

STATE OF TEXAS

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

MEETING MINUTES

COUNTY OF COLLIN

MAY 2, 2016

On Monday, May 2, 2016, 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 2:30 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 2:32 p.m. and immediately recessed into Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 2:30 p.m. and recessed the meeting at 2:31 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:52 p.m. and adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Toll Road Authority at 2:32 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

President Self called to order the meeting of the Collin County Housing Finance Corporation at 2:32 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-41499 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

FYI NOTIFICATION

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

2. **AI-41469** Addendums No. 1, 2 and 3 to Data Backup Expansion (RFP No. 2016-186) to make various changes to the Request for Proposal, Purchasing.

3. **AI-41496** Voluntary Terminations, Human Resources.

4. **AI-41441** P-Card Disbursements, Auditor.

2. Public Comments.

3. Presentation/Recognition.

4. Consent agenda to approve: Judge Self pulled item 4c1 and then asked for comments on the consent agenda. Commissioner Webb pulled items 4d1 and 4e1. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 1:32 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

a. **AI-41459** Disbursements for the period ending April 26, 2016, Auditor.
COURT ORDER NO. 2016-285-05-02

b. **AI-41436** Tax refunds totaling \$1,228,646.91, Tax Assessor Collector.
COURT ORDER NO. 2016-286-05-02

c. Amendment(s):

1. **AI-41491** Grant amendment to the FY2016 General Assistance Grant – Series 16A through the Texas Veterans Commission to include various North Texas counties (Fannin, Hunt, Grayson and Kaufman) that have or will be joining the Regional Veterans' Court Program, 296th District Court.

Judge Self asked what the other counties' participation would be aside from joining. Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, will find out and inform the Court. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 1:33 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Keith Self
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-287-05-02

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

1. **AI-41478** \$456,974 for Elections Enhancements, Elections.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item to find out where the funding is coming from and what is the balance in that fund. Jeff May, Auditor, said there was \$2.5 million in the fund balance that is not budgeted. This is coming out of the contract elections fund. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 1:34 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-288-05-02

e. Receive and File, Auditor:

1. **AI-41456** Monthly Financial Reports for February 2016.

Commissioner Webb pulled this item because one of the charts on the financial report shows through period 5 the County is up to almost \$7 million compared to previous years for period 5. The Commissioner is concerned about where the fund balance is and asked when the Court will receive the next report. Jeff May, Auditor, said the next update to the report is scheduled to be on the next Court and it will look similar to this. There has been a small uptick in the fund balance after nine or ten months of almost consistent downturns. Mr. May will have a recommendation on the next Court. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 1:36 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-289-05-02

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

1. **AI-41473** April 11, 2016.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-290-05-02

g. Miscellaneous

1. **AI-41465** Grant application for the FY 2016 Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant funds with the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the purchase of life saving body armor with a 50% cash match of up to \$191,093.75 required from Collin County, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-291-05-02

2. **AI-41511** Resale Deed to convey 2.63 acres (more or less) out of the Henry Brantley Survey (Abstract 71, Volume 496, Page 486) as recorded in the Collin County Deed Records to the City of Anna, County Judge.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-282-05-02

3. **AI-41481** Re-designation of Private Road 5621 to Zachary Drive (with associated address updates), GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-293-05-02

4. **AI-41500** Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-294-05-02

5. **AI-41501** Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-295-05-02

GENERAL DISCUSSION

5. **AI-41463** Transit Services for Rural Collin County presented by Gary Thomas, President/Executive Director of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Engineering.

Gary Thomas, CEO of DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit), came forward with a PowerPoint presentation showing some of the opportunities DART can make available primarily for the elderly and disabled citizens in rural Collin County.

DART's enabling legislation authorizes the agency to provide rail, bus or paratransit services outside the service area by contract. Due to the failure of TAPS (Texoma Area Paratransit System), NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments) asked DART to restore a limited amount of elderly and disabled service in Allen, Fairview and Wylie for a 90-day period. That service is now in operation and the 90 days will end this month. DART also contracts with the cities of Mesquite and Arlington for a variety of services. The City of Mesquite contracts with DART, and DART in turn subcontracts with STAR Transit, the Kaufman County rural transit provider, to provide the actual service. DART oversees this by providing the planning, billing and security for the services. In the City of Arlington, DART provides the actual buses and employees.

