

State of Texas	§	Court order
Collin County	§	2022-1028-09-26
Commissioners Court	§	

On Monday, August 22, 2022, the Commissioners Court of Collin County, Texas, met in a Special Session Workshop 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

1. Judge Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners Court Budget Workshop Special Session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 22, 2022, and adjourned the Workshop at 10:58 a.m.

FY 2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Public Comments

The Court heard public comments at 10:55 a.m.

Joshua Murray, Lavon, said he sees where the Court’s priorities stand by making a motion to give themselves a raise before ensuring the employees are properly compensated. Judge Hill asked if Mr. Murray said the Judge made the motion for employee raises. Mr. Murray said he was speaking about the Court. Mr. Murray said the Judge did make a motion during the last meeting and Commissioners said they didn’t need to do that at that time. There are unfunded talent acquisition managers that the juvenile staff needed. The reason they are making cuts is because it is their priority for employees to be compensated. Constable Knapp had asked for two deputies to fill a chief deputy position. Instead, he was given one Deputy II. The Court looks for ways to cut the budget to be self-serving while they put the burden on staff and on the broken down infrastructure. There are janitorial construction members cleaning the County offices, and the Medical Examiner’s response time is down. The Court prioritizes itself over everyone else in the County so they can get to a hypothetical NNR (No New Revenue) tax rate in order to have a sales pitch. The employees are overworked, and moral is down. Departments have put in their bare minimum requests because they want to prioritize the compensation package that is now on the chopping block as well. (Time: 10:58 a.m.)

1. Items to Court Consideration

a. Compensation & Benefits - Discussion & Any Action

1. AI-52663 Benefit Change Discussion and Any Action

2. AI-52664 Compensation - Discussion & Any Action

3. AI-52519 Elected Officials Salaries Proposal

Commissioner Williams made motion to pay elected officials as they do other employees. Commissioner Fletcher said she is unwilling to vote for any elected official raises unless the Court is willing to fund needed items for government. Commissioner Webb agreed with Commissioner Fletcher. (Time: 9:03 a.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Judge Chris Hill

Vote: 3 – 2 Passed

Nay: Commissioners Duncan Webb and Susan Fletcher

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2. Commissioners Court Changes to Recommended Budget

Commissioner Webb made a motion to add seven months of market movement to the General Fund, the Road & Bridge Fund, and other funds. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Hale said he is generally in favor of this but would prefer to come back to it after each individual line item is addressed. Commissioner Fletcher said she is in favor of the market movement as that is the market for employees and attracting and retaining employees. It's important as the County is struggling to fill these positions.

Commissioner Webb thanked the Juvenile Board for what they did on Friday, August 19, 2022, because it did help. Almost every judge was there, and he is appreciative of the actions they took. The Commissioner said he supports the basic no-new tax rate budget as it was proposed. However, he believes it is irresponsible to not approve all the items under 3D which compose a large portion of the Add/Delete List. He supports all of the items on the list including the item under confidential. If the County doesn't approve the confidential item, we will lose our insurance. Comments have been made by all department heads and elected officials that pay is the most critical issue in terms of recruiting and retaining personnel. He is also supportive of moving the pay range to the 75th percentile.

Commissioner Webb had Budget do calculations on the impact of adopting the Basic Budget which was document 3A, all the items listed on document 3D, plus 9 months of market movement pay increases, and the 75th percentile pay range movement. This will require adding four tenths of a cent over the No New Tax Rate which equates to an extra \$4.87 for the average home and an additional \$22 dollars to an average home without a homestead exemption. Commissioner Webb moved for approval for all of his proposals. Commissioner Fletcher said she would like to understand the motion and know each individual item before she can second the motion. Commissioner Webb explained each item in his motion.

Monika Arris, Budget, handed out printouts of option 1 and option 2 that Commissioner Webb was suggesting.

Commissioner Fletcher said she is unwilling to go above the homeowner no new revenue. At this point she would prefer to hold the 75th percentile market movement or possibly do part of it. She said she can't second the motion as it stands because it would add taxes to homeowners with homestead exemptions. The Commissioner said she is willing to second the motion if Commissioner Webb is willing to exclude the 75th percentile market movement. Commissioner Webb modified his motion and took out the 75th percentile market movement. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. Ms. Arris handed out option 3 to the Court.

Commissioner Webb explained the details of option 3 and moved for approval. Commissioner Fletcher second the motion. There was a brief discussion regarding the details.

Commissioner Fletcher said option 3 didn't include the additional \$130,000 that she scrubbed from the budget over the weekend. Commissioner Fletcher made a motion to amend the motion to include the additional \$130,000 scrub. Commissioner Webb agreed to the amendment.

Commissioner Hale said there should be \$2,300 added back to the County Clerk's education and conference budget. Commissioner Fletcher explained the County Clerk has been the president of the association, and they have been paying for her education and conferences while she was president. However, she will need the additional funding to cover her education and conferences now that her term is over.

Commissioner Hale said there are components of the motion moved he is supportive of but he would like to discuss a confidential item in Executive Session prior to voting. Judge Hill asked if Commissioner Webb would be willing to divide up his motion. Commissioner Webb agreed. Commissioner Hale said there needs to be a vote to approve the list of savings Commissioner Fletcher came up with over the weekend. Commissioner Webb tabled his motion.

Commissioner Hale made a motion to approve the combined saving lists Commissioner Williams and he provided last week. Commissioner Fletcher asked if he is willing to add the \$2,300 back to the County Clerk's education and conference budget. Commissioner Hale said no because this cut goes across everybody's budget equally. Commissioner Fletcher agreed but said it is not considering the County hasn't been paying for the training while the Clerk was the president and now the County will have to. Commissioner Williams said she supports the motion as it stands. Commissioner Fletcher said they could discuss putting back the \$2,300 when the Court discusses her list of savings.

Judge Hill said he would like to ensure they have spoken to all departments and these budget cuts are something they can absorb. Commissioner Hale said the document was published online for everyone to review. Commissioner Williams said these documents have been online since Tuesday, and she has not received any feedback suggesting any problem with the budget cut suggestions. Commissioner Hale said Commissioner Fletcher's list has good finds for savings as well. Commissioner Hale amended his motion to include the \$2,300 for the County Clerk's education and conferences budget. A motion was made to approve the list of budget cuts totaling \$263,628 in savings. (Time: 9:30 a.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Judge Chris Hill

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

Commissioner Fletcher reviewed each line item and identified several that were historically under-utilized. A motion was made to approve Commissioner Fletcher's suggested list of budget cuts.

Judge Hill said prior to COVID-19, he would meet quarterly with the Faith Community Council, the Economic Advisory Council, and the Student Leadership Council. The meetings had stopped but they are resuming again with the addition of a Mayors Council. These are all quarterly lunch meetings with different groups. Judge Hill asked to not cut that budget because it will be necessary this year. Commissioner Fletcher said it is great Judge Hill meets with these groups, but the addition of food could be something a restaurant could sponsor. Judge Hill said he would not be able to support the budget cut list because it would be inappropriate to ask a restaurant to bear the burden of paying for the meals. Commissioner Fletcher said the Mayor of Frisco has done it many times. There could also be meetings with coