

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-211-03-18

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF COLLIN

**COMMISSIONERS COURT
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

On Monday, February 4, 2019, 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 Fletcher led the Invocation.

Commissioner Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hale 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 recessed the meeting at 2:59 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:06 p.m. and recessed at 3:16 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 3:17 p.m. and immediately recessed into Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened and adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the **Collin County Health Care Foundation** at 3:17 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the **Collin County Toll Road Authority** at 3:17 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

FYI NOTIFICATION

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

2. **AI-46027** Budget amendment in the amount of \$199,205 to establish the budget for the FY 2017 SCAAP Grant, Auditor.

3. **AI-46078** Turnover, Human Resources.

4. **AI-46079** Voluntary Terminations, Human Resources.

2. Public Comments.

Public comments were heard under General Discussion item 8.

3. Presentation/Recognition.

4. Consent agenda to approve: Judge Hill pulled item 4e1 for comment. The Judge held item 4e2 for a future court and asked for comments on the remainder of the consent agenda. Commissioner Fletcher pulled item 4d2 for recusal. Hearing no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time: 1:34 p.m.)

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

a. AI-46023 Disbursements for the period ending January 29, 2019, Auditor.
COURT ORDER NO. 2019-089-02-04

b. AI-46024 Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.
COURT ORDER NO. 2019-090-02-04

c. AI-46047 Tax refunds totaling \$25,014.50, Tax Assessor/Collector.
COURT ORDER NO. 2019-091-02-04

d. Award(s):

1. AI-45857 Professional Services, General Civil Engineering Consulting (RFQ No. 2018-359) and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Engineering Services Agreement, Engineering.
COURT ORDER NO. 2019-092-02-04

2. AI-46053 Annual Contract for Desktops, Laptops, Tablets, Mobile Data Computers and Accessories (Coop Quote No. 2019-029) to GTS Technology Solutions, Inc. and Zones, LLC, Information Technology.

Commissioner Webb asked why one of the recommendations was not the low bidder. Michalyn Rains, Purchasing, said in reviewing the item the wording is correct. The concern with line item number five was that in Purchasing's spreadsheet Lenovo, Inc. was the low bidder and GTS Technology Solutions, Inc. was not.

As of today, the vendor listed for line item five is nonresponsive; therefore, the issue is moot. With no further discussion, a motion was made to approve the item. Commissioner Fletcher did not participate in the vote. (Time: 1:35 p.m.)

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

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-093-02-04

3. AI-46059 Software Subscription and Archival Services, Proofpoint – Email Spam, Virus Protection (Coop Quote No. 2019-098) to SHI Government Solutions, Inc., Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-094-02-04

4. AI-46057 Professional Services, Mix Design for Emulsion Stabilized Subgrade (RFQ No. 2019-006) and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Engineering Services Agreement, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-095-02-04

5. AI-46058 Services: Body Repair And Painting For Light, Medium & Heavy Duty Vehicles (IFB No. 2018-263) to various vendors, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-096-02-04

6. AI-46019 Vehicle, Cargo Van (Contract No. 2019-073) to Sam Pack's Five Star Ford, Ltd., Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-097-02-04

e. Agreement(s):

1. AI-46076 Agreement to display a statue in the Collin County Courthouse on loan from Siebman Forrest Burg & Smith, LLP and Barbara White Boyd, Administrative Services.

Judge Hill pulled this item to recognize Clyde Siebman and Barbara Boyd, donors of "The Line" statue which is located in the courthouse. The statue of Colonel William Travis is on loan to the County by Siebman Forrest Burg & Smith, LLP and Ms. Boyd. Judge Hill thanked them for allowing the County to display the statue. (Time: 1:33 p.m.)

This item was approved with the consent agenda.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-098-02-04

2. AI-46064 Interlocal Agreement with the North Central Texas Emergency Communications District for Regional 9-1-1 Service, Administrative Service.

