen arrests as a result of analytical support provided through FLO Network resources. Since October 2013, over 1,400 requests for support have been answered helping support criminal investigations throughout our region, the State of Texas and the nation.

In 2010, DHS (Department of Homeland Security) started assessing Fusion Centers. There was no grade with the first assessment. We did poorly on the second one at five points below the national average. In 2012 the assessment grade was a 98.2 which was 10 points above the national average. We are compared to New York State, New York City, California, the State of Texas and all other Fusion Centers across the country. The 2013 assessment score was 96.7, nine points above the national average. The Fusion Center's Security Compliance Review by DHS received a grade of excellent.

The center has provided geo locations of more than 60% of all camera systems within the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex to federal law enforcement officials which will be utilized in the event of a natural disaster, manmade disaster or terrorism event. The center also provided analytical support that was instrumental in identifying a group involved in a criminal enterprise affecting at least 23 Toys "R" Us locations in six states.

Regarding Public Health, the Center conducted three flu clinics in rural areas that didn't have access to a pharmacy. A large full-scale mass casualty exercise was conducted in Princeton with over 250 participants from fire, police, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), search and rescue, amateur radio and emergency management participating in a simulated plane crash at the McKinney National airport. The MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) volunteers have gone through 45 training and exercise events, totaling over 2,500 volunteer hours and over \$58,000 in grant matching funds. The number of MRC volunteers has increased by nearly 20%.

One of the tools used for Emergency Management is Everbridge which is an emergency notification system. People can be notified via email, text, cell, home or work phones. There were eight exercises conducted this past year. Exercises are important to make sure the emergency plans work. (Time: 2:41 p.m.)

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

## **8. FY 2015 Budget**

### **a. AI-38749 Public Hearing – Proposed FY 2015 Tax Rate, Budget.**

Monika Arris, Budget, came forward with a Power Point presentation on the FY2015 budget before the opening of the second Public Hearing. The proposed tax rate for FY2015 is \$0.235 per \$100 valuation. Collin County has not had a tax rate increase in 21 years. The 5% Homestead Exemption has been in place for five years. According to the Central Appraisal District, the adjusted taxable value is \$86.4 billion which is an increase of 9.2% over the 2013 tax year. The average home value in Collin County is \$257,767. The average homeowner will pay \$575.46 in Collin County taxes for the 2014 tax year which is an increase of 7.2% from last year and represents 11% of the total tax bill.

The effective tax rate is based off of properties that existed in both tax years and provides the County with the same amount of revenue as in the previous fiscal year. To get to that rate for the County, the effective tax rate would be \$0.223782. The effects of the tax rate are determined by the increases or decreases in the appraised value each year for properties that existed in both tax years. If appraised values go up, the effective tax rate goes down and vice versa.

The legislature does not put the County in a situation where it cannot pay its debt. Therefore, the tax rate is split into an operating rate and a debt service rate. The effective tax rate on operating is \$0.169857. The law allows the County to get to a rollback rate which is an additional 8% on taxes bringing the County's maximum operating rate to \$0.183446. The debt rate is \$0.057732 and, when added to the County's maximum operating rate, is the County's total rollback rate of \$0.241178. The proposed operating rate plus the debt tax rate gives a proposed tax rate of \$0.235. This will reduce the tax rate from \$0.2375 to \$0.235.

Since the Budget Workshop, the County Auditor held his public hearing and had a few changes to his budget. There was a \$4,000 increase in college education and the request for scanners was removed. The comp/ratio and PFP (Pay for Performance) of 3% were approved by the Board of District Judges for the Auditor's Office and Court Reporters.

On the August 25, 2014 Court, there was an adjustment to the General Fund for the Libraries Association Funding with a portion of that coming out of the Economic Development Fund. CSCD (Community Supervision and Corrections) held their public hearing on August 27, 2014, and approved the 3% PFP. The Juvenile Board held their public hearing on September 3, 2014, and approved the 3% PFP and continued their stipends from 2014 into 2015. At the first public hearing on September 8, 2014, the Court approved raising the District Judges' salary supplement to the maximum of \$18,000 for each District Judge. That impacted the budget by \$29,952.

New items added since the Board of District Judges met on September 12, 2014, was the approval of a salary increase of 17.88% for the First Assistant County Auditor. That would be an increase to the budget of \$15,806 which includes both salary and benefits. There is a Local Government Code requiring Commissioners' Court approval for the Board of District Judges to raise a salary by more than 5%. In the event the Court did not approve that raise, there was a second Court Order for a 5% increase which is the maximum the Board of District Judges is allowed to approve under the statute.

