

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF COLLIN

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2014

On Monday, December 8, 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:

Judge Keith Self
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1
Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2
Commissioner Chris Hill, Precinct 3
Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4

Commissioner Webb led the Invocation.
Judge Self led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

1. Judge Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners' Court at 1:30 p.m. and recessed the meeting at 3:06 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:15 p.m. and adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 3:53 p.m. and recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:58 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 4:12 p.m. and adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-39234 Budget amendment in the amount of \$9,630.00 from the Seizure Fund to purchase undercover surveillance equipment used in narcotic investigations, Sheriff's Office.
2. AI-39293 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

FYI NOTIFICATION

1. AI-34688 Outstanding Agenda Items, Commissioners Court.
2. AI-39244 Addendum No. 1 to Maintenance/Repair/Operations Parts, Supplies and Related Services (IFB No. 2015-010) to change the bid due date to December 4, 2014, Purchasing.

3. **AI-39319** Status update on Juvenile Director Search, Human Resources.

2. Public Comments.

Public comments were heard under General Discussion Item 10a.

3. Presentation/Recognition:

a. Service Pins, Human Resources.

4. Consent agenda to approve: Judge Self deleted items 4c1 a, b, e, f, g, h and 4f2a and asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled the disbursement to Schindler Elevator and item 4f2b. Hearing no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 3:15 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Commissioner Chris Hill

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

a. **AI-39297** Disbursements for the period ending December 2, 2014, Auditor.

All disbursements with the exception of Schindler Elevator were approved with the consent agenda vote.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-944-12-08

A motion was made to approve the disbursement to Schindler Elevator. Commissioner Webb did not participate in the vote. (Time: 3:15 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Commissioner Chris Hill

Vote: 4 - 0 Passed

Abstained: Commissioner Duncan Webb

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-945-12-08

b. Award(s):

1. **AI-39275** Insurance, Medical Stop Loss (RFP No. 2014-301), Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-946-12-08

c. Agreement(s):

1. Interlocal Agreement(s) for Library Services to be paid in quarterly installments and further authorize the County Judge to finalize and execute same, Budget:

a. **AI-39243** Allen Public Library for an annual amount of \$45,900.70.

HELD

b. **AI-39241** Celina Public Library for an annual amount of \$16,496.74.

HELD

c. **AI-39240** City of Farmersville for the Charles J. Rike Memorial Library for an annual amount of \$15,308.17.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-947-12-08

d. **AI-39239** City of McKinney for the McKinney Public Library System for an annual amount of \$66,314.54.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-948-12-08

e. **AI-39238** Melissa Public Library for an annual amount of \$16,330.98.

HELD

f. **AI-39236** Princeton Community Library for an annual amount of \$16,912.92.

HELD

g. **AI-39237** Prosper Community Library for an annual amount of \$19,335.92.

HELD

h. **AI-39242** Rita & Truett Smith Public Library for an annual amount of \$29,765.03.

HELD

d. Amendment(s):

1. **AI-39245** No. 7 to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lucas for Facility Construction and use of the Animal Shelter to set the rate for FY2015, payments to be made in quarterly installments for an annual amount of \$14,970 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-949-12-08

e. Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):

1. **AI-39157** \$4,250 to establish the budget for the FY 2015 Title IV-E Child Welfare Grant, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-950-12-08

2. **AI-39265** \$9,810 for the Detention Center Repairs and Renovations, Renovation of the Officer POD Dayroom Desk and the Cluster Control Desk in Clusters one (1), three (3) and five (5), Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-951-12-08

3. **AI-39274** \$12,803 to reallocate funds for the Spay/Neuter Program, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-952-12-08

4. **AI-39182** \$16,366 to establish the budget for the FY 2015 SOAR Grant, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-953-12-08

5. **AI-39178** \$425,753 to move funds from bond fund balances for various refund checks received by the County on completed road bond projects to Road Bond program contingency project, Budget.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-954-12-08

f. Receive and File, Auditor:

1. **AI-39228** FY2013 Annual Inventory Audit for Stockpiles/Culverts.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-955-12-08

2. Final Audit Result(s):

a. **AI-39229** Law Library (1st & 2nd Quarter FY2013).