HELD

3. **AI-46074** Collin College Public Safety Training Center Agreement with Collin County Community College District, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-099-02-04

f. Amendment(s):

1. **AI-46063** No. 3 to the Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services with the City of Princeton to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2019 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-100-02-04

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

1. **AI-46077** \$1,745 for the purchase of electronic equipment utilizing the Justice Court Technology Fund, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-101-02-04

2. **AI-46065** \$6,071 to reallocate funds for the Spay/Neuter Program, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-102-02-04

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

1. **AI-46060** January 14, 2019.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-103-02-04

i. Miscellaneous

1. **AI-46071** Grant application and resolution for the FY 2020 Specialty Court Program Grant through the Office of the Governor (OOG), Criminal Justice Division (CJD), Juvenile Probation.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-104-02-04

2. **AI-46098** Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-105-02-04

3. **AI-46099** Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-106-02-04

GENERAL DISCUSSION

5. AI-46095 Approval of Parameters Order for Series 2019 Bonds, Budget.

Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, introduced David Medanich, Hilltop Securities, to give the presentation on the proposed parameters authorization. Bonds will be sold from the 2007 and 2018 bond authorizations for a total of \$156.455 million with an estimated interest rate of 3.5%. Bonds will be sold on February 19th. Mr. Medanich said a parameters bond order allows bonds to be sold off of an exact court date in the event the market moves. If the market moves too much the consultant will come back to the Court for direction. There is a maximum interest rate of 4.25% and the delegated pricing officers are the County Judge and/or the County Administrator.

Judge Hill said if market conditions are not favorable on February 19th, the selling of bonds could be held over as far out as August 3, 2019 which is the parameter authority expiration date. Mr. Medanich confirmed. He said this is not the best time to sell, but they are trying avoid a bad day in the market.

Commissioner Webb would prefer lowering the maximum interest rate to 3.75%. A motion was made with the change to the maximum interest rate. (Time: 1:41 p.m.)

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

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-107-02-04

6. Board/Committee Appointments, Commissioners Court:

a. AI-46115 Courthouse Security Committee.

A motion was made to nominate Commissioner Hale to the Courthouse Security Committee. (Time: 1:42 p.m.)

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

COURT ORDER NO. 2019-108-02-04

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

Judge Hill updated the Court on the last NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council of Governments) Executive Board meeting. Several resolutions were adopted authorizing contracts made by other boards. One resolution was the completion of the 9-1-1 District asset transfer to the new NCT9-1-1 (North Central Texas Emergency Communications District).

Another was a notification the North Central Texas Residential Safe Room Rebate Program will continue with processing the 7,800 residents on a waiting list. There is \$10 million in federal funding and \$5 million in NCTCOG funding for the program. The match to residents is up to \$3,000. The program is not open for new applicants. (Time: 3:16 p.m.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

8. AI-45660 86th Legislative Agenda for 2019, Commissioners Court:

- a. Proposed Magistrate Bill
- b. Ad Litem Costs
- c. Additional District Courts
- d. Creation of the Van Alstyne Municipal Utility District No. 2
- e. Creation of the North Celina Municipal Management District No. 3
- f. Lakehaven Municipal Utility District of Collin County
- g. Texas CUC – Principles of the Urban Counties Policy Platform
- h. Texas CUC – Bills Filed

Judge Hill presented a resolution in support of SB2 and HB2 relating to ad valorem taxation for the Court's consideration and adoption. The legislature has invited citizens to Austin to give testimony for or against these bills on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Judge Hill plans to attend and give testimony in favor of the bills and would like to take a resolution of support with him.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if the Court can respond and deliberate on this item if it is not specifically listed on the agenda. Judge Hill said he and Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, reached out to the County's attorney on this and said the Court is free to discuss this because it falls under the header of the 86th Legislative Agenda for 2019.

Judge Hill moved to approve the resolution in support of SB2 and HB2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hale.

Judge Hill invited George Fuller, Mayor of McKinney, to come forward for public comment. Mayor Fuller expressed his opinion – and disappointment – that more people were not in attendance because there was nothing posted on the agenda regarding this resolution. According to the Mayor, the City of McKinney supports meaningful tax relief for its citizens. The Mayor does not take issue with the Commissioners Court supporting legislation regulating the County's taxing authority, but does take issue when it supports legislation concerning the City's taxing jurisdiction.

According to Mayor Fuller, SB2 and HB2 is not meaningful tax relief. If the legislation had been in effect last year, the average homeowner in McKinney would have saved \$0.35 per month. If he had sent out a poll on this issue, he, too, would have received greater than 90% consensus, similar to the revenue cap poll published over the weekend. The Mayor believes the poll was intellectually misleading and does not articulate any of the potential costs associated with the proposed cap or the costs of the ratification election. Likewise, the poll did not educate voters on the potential impact the cap could have on the City's bond rating. Cities and counties alike, especially high growth entities, issue bonds in debt for infrastructure and capital improvements. The interest paid by city residents is currently the lowest available on the market due to the City's AAA bond rating. Restricting the potential revenue source will jeopardize the rating which will cost the residents more money.

The Mayor said the poll misleads residents and takes the focus off real and meaningful tax reform which would lead to meaningful tax relief. The real issue facing cities is state-imposed unfunded mandates and the gross decline of state school funding, both of which shift a tremendous financial burden from the state to local county and city residents. The County often boasts it has consistently adopted the effective or lower tax rate. The expanse of county area that bear operations and maintenance expense for the County has decreased as cities grow. Also, the County has passed on increases of administrative and operational expenses to their city partners. For example, the cost to McKinney by the County for animal control has increased by nearly 65%. McKinney paid \$260,000 per year for the service which will now be \$450,000. Jail services are another county-billed service which has dramatically increased.

Mayor Fuller said Judge Hill stated school funding was not his fight or a county issue. He asked the Judge to make it his fight. The way to impact residents with the most tangible and meaningful tax reform is to get a coalition which speaks loudly to the legislators on state school defunding. According to the Mayor, it's time to be leaders who act, not react.

Commissioner Fletcher asked if McKinney has a homestead exemption. Mayor Fuller said the homestead exemption was recently increased from \$60,000 to \$65,000 for residents age 65 and older. Not all McKinney residents receive a homestead exemption. The exemption would be compromised and so would life safety services. (Time: 1:50 p.m.)

Commissioner Fletcher shared a resolution she drafted for a meaningful property tax reform with the members of the Court. She compared resolutions to the one Judge Hill presented and many things are similar. The Judge's resolution included language the Commissioner was most concerned about two years ago when the Court considered a resolution for tax reform. She thanked the Judge for including that language, as it is important to recognize the undue burden unfunded mandates place on local governments.

According to the Commissioner, the difference in her resolution and Judge Hill's resolution is the declaration that true property tax reform is directly tied to school finance reform. Representative Jeff Leach and many of the County's legislators have stated as much in recent communications about these bills. Two-thirds of our property tax bills are due to the ISDs (Independent School District). Commissioner Fletcher said the state needs to take on more responsibility for educating children and reducing the unsustainable burden on the Texas taxpayers, a point she has included in her resolution. The Commissioner understands Collin County does not regulate schools, but it is part of the property tax problem.

The Commissioner also included a point related to good fiscal stewardship in her resolution. According to her proposition, if an entity increased property tax revenues by 1%, that entity could bank the remaining 1.5% property tax revenue for an emergency expenditure rather than increasing revenues up to 2.4999% every year. This was an idea from Governor Abbott's office; however, she has not seen it in current legislation.

At this point, the Commissioner Fletcher is fully in support of a property tax reform. Citizens deserve to feel like they own their home. There are also a lot of unintended consequences and she feels it is premature for the County to go outside of its own taxing jurisdiction. Homestead exemptions are at risk when there is a 2.5% cap which is much lower than the local CPI (Consumer Price Index). The only way the County has been able to adopt an effective tax rate is because of the tremendous growth. Since she has been a Commissioner the Court has lowered the tax rate 23%. The County was not responsible for all of the growth; the cities are creating the economic development growth that the County is benefiting from by collecting tax revenue. ISDs, however, do not get to benefit from the economic development.

Commissioner Fletcher said Plano ISD sends \$200 million a year to Austin due to recapture. Commissioner Webb said meaningful tax relief would be to abolish recapture. Plano resident's tax bill would go down \$0.50 per \$100. That is meaningful tax relief, but that is not going to occur without fixing the public education finance system.

Commissioner Fletcher said she supports the resolution if it is limited in scope to Collin County. She does not want to see a resident in Plano lose a 20% homestead which is \$400 a year to then only save \$50-\$70 the state bill will save them per year. Citizens are always going to say they want tax relief, but the potential impacts, like slow emergency services, need to be weighed. A lot of frustration comes up when looking at where the Lieutenant Governor and Senator Bettencourt, author of SB2, are from. They are from the Houston area which is filled with MUDs (Municipal Utility District) that will be exempt from SB2. Those people will get zero in tax reform because they are in a MUD.

Commissioner Fletcher asked what is truly meaningful and how can elected officials truly help our taxpayers? The legislature is holding a hearing to hear the concerns. The Commissioner supports property tax reform but asked how we will know what we are supporting when the bill was just filed on Thursday. The Commissioner would like to table this resolution or pull it back in scope to Collin County. She would like the Court to discuss this further and be more transparent with the citizens.

Commissioner Williams said the City of McKinney does not use Collin County for animal control. They have their own. They do use the County's facility for sheltering the animals, but that is a facility owned jointly with the cities which has a board to oversee the budget of the shelter. The cost is determined by the board of which cities have the majority of seats. The County does not make the determination of what costs will be.

Brian Newman, McKinney, came forward to share his support of SB2 and HB2. Taxes throughout history have been used to repress people. Not necessarily in this country, but this country was founded on principles which act as a warning to human nature. When people are unchecked and government powers are unchecked it is very easy to spend other people's money. These bills are a terrific way to bring accountability to government. Having triggers for elections allows the people to check their government. The triggering of a vote allows the government to be leaner. It is a wonderful thing for mayors and school boards to consider because they will have to sell it to the people and deliver a quality product. Not to say they aren't already. Mr. Newman asked the Court to support the bills. (Time: 2:06 p.m.)

Commissioner Webb said he cannot support what has been submitted today. He is in favor of meaningful property tax relief, but it has to be coupled with fixing the school finance system. The Commissioner sat on the Plano ISD school board for 12 years and watched Plano's recapture go from \$2 million, when he took office, to what it is now at \$200 million. It represents one-third of their budget. Per-pupil spending has gone down 22% since he was on the board. This is because of the state school tax system. The state forces the school districts to increase what they are assessing citizens as owners of real property. The state drains the revenue into the general revenue fund to use to support the entire state system.

Commissioner Webb said the bill is very intense and sets up a lot of things, not just a 2.5% cap. So far he has read 10 pages of the bill and challenged anyone who says they have read the entire document when it only came out on Thursday. He has a problem with people supporting a bill without reading it. The Commissioner also said the two resolutions were only presented to him within the last two hours. He would like to hear what the representatives, elected officials and his constituents have to say about the bills and find out what is important to them before he gives his support. Everyone wants meaningful tax relief, but the question is how to do it so that it is meaningful and how will it impact school finance. The cost of voting is also an issue. The bill reads that voting would be in November which is the most expensive time to hold an election. What about inflation. If we go above the 2.5% inflation does that mean an election is held every year?

The Commissioner said there are departments which have grown more than the 2.5% in the last few years. This will put substantial strain on the rest of the departments because if a department grows 3%-4% funding will have to be pulled from other departments to stay below the 2.5%. The County has been blessed and hasn't done anything since Commissioner Webb has been in office to support the growth in the County that allows for adopting the effective tax rate. Economic development was done by the cities. If it wasn't for the cities doing what they are doing, the County would not be able to adopt the effective tax rate. Therefore, he does not want to torpedo them without having input from them.

Commissioner Webb is happy to see unfunded mandates in the resolution because the County continues to be pushed with unfunded mandates from the state. The 2.5% cap, along with unfunded mandates, puts the County in a catch-22; therefore, he is not in a position to support either resolution.

Commissioner Fletcher said if an election is to be held in November and the County's fiscal year begins October 1, 2019, this would mean the County would have to adopt two different budgets if the County is going to exceed the 2.5% for any reason.

Judge Hill addressed a comment made by the Mayor in order to give context for the conversation he had with the Mayor. The Mayor made a comment saying the Judge had said the school finance issue is not his issue. Judge Hill clarified the two were having lunch with their families where they had a discussion on the topic. During the discussion the Mayor asked the Judge why he hasn't written a resolution about school finance. The Judge replied that he was not elected to the school board or to the state legislature. He said he was elected to the County and tries to keep himself in his lane as it regards the County's business. SB2 does include counties and cities because the legislature chose to do so.

Judge Hill said there is a bit of posturing by those who are upset on the notation they may be held accountable by the taxpayers and the state legislature for decisions made at the local level. The County has adopted the "no-new-revenue" rate for the last three years. There have been departments which have needed growth and have had demands requiring growth exceeding 2.5%. When the Court approved the growth it had to make sure other departments didn't also grow by 2.5%. Savings had to be found in order to come in at the "no-new-revenue" rate. This is what the Court was elected to do. The Court was elected to meet the needs of the community and the departments under their charge as those needs arise. The Court will continue to do so in a manner that services the citizens well and with excellence.

A comment was made that citizens in McKinney would only save \$0.35, \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$50.00. Judge Hill said this comes up every year. After ten years those amounts begin to add up. On the one hand, taxpayers say they are tired of entities taking their money even if it's nickels and dimes, but on the other hand if it only costs the city \$0.35 because entities are at the level they need to be then the entities are to be applauded.