There are over 22 cities in rural Collin County with destinations spread over 800 square miles. There were 12,875 rural trips provided by TAPS last year which averages 50 rural trips per weekday. Mr. Thomas reviewed TAPS' trip statistics for last year. There was a brief conversation regarding the rural areas on the map provided in the presentation, and Mr. Thomas will get clarification on this.

Mr. Thomas then presented some options for rural Collin County transportation. The first option which is more traditional is to contract for operation of dedicated accessible vehicles. This is the type of service DART currently provides in Allen, Wylie and Fairview and the on-call service in Plano. Another option would be a user side taxi voucher program similar to what is used in Plano. Qualified citizens would purchase a debit card for a quarter of the cost. If the user purchased a \$100 debit card, their cost would be \$25. Mr. Thomas would recommend a \$200 debit card in the rural areas of Collin County because of the distance of the trips. This type of service would require scheduling the day before to enable DART to know what type of vehicle would be required. The advantages of the taxi voucher system are: it uses the infrastructure of the taxi industry; costs are controlled by limiting the amount of monthly voucher values sold to users; it is ideal for lower frequency demand; there are no limits on destinations, trip purposes or days; and it is a lower-cost service option. The taxi operators that are certified in this program go through the same training and background checks as all other DART operators and receive the same customer care training required for carrying disabled and medical patients.

The disadvantages of a voucher system are: the service area and trip purpose cannot be limited; voucher limits may not be adequate for frequent trips since six percent of TAPS rural users would need more than \$200 per month to meet their transportation needs; it requires a capital investment in software and voucher management software; and there is no financial benefit from shared ride scheduling.

Mr. Thomas said Toyota gave DART a \$1 million grant to work with elderly and disabled citizens in Collin County. DART then talked to NCTCOG and the RTC (Regional Transportation Council) about a federal match to go with the local match. They are working closely with Michael Morris, NCTCOG Director of Transportation, to identify what the federal opportunities are.

Commissioner Hill asked if the County could authorize a higher limit on the vouchers. Mr. Thomas said the district could authorize a higher limit as long as it is within the controls and boundaries that TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) provides for the district. Mr. Thomas will find out if the district can limit the scope within the elderly and disabled to those that qualify on a financial basis and if the vouchers can be bound for medical purposes only.

Commissioner Webb wanted to clarify, if the district expands the amount of the vouchers from \$200 to \$300, the district would need to find the money for this because there would be no increase in federal or state funding. When the funding is expired, the program is halted. Mr. Thomas said DART would use historical figures to balance the funding throughout the year. With the use of State funds and the Toyota grant, and if nothing changes, DART could comfortably take this program to the end of fiscal year 2017.

Collin County must create a Rural Transportation District to access state and federal rural transportation funds which are estimated to be \$300,000 annually. The requirements to obtain DART service include: an interlocal agreement with the DART Bus LGC for transparency purposes; the cost of services must be fully offset by non-DART revenue; and have a complete service and financial plan for the County and cities within three years. There was a brief conversation regarding the definition of membership and the district.

Mr. Thomas then presented the advantages of using DART which include: over 30 years of financial stability with the ability to manage cash flow; extensive experience planning, designing, constructing, financing and operating all transit modes including rail, bus, street car, vanpool, demand responsive services and user side taxi vouchers; DART has obtained funding necessary to complete a Collin County Service Plan designed to provide an economically sustainable transit system for Collin County for the first time. The Court had many questions throughout the presentation and Mr. Thomas will get answers and follow up with the Court. (Time: 2:18 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

6. **AI-41462** Designation and ballot drawing of nine public members (in lieu of nine elected officials) and eighteen alternate members from the 2015 Grand Jury members to be appointed and serve on the 2016 Salary Grievance Committee and any action, Commissioners Court.

The Court drew nine names from the ballot box to serve as public members of the 2016 Salary Grievance Committee. The nine individuals drawn to serve as public members are Dixie Jeffers, Isiah Joshua, Jr., Geri Johnson, Jay Lewis, Raymond Cannon, Sandra Miller, Laura Cooper, George Chollar and Cary Platt. The remaining 18 names will serve as alternates, and the Court determined the alternates would be listed in alphabetical order. They are Carol Arnold, Sondra Baird, Parris Burgess, Shan Dean, Stacy Demel, Vickey Dillard, Don Johnson, Diann Jones, Terry Lawrence, Joyce Malamis, William Mills, Tonya Moore, Dorothy Shaw, Wayne Stafford, Sr., David Stephens, Eugene Thomas, Kenneth Tomas and Ezekiel Vaughn. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:19 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2016-296-05-02

7. AI-38983 North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Executive Board monthly update, County Judge.

Judge Self updated the Court on the last NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments) Executive Board meeting. The RTC (Regional Transportation Council) balance is still \$1.2 billion, and he believes a lot of that is already concrete and waiting for the checks to be cut.

There will be three Economic Recovery Planning and Training workshops for local businesses at a cost of \$150,000. Statistics show that up to 60% of small businesses never reopen after a disaster. Of those that do reopen, 25% will close within two years. These funds will be used to educate business owners on how to recover from a disaster.

Both the FASTLANE (Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies) and TIGER (Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery) grant applications were approved. The two projects submitted for the FASTLANE grant were I-35E and the DFW Connector, neither of which are in Collin County. The three projects submitted for the TIGER grant were East Lancaster/SH180, Park Lane/Vickery Meadow Complete Street Project, and Regional Connections through Technology and System Integration which is the one that will give us more technology on US 75. The only grants affecting Collin County are for technology along our primary corridor.

Next there was an Environmental Stewardship Program thanking the NTTA (North Texas Tollway Authority) for RTR (Regional Toll Revenue) funds. RTR funds would fund \$1.3 million or 50% of this program and then the private sector would fund another \$1.3 million. It is a sustainability program for trees using toll revenues from SH 121. Judge Self voted against this as did Denton County Commissioner, Bobbie Mitchell. The Judge objected to the source of the funds, the location of the project and the project itself. Commissioner Webb said it was his understanding that the funds were Denton County's RTR funds, and the Denton County RTC member voted for this. The Judge said they were told it was the region's funds.

The next item of interest was an appointment to the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee. There are ten members and none of them are from Collin County. The Judge would like to see someone from Collin County on the committee in the future.

The last item pertained to the 911 District. The fifty-cent fee on all phone bills goes to the state where it is held to balance the budget. The state is currently holding approximately \$150 million and 15% of that is ours. The law has given this region the ability to form a Regional 911 District to collect these fees instead of the fees going to the state. The law states that every county must agree to this. Major Palmisano in the Sheriff's Office has been dealing with this and has some questions. There will be a briefing on this from the COG staff. The Judge expressed concern over the proliferation of special districts across the state and suggested putting it on the legislative agenda to discuss with the legislators in September. (Time: 2:30 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

8. **AI-41525** Fair Defense Act rules and fee schedule, County Judge.

This item was held until after Executive Session. (Time: 2:30 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Self recessed Commissioners' Court in Executive Session at 2:32 p.m. in accordance with Chapter 551.071, Legal to discuss matters involving the Fair Defense Act rules and fee schedule and also under Chapter 551.071, Legal, to discuss the Rural Transit District.

AI-41523 Matters involving Fair Defense Act rules and fee schedule, County Judge.

Judge Self reconvened Commissioners' Court at 3:51 p.m. With no further business of the Court, Judge Self adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

NO ACTION TAKEN



Keith Self, County Judge

Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1

Not Present

Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2

Chris Hill, Commissioner, Pct. 3

Not Present

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4

ATTEST:

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