HELD

b. **AI-39230** Medical Examiner (3rd & 4th Quarter FY2013).

Commissioner Webb asked if the shortages totaling \$35.00 will be made up or will there be an indemnification submission from this department. Jeff May, County Auditor, stated the shortages have been made up. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 3:17 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-956-12-08

c. **AI-39231** Medical Examiner (1st & 2nd Quarter FY2014).

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-957-12-08

g. Miscellaneous

1. **AI-39232** Reject all bids received for Supplies: Electrical, Parts and Materials (IFB No. 2014-216), Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-958-12-08

2. **AI-39271** Abandonment of CR206 between FM543 and CR228, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-959-12-08

3. **AI-39205** Retention of a surplus vehicle to be used by the Sheriff's Office, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-960-12-08

4. **AI-39294** Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-961-12-08

5. **AI-39295** Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-962-12-08

GENERAL DISCUSSION

5. **AI-39172** Secondary Fire Suppression for Collin County I.T. Data Centers presented by Charlie Kearns with Wiginton Hooker Jeffry Architects, Construction & Projects.

Bill Burke, Construction and Planning, stated during the budget workshop he was asked to obtain information on adding a secondary fire suppression system requested by the IT department for the Data Center in the courthouse. Mr. Burke consulted with Charlie Kearns, Wiginton Hooker Jeffry Architects, who was the lead designer on the existing Data Center in the courthouse from 2004-2007. Mr. Kearns volunteered to present information on the secondary fire suppression system. Mr. Burke stated following Mr. Kearns' presentation he would like the Court to answer two questions: 1) does the Court wish to add a secondary fire suppression system into the existing courthouse server room; and 2) does the Court wish to add a secondary suppression system to the IT Disaster Recovery Center in Plano. In regards to cost, the courthouse system will be approximately \$3.00-\$3.25 per cubic foot for a budget amount of \$120,000. There will be additional ongoing costs for yearly inspection and recharge costs if the system ever discharges. Those costs are undetermined at this time because they are based on the design of the system.

Mr. Kearns stated the intent of a fire suppression system in a data center is to keep the equipment operational during an event. McKinney fire code does not recognize a non-water system as a fire suppression system; therefore, the non-water system is considered a secondary system even though it will be engaged prior to the water system. The system requested by the IT Department is a dry gas based system with no powder or residue which will have zero effect on the equipment. There are a couple of options for a gas based system. One option is a gas released into the room which attaches to the oxygen molecules. This gas changes the chemical makeup of the oxygen so the fire cannot sustain itself. Another option is an inert gas system that evacuates the room of oxygen stopping combustion. Mr. Kearns said there is nothing in the construction of the room that would prohibit the secondary suppression system. There is some penetration that will need to be sealed in order for the room to be airtight, but the room is a fire rated plenum space.

Judge Self asked how much faster this fire suppression system will activate before the water system. Mr. Kearns said the proposed dry gas system will use two or more smoke detection systems to detect the smoke early. Once the smoke is detected and the gas system activates, the gas fills the room within 30 seconds. Dampers in the air conditioning system will close to seal off the room as well as other actions to make the room airtight.

While the gas is dispersing, the pre-action water system will ready itself by flooding the pipes with water in case the fire is not extinguished by the dry gas system. The system does have a good expectation of putting out the fire as long as operations are maintained. Mr. Kearns explained the pre-action system currently in place in the Data Center has compressed air in the sprinkler pipes. When smoke is detected by one or two of the smoke detectors, it triggers water to fill the pipes. Once the temperature at ceiling level reaches 165 degrees or more to melt a fuse inside the sprinkler heads, water is released to extinguish the fire. The water system can take up to three or four minutes to activate.