The Judge said it is true the final form of the bill is unknown. In 2017, this Court saw fit to support the property tax reform bill and the Judge hopes it will again. The vote today is not on what legislation will be released or what it will look like tomorrow. The Judge said he has read the entire bill with the caveat he did not pay attention to the sections which had not changed from the previous year.

The Judge disagrees with the comment that the County having done nothing to accomplish adopting the effective tax rate. He believes this is exactly what the Court has done over the last six years and is what he set out to do. He set out to manage this entity on behalf of the citizens in a way to be responsible with their tax dollars and keep the effective rate while providing excellent services. Commissioner Fletcher agreed. Judge Hill said Collin County has some of the best employees in the state offering some of the best county services in Texas. This is all done with the second lowest tax rate in the state. The County has shown excellent service can be provided at the same time as having low taxes.

The Judge said there is some fairness in the comment that we haven't heard back from citizens. He knew he was going to reach out to citizens over the past weekend, but others may not have had the same thought. Judge Hill did get a reply from citizens he has an audience with. He shared a chart with survey results from three different venues – Nextdoor, Facebook and email. He asked whether or not they support SB2 and HB2. The question included a narrative which was his perspective. Of 2,700 respondents on Nextdoor, reaching 250,000 citizens in all precincts of the County, almost 93% said they do support tax reform and SB2 and HB2. There were 177 responses on Facebook with 92% of those in favor. Of the 27,000 people on the Judge's email list, 400 responses were received. Of those, 93% were in favor. In total, 3,300 citizens shared their opinions with 93% in support of the bills. Of course they do not know everything they are supporting in the bill, but they are speaking clearly that they want tax reform. The County is not the reason taxes are going up every year. Everyone knows property taxes are paying for the schools. The Court would like to see the recapture program from the state legislature end and for taxes paid locally to remain locally. The Judge welcomed a resolution saying as much.

The legislature is asking for feedback and Judge Hill will testify supporting the bill and tell them 93% of constituents want to move forward. He would love to carry a resolution from the Court sharing those views. He does not know if the bill will cause cities to lose their homestead exemptions, but there is nothing in the bill requiring that to happen. He believes it is unfair for elected officials to say this will happen.

Commissioner Hale also gained input over the weekend from constituents regarding SB2 and HB2. He posed options on a Nextdoor poll. He explained the bill from what he had read and gave the options of yes, no, and other options in between based on not knowing the final bill. The poll resulted in 88% in favor out of 758 votes. Only another 4% - 5% selected other options and only 6% selected no. This matches up with Judge Hill's numbers.

The Commissioner received 111 comments. He said without school finance included in this legislative session there will not be any meaningful tax relief. Recapture has to be reworked. He believes getting the Court's thoughts earlier rather than later will be valuable. It is true the final form of the bill is unknown, but getting in front of the committee during public comment time needs to be done.

Commissioner Hale plotted out the poll results to see where the votes were coming from. He believes SB2 and HB2 do not go far enough due to the fact it only affects large taxing districts (Allen and McKinney) within his precinct.

He agrees unfunded mandates need to be in the resolution, but asked if the tax ratification election follows the same rules in place as an elected body. Would three-fifths be required to approve a tax increase? Does a vote fall subject to the same thing a city council would. Commissioner Hale also has questions on homestead and veteran exemptions. There is nothing in the bill regarding this. The Commissioner would support the resolution as is or with additional amendments.

Commissioner Fletcher proposed an amendment to the motion. She recommended adding the language, "Recognizing on average two-thirds of the tax bills of Collin County residents are collected by local ISDs, the Collin County Commissioners Court hereby requests an amendment to SB2 acknowledging that true property tax reform is directly tied to school finance reform and requires the state to substantially increase their investment in public education in order to reduce the unsustainable burden on Texas taxpayers." The Commissioner also asked for the addition of a paragraph recognizing good fiscal stewardship of taxpayer funds should be strongly encouraged. The Commissioner suggested if the resolution is not pulled back to just the taxing authority of Collin County, then pull it back to Texas counties.