Today's items for discussion include an increase of \$6,080 to Permanent Improvement for door locks, expansion of Elections' space, Indigent Defense increase of \$150,000 and direction for the funding of US75.

The proposed budget was filed with the County Clerk and is on the County's website. The next Public Hearing on the proposed budget will be Monday, September 22, 2014 during the regularly scheduled Commissioners' Court meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Courtroom. Following that, the Court will adopt the FY2015 Fee Schedule, FY2015 Elected Officials' Salaries, FY2015 Tax Rate and the FY2015 Budget. (Time: 2:48 p.m.)

Commissioner Hill opened the Public Hearing on the proposed FY2015 tax rate at 2:48 p.m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, the Commissioner closed the Public Hearing at 2:48 p.m.

Commissioner Hill opened the item for discussion amongst the Court. Commissioner Webb commented that he had an analysis of the Indigent Defense costs as a future agenda item for over a year. The Commissioner is extremely concerned with where this is heading and the question is how to slow it down. The mental health side has more than tripled but that is offset by the number of days we are housing the inmates in jail. There is a wash on those numbers. At what point is it cheaper to set up a Public Defender's Office, either contractually or in-house to get a handle on these costs.

Commissioner Williams suggested having a discussion on this again since there are new members that were not a part of the original discussion regarding contracting for a Public Defender. She would like to revisit that discussion so all Court members have the opportunity to hear what the options are. In the interim, we need to account for the continuing escalation in costs and add to the budget.

Ms. Arris said there was a fee change as to what attorneys are paid and the Mental Health Program has taken off. After talking to the Sheriff's Office, Ms. Arris said the average length of time inmates spend in detention has gone from a year to 18 months down to six months and that has reduced costs almost \$500,000. The program is doing what it was intended to do.

Commissioner Hill asked about having the information on the fee changes communicated to the Court. Mr. Arris has asked Pam DeVault, Court Administrator, to make sure that information is passed on to Budget when it happens.

Jeff May, County Auditor, came forward to talk about the increase in his budget for his First Assistant Auditor, Linda Riggs. Ms. Riggs is a critical part of his office and Mr. May could not function as he does without her. There has been some recruiting and Mr. May wants to make sure he can retain Ms. Riggs. Mr. May showed a comparison of Ms. Riggs' salary with other counties. The Auditor originally proposed to reclassify her position from 730 to 732 which would increase the minimum salary on that range from \$92,843 to \$109,078.

Mr. May said he felt the other jobs in the 732 range were comparable in difficulty and skill sets to Ms. Riggs' job. These jobs included Assistant Director III in Engineering, Assistant Director of HR and Assistant Director of IT. Mr. May said the options under the statute are to either accept this change made by the District Judges or limit the increase to 5%. Commissioner Hill asked the Auditor if the District Judges gave a reason why they chose to not reclassify the position from 730 to 732. The reason was they wanted to have the option to hire someone at a lower rate if he lost his First Assistant.

Cynthia Jacobson, Human Resources, explained there was a survey done to look at the range and the range appears to be correct when compared to other entities within the same job scope. Ms. Riggs is doing one half of the job that the prior First Assistant did. Mr. May has a Second Assistant who does the other half of the job. This was the only group that didn't do both audit and financial aspects of the job when compared to other entities. Even doing those duties, the job range is correct. Ms. Riggs has been in the position for one year and is 3.9% above the minimum for that job because last year she received a 3.9% increase as a high PFP performer. Ms. Jacobson said an 18% raise as recommended by the Board of District Judges would put Ms. Riggs at the midpoint in the range for that job. Using the standards that are used for all other positions, Ms. Jacobson stated the current range is correct. Mr. May explained that Ms. Riggs has eight years of management experience in the Auditor's Office and 13 years of experience in the County. There were no other comments. Commissioner Hill said the Auditor could bring it up again next week in the Budget Hearing. (Time: 3:03 p.m.)

The next item for discussion was the Elections Office. Sharon Rowe, Elections, Monika Arris, Budget, and Bill Burke, Construction and Planning, came forward to address the Court. Ms. Arris estimated the lease increase at \$96,000, the finish-out with furniture at approximately \$300,000, utilities at \$25,000 and \$3,500 for a cleaning service would need to be added to the proposed budget.