Mr. Kearns addressed the safety concerns of the gas system. There are many different providers for the gas system and each will have different methods for the gas attaching to the oxygen molecule. They will not say the gas is harmful but will recommend not having employees working in those areas. Generally data centers do not have people working in them because of the low temperature of the rooms. The inert gas is not harmful; however, it does remove most of the oxygen in the room to stop combustion quickly. Mr. Kearns stated there will be a two-step audio and visual alert. The first visual alert is a red light and the second is a blue light with audio alerting there are 30 seconds to evacuate. The system can also be activated manually. If an employee is in the room when a fire breaks out, the employee can manually activate the system by pushing a button, leaving the room and closing the door. Caren Skipworth, CIO, confirmed there are no employees stationed in the Data Center. The only time employees are in the room is when there is a project.

Judge Self asked why the recharge cost is unknown. Mr. Kearns said this is because it depends on the system and chemical used as well as the volume of the room. The annual inspection is a minimal charge similar to other annual fire inspections. Mr. Kearns suggested the system should be installed in the UPS room behind the Data Center.

Commissioner Fletcher asked how long it will take for the Data Center to be up and running after an activation. Ms. Skipworth stated from the information she has gathered, the Data Center would be up and running within an hour for undamaged equipment. Ms. Skipworth believes this system would give insurance advantages for the County.

The Court questioned the \$50,000 for the Disaster Recovery Center in Plano. It was determined the \$50,000 is for the design only for the HVAC, pre-action fire suppression system, electrical and generator. It does not include the cost of installation of a secondary fire suppression system.

It was the consensus of the Court to move forward with the recommendation. With no further discussion a motion was made to approve \$120,000 for the addition of the fire suppression system for the courthouse Data Center and \$50,000 for the design of the IT Disaster Recovery Center in Plano. (Time: 3:50 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Keith Self
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-963-12-08

6. AI-39301 Presentation of Sheriff's Office – Inmate monthly/quarterly statistics, **HELD**

7. Board/Committee Appointments, Commissioners Court:

a. AI-39310 LifePath Systems Board.

Commissioner Williams reappointed Eric Hogue to the LifePath Systems Board. A motion was made to approve the board appointment. (Time: 3:51 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Second by: Judge Keith Self
Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-964-12-08

b. AI-39305 Nomination of a member to serve on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC).

Judge Self asked the Court to begin looking for a County appointee to fill the seat of Pat Hatchell on the Regional Aging Advisory Committee. (Time: 3:52 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

8. AI-39179 Budget amendment in the amount of \$800 to place the AMCAD software code in escrow with Iron Mountain, Information Technology.

Caren Skipworth, CIO, stated this item was originally submitted on the consent agenda. With no discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 3:53 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2014-965-12-08

9. AI-38083 Medicaid 1115 Update, Administrative Services.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, stated Jeff May, County Auditor, made an IGT (Intergovernmental Transfer) last week bringing the County current on payments for the UPL (Upper Payment Limit) now called UC (Uncompensated Care) through September 30th. The County is up to date on all commitments. (Time: 3:53 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

a. AI-39278 Number of District Courts.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, came forward to share the process of adding District Courts as well as statistics of the current District Courts. Mr. Bilyeu stated Legislature must specifically create a new District Court; the Governor then makes an appointment to fill the vacancy of that court. Legislature also approves when a District Court begins. This can be on the first day of September or the first day of January.

Mr. Bilyeu reviewed statistical charts for criminal, civil and family and juvenile cases of the District Courts' caseloads from FY2006-FY2014. The first data shared included cases disposed, cases filed and the difference between the two for each type of case. Commissioner Hill asked why the number of cases disposed is higher than the number of cases filed each year. Mr. Bilyeu explained that a case may not be disposed the same year it is filed causing that number to accumulate over time. Other factors that trigger accumulation include: 1) a person has a case filed against them but is not picked up for a number of years; 2) a case carries for a number of years; or 3) an old case has been reopened. If a case is reopened, it is not refiled; therefore, it only triggers the disposed case totals. Cases filed are only new cases brought to the courts.