Judge Hill agreed with absorbing the amendment on school finance into the resolution with changes to the wording in order to fit in the form of the proposed resolution. He does not agree with the fiscal stewardship paragraph which refers to unused tax percentage. He sees the opportunities for good in it, but if Collin County, for example, goes 10 years with the effective rate and stores up a 25% increase there could be a serious issue. In the event the Court turns from a conservative/Republican led court to a liberal-leaning/Democrat led court there would be a 25% banked tax potential that would not have to go back to the taxpayers for approval. The Judge doesn't know if anyone would necessarily abuse it. Commissioner Fletcher said her language stated it would be up to the legislature what the authorized expenditures would be in order to access the banked percentage credits. The Judge would prefer to leave it out of the resolution.

Judge Hill amended the motion to include the school finance reform language presented by Commissioner Fletcher with the adjustments made. The amended motion was seconded.

Commissioner Fletcher was happy to support the amended resolution, but said it is important to limit the Court's comments to those of the County's taxing authority.

Commissioner Williams had no interest in pulling the resolution back to Collin County or counties because every city and county will have their own resolution. Judge Hill agreed.

Commissioner Fletcher said she is 100% on board with property tax reform and will agree with what is proposed because tax reform is important to the citizens; however, she believes strongly the resolution as it stands exceeds the Court's authority by going beyond county government.

Commissioner Webb supports meaningful tax relief, but it can't be done without solving the school finance reform. He believes the legislature will do nothing for the school finance system. He will give support to the resolution if language is added to the resolution that tax reform and school finance reform are tied together.

Commissioner Hale said constituents support the bill, but without school finance reform and relief it will be a failure. He will also give testimony to that point.

Judge Hill recessed the Court at 2:59 p.m. in order for Commissioner Webb to draft language for an amendment to the resolution.

Judge Hill reconvened the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

Commissioner Webb proposed the language, "Now, therefore, the members of the Collin County Commissioners Court request that Senate Bill 2 (SB2) & House Bill 2 (HB2) include school finance reform within the legislation and that the state substantially increase their investment in public education, in order to reduce the unsustainable burden on Texas taxpayers." This supersedes the previous amendment to the resolution. The motion approving the resolution carried. (Time: 3:08 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Chris Hill

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

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Commissioner Hale made additional comments to the above discussion. McKinney has made good effort to provide restraint in property tax growth. The budget for the animal shelter is created by the board, but the Commissioners Court ultimately approves it.

Judge Hill said a workshop is scheduled for legislative agenda items a, b and c which will include members of the judicial courts. Discussion on these items were held for the workshop.

Judge Hill said items d, e and f are all related to the creation or amendments to new or existing municipal districts. The Judge would like representatives of the municipal district boards to speak to the Court if they seek the Court's approval or assistance. Commissioner Webb said if they are going to maintain their own roads, he will support them.

Judge Hill requested an item letter under the legislative agenda heading reserved for any other legislative items as necessary.

Commissioner Fletcher would like to discuss an eminent domain bill limiting government authorities and allowing a court process.

In regards to item g and h, Commissioner Fletcher would like to hear from the Court if there is anything she needs to represent the County on next week at the CUC (Conference of Urban Counties) meeting. Commissioner Williams asked Commissioner Fletcher take the ad litem brochures to the CUC to explain what the Court is wanting to do with the ad litem issue. She said the County attorney, Greg Hudson, is writing a bill for legislators to file. (Time: 3:14 p.m.)

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

Judge Hill recessed the meeting at 3:16 p.m. and called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation and the Collin County Toll Road Authority. Judge Hill reconvened the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Hill recessed Commissioners Court into Executive Session at 3:17 p.m. in accordance with paragraph 551.071, Legal, to consult with an attorney regarding the adoption of an Early Release Payment Policy.

Judge Hill reconvened the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Legal (551.071)

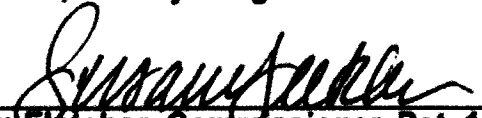
AI-45977 Consult with an attorney regarding the adoption of an Early Release Payment Policy.

NO ACTION TAKEN

There being no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.



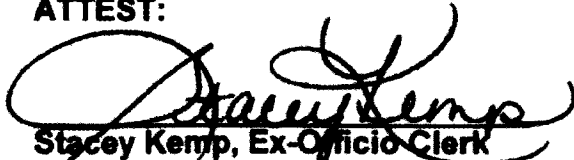

Chris Hill, County Judge


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct. 1


Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct. 2


Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct. 3

ATTEST:


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

Not Present
Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct. 4