Ms. Rowe said they have been looking for space for a number of years. Since the Elections Office also serves as a vote center on Election Day, we have far exceeded the capability for the space that was originally designed for early voting only. Ms. Rowe would like to expand to include vote center space with 20 voting machines and onsite training service rooms. Elections is currently sharing space in the Central Jury Room and housing some of the election equipment in the Courthouse penthouse and utilizing two District Courtrooms and the offices behind those District Courtrooms for training and to prepare 200 Election Day laptops. Ms. Rowe said they have also been splitting up the call centers into two locations. They have gained a bit of floor space by imaging the voter registration application.



Commissioner Webb asked about the size of the space. Mr. Burke said the new space is 12,400 square feet which would double the size of their space. The Commissioner asked Ms. Rowe, if they doubled their space now, how long would this new space be sufficient in size. Ms. Rowe said it should last at least five years and would hope for ten years.

Mr. Burke said they have done a walk through and have not been able to negotiate with the owner. Commissioner Webb is very much in favor of this since they would not have to abandon the current space assuming a fair lease can be negotiated with the landlord. Ms. Arris said this would be warehouse space and training space. Commissioner Williams asked what the term would be. Mr. Burke said this owner has given five-year leases and has not increased the rent and we are on our third renewal. Commissioner Williams had hoped to find a permanent building to own and would hope to keep that as an option in the future. (Time: 3:13 p.m.)

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**9. Board/Committee Appointments, Commissioners Court:**

**a. AI-38793 North Texas Tollway Authority Board of Directors.**

Commissioner Hill said Jane Willard is one of the two Directors representing Collin County on the North Texas Tollway Authority Board of Directors and her term has expired. Ms. Willard has expressed a desire to continue to serve in that role. Commissioner Williams said Ms. Willard has done a remarkable job representing the Court and made a motion to reappoint Ms. Willard to the NTTA Board of Directors. (Time: 3:15 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Chris Hill

Vote: 4 – 0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2014-650-09-15**

**10. AI-38856 84th Legislative Agenda for 2015, Commissioners Court.**

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

**11. AI-33858 RTC monthly update, Commissioner, Precinct 4.**

Commissioner Webb updated the Court on the last RTC (Regional Transportation Council) meeting. There was an action item approved to continue to fund the Collin County Public Transit Program Extension for another 60 days to allow cities to finish their transitions to new service providers. The current budget was sufficient to cover this extension, therefore, it required no additional funding.

There was an item on the Transportation Emission Reduction Summaries which showed our area to be in good shape at least through 2018. Environmentally, we are doing well. The Texas Transportation Commission has approved a three-station concept for high-speed rail. The Commissioner believes high-speed rail to Dallas is coming rapidly.

Another item of interest was the RTC is also redoing their Public Participation Plan Revisions. The most interesting data received from their surveys was that email is the most preferred and effective form of communication and they are moving more of their notices toward that form of communication.

A Legislative agenda is being formulated by the RTC to focus on public and private partnerships, primarily I635, North Tarrant Express and Trinity Parkway. Also LIRAP (Low-Income Repair Assistance Program) funding and expansion would help us get access and use those funds for our citizens.

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendment, which will be an action item in a future month, includes putting the Blacklands Corridor Toll Road back in as an MTP recommendation. That would allow it to move forward.

Lastly, there was a letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding use of the HOV lane as a general purpose lane and they also went over the public meeting relating to managed lanes that was heard at the AgriLife Extension Center.

Commissioner Hill asked if the RTC has any sense as to whether legislature will take our position about LIRAP and change their stance on the program. Commissioner Webb said there is a sense that legislature will do something to expand the categories. However, there are two things that need to occur. The first is expanding the categories and the second is releasing the \$1 billion which is being used to balance the budget. Expanding the categories does us no good if they do not release the \$1 billion. (Time: 3:21 p.m.)

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

12. Possible future agenda items by Commissioners Court without discussion.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Hill recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:22 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 to discuss security in the Courthouse under Section 551.076 of the Government Code.

#### **Security (551.076)**

**AI-38758** Courthouse Security, Homeland Security.

**NO ACTION TAKEN**

Commissioner Hill reconvened the meeting at 3:58 p.m. There being no further business of the Court, Commissioner Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.



Keith Self, County Judge

Mark Reid, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Not Present

Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Stacey Kemp, Ex-Officio Clerk  
Commissioners Court  
Collin County, T E X A S