Mr. Bilyeu reviewed charts regarding the number of cases pending at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year. The chart also showed the difference for each year. The number of cases has been increasing at a level that was bound to cause accumulation. Commissioner Hill asked Mr. Bilyeu to explain why the number of cases pending at the end of the year does not match the number of cases pending at the beginning of the following year. Mr. Bilyeu stated as each year closes out, the District Clerk's office can go back in and clear cases that should have been cleared prior to the end of the year. This may be due to final filings or adjustments made after a deadline. Mr. Bilyeu said the data shown is the historical data filed with the OCA (Office of Court Administration). Live data was not pulled because it constantly changes. Mr. Bilyeu added, since FY2010 there has not been a backlog in Juvenile cases.

Trends were the next area reviewed. The case backlogs from each year were compared to the population growth in Collin County. The data reflects a very close comparison for the criminal backlog. As more people move into the County the number of cases increase. The civil and family backlog has increased faster than the growth in population. The juvenile backlog has decreased as the population has grown.

Mr. Bilyeu then reviewed total docket numbers. Total docket is a transaction based count which is a report in the OCA showing everything a judge has heard. The workload closely mirrored the population for the criminal caseload. The civil and family workload has increased more than the population and backlog has increased 55% since FY2006. Again, the juvenile numbers have decreased. Overall the caseload and backlogs are increasing. Mr. Bilyeu said backlog is the best way to measure the efficiency of the court system. When a court is added, it effects future backlogs. Adding courts will reduce the backlog over time.

Commissioner Webb stated the need appears to be in the civil and family courts. The Commissioner asked how much time it takes from filing a case to the initial hearing. Judge John Roach, Jr., 296th District Court, stated the average is five to six months. The Commissioner has concern with those numbers because as the County grows, the wait for a hearing will increase. Commissioner Williams stated it makes sense the criminal cases are tracking better due to speedy trial rules for certain cases. If a court is hearing both criminal and civil cases, the criminal cases take precedence over civil cases. The Commissioner requested information on the discussion held previously regarding specialized courts.

Judge Self invited Judge Roach to address the Court. Judge Roach thanked the Court and Mr. Bilyeu for including the District Judges in this process and expressed appreciation for addressing this issue. Judge Roach stated the District Court Judges were asked to come up with a simple formula to determine the number of new courts needed year by year. This formula was not to be based on population but based on the increased number of case filings. Judge Roach said the best way to accomplish this was to look at the average number of case filings per judicial officer in the district court of the top ten largest counties in Texas. El Paso County was excluded because it shares judicial officers with other counties. Collin County was also excluded because with 2,141 new case filings per judicial officer, it skews the numbers as well. In 2013 the average was 1,585 new cases filed per judicial officer. If the number of new cases filed in Collin County, which is 19,710, was divided by the 1,585 average. it would indicate a need for 12.4 District Courts. Currently there are 9.3 District Courts in Collin County. The OCA recommendation is similar showing Collin County has a need for 12.6 District Courts. This would be an addition of three new District Courts.

Judge Roach stated Collin County is fortunate enough to attract companies like State Farm and Toyota. It is likely those companies analyzed the jury verdicts and the court system of the County as a factor in choosing to relocate here. It is also anticipated all of their contracts will have venue clauses which will mandate that all disputes be litigated in Collin County.

Because their corporate headquarters are in Collin County the proper suing venue will be here. This is in addition to the criminal, civil and family law cases which will arise from their respective employees. The County must be proactive and not reactive to the demands these new companies bring in.

Judge Roach urged the Court to ask the Legislature for three new courts. Judge Self asked what the Senate Judiciary Committee is planning this year. Judge Roach said the Committee believes they will be able to fund new courts but beyond that they are not willing to commit.

Judge Roach referred back to a question regarding the number of cases disposed in FY2013. A large factor in the number of cases disposed for that year was due to the switch from the AS400 system to the Odyssey system. Andrea Thompson, District Clerk, audited all the files to determine what was going wrong in this area. It was determined there were thousands of cases that should have been cleared before transferring over to the Odyssey system.

Regarding specialized courts, Judge Roach stated the judges are not necessarily opposed to them. The concern is who is determining what court should be specialized. Judge Roach believes this should be a decision made at the local level.

There was a brief discussion on the specialized courts and the consensus among the judges on whether or not to have them. Judge Roach felt the majority of the District Judges believe in specialized dockets as opposed to specialized courts and that they would rather the courts remain general jurisdiction courts. General jurisdiction courts give the County flexibility to adjust the caseload locally as needed as opposed to going back to the state to redesignate a specialized court. Judge Self requested Judge Roach find out what the Board of District Judges' consensus is on specialized dockets. Commissioner Webb requested the numbers on filing times for the different types of cases and asked there be a method to track the filing to hearing process.

Commissioner Hill asked Judge Roach what he believes the citizens of Collin County should expect as a reasonable time period from filing a case to appearing before a judge. Judge Roach stated the time differs for each type of case. In any trial setting for a civil case the docket should be set within 45-60 days. A family law/divorce case should be between 61-90 days. This is because a divorce cannot be final within 60 days of filing. Criminal cases should be resolved within eight months for a trial setting.

Commissioner Hill asked when comparing the top ten county caseloads what number should Collin County aim for per District Court? Judge Roach said he does not have a magic number but would like to be somewhere in the middle of the group. (Time: 2:23 p.m.)

Judge Self asked for public comments at 2:23 p.m.

Judge Self noted that Jeff Domen, Plano, and Michael Rumac, McKinney, who chose not to speak, were both in favor of additional courts.

Daniel Thering, Frisco, is in favor of adding additional District Courts. Mr. Thering stated he is proud of the county government and court system. As a trial lawyer he has a statewide docket and in his last ten years of practice he has seen a substantial backlog of the courts. Mr. Thering represents companies with local interests and those clients want to know why they cannot get motions heard or receive rulings on judgments in a timely manner. Collin County is the fastest growing county in the state and the judges are working as hard as they can but there needs to be a change. Mr. Thering stated the addition of courts will alleviate the backlog. (Time: 2:25 p.m.)

Kimberly Killebrew, Frisco, supports adding additional District Courts. Ms. Killebrew stated that over the last 22 years of practicing law she has seen a distinct change in the amount of time to get a hearing. Initially, temporary orders would take two to three weeks; now the time frame is two to three months. The judges in the County have tried to make this more efficient by reducing the hearing time to 20 minutes per side. Unfortunately that is still not helping. Ms. Killebrew said family law cases are subject to being bumped by criminal or CPS (Child Protective Services) hearings. This is why there is a distinct need for more courts to better serve the citizens of Collin County. (Time: 2:28 p.m.)

Mayor Brian Loughmiller, McKinney, supports the addition of more District Courts. When looking at the court system, specialized courts are great; however, that will not solve the backlog. How will the courts catch up if the backlogs of family cases are shifted to two or three new courts with new filings coming in? As the County grows there will be more cases based on population and new companies. The six month average for final hearings is a good average, but a complex family law case with rules for civil procedure related to discovery can take years. There is more to the cases than what averages show. Ultimately the Court passing the resolution for additional courts will give insight to the Legislature on the needs of Collin County. Commissioner Hill asked if adding more courts make a difference with complicated cases. Mayor Loughmiller stated while the complicated cases will still take more time, with the addition of courts, the less complicated cases will still be moving forward through the hearing process. (Time: 2:34 p.m.)

Penny Phillips, Plano, is in favor of additional District Courts. Ms. Phillips shared her concern with the current number of courts and the time it takes to get temporary order hearings. Ms. Phillips stated the two to three month wait for a hearing means there is no child support coming in to meet the needs of her clients' children. Temporary order hearings in Dallas and Denton counties can be heard in two weeks. A few weeks are manageable for the client but not months. Ms. Phillips urged the Court to support the addition of new courts to increase capacity. (Time: 2:36 p.m.)

Lene Alley DeRudder, Allen, supports the addition of additional District Courts. Ms. DeRudder stated though she has only practiced law for 4.5 years, she has seen a difference in the last few years in getting a hearing set before a judge. The judges do work very hard. They come in early, work through lunch and stay late. They should not have to do that and attorneys should not have to explain to clients they cannot get in front of a judge because there is not time available. (Time: 2:38 p.m.)

Megan Abens, Plano, supports adding District Courts. Ms. Abens gave an example of when she needed a hearing. Ms. Abens had a client who had her child taken away by the father. A motion for temporary orders was filed with a two month wait for the hearing. The motion then had to be filed as an emergency motion for temporary orders. Fortunately, one of the judges agreed to hear the motion over a lunch break during a criminal jury trial. Ms. Abens stated the County needs more courts for better access to judges. (Time: 2:40 p.m.)

Jim Piki, Frisco, is in favor of additional District Courts. Mr. Piki stated people go to the courts for justice. Justice is a thinking process and is not about numbers or how fast you get into a court room. It takes time for judges to properly analyze cases. If there are 200 hours every month for the judges to analyze 200 cases, that is one hour per case per month. That is not enough time. Collin County is fortunate to have good judges. This is not about numbers; it is about justice and the quality of justice the people get. People will not get the quality they should unless the numbers of judge hours are increased. Increasing judicial hours means adding more courts. Commissioner Hill asked Mr. Piki if he believes Collin County would be better served with specialized courts or general jurisdiction courts. Mr. Piki is opposed to specialized courts and stated he wants a judge hearing his case who has a broad spectrum of knowledge in the law. The judges in this county are very well rounded and they bring that knowledge to every case they hear regardless of case type. (Time: 2:45 p.m.)

Judge Self asked for discussion from the Court.

Commissioner Hill asked Judge Roach if three specialized courts were created for family law, would all family law cases gravitate to those courts or would the general jurisdiction courts still hear family law cases? Judge Roach stated it may be unfair for cases that are heard outside of the specialized courts. Either the courts are specialized or they are not. If the new courts were determined to be specialized for family law, two of the current courts would need to be dedicated to family law as well to be efficient.

Discussion continued regarding the possibility of specialized courts and how two current general jurisdiction courts would be redesignated as family law courts.

Commissioner Hill asked Judge Roach if there is practice around the state where one judge is dedicated to hear temporary orders. Judge Roach stated some counties use Associate Judges to hear temporary orders. The salary of an Associate Judge and staff would be incurred by the county using them. There is no court reporter so it is not a court of record; therefore, the ruling made by an associate judge can be appealed to the District Judge or the elected judge.

The Court was in consensus that there is a need for additional general jurisdiction District Courts. The number of courts is yet to be determined. The Court agreed that local control is important and would like the Board of District Judges to reach an agreement on how to specialize locally for better efficiency in the civil and family law area. Commissioner Webb would like electronic court reporting used in the new courts. Commissioner Fletcher agreed on the use of electronic court reporting but would like more information on the systems especially when used in criminal courts. Judge Roach stated the District Judges are opposed to electronic court reporters but he would research the systems. Commissioner Fletcher would also like to look at what can be done to minimize the impact on the budget in regards to the personnel for the proposed courts. Judge Self asked the Board of District Judges to find a solution to expedite temporary orders in the family court.

Judge Self expressed his appreciation of the work the District Judges have done over the last five years and said it is time to add more District Courts. Once the Court has all the questions answered, there will be a decision to move forward with a vote. (Time: 3:06 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

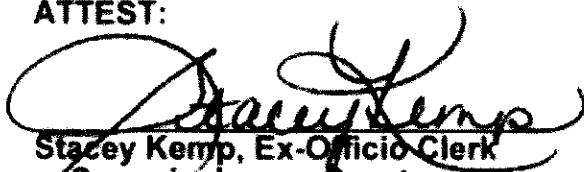
11. Possible future agenda items by Commissioners Court without discussion.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Court did not recess into Executive Session. There being no further business of the Court, Judge Self adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.



ATTEST:


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



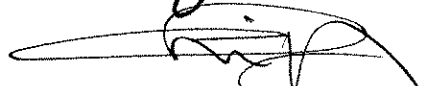
Keith Self, County Judge



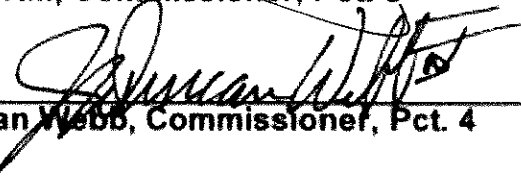
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1



Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2



Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3



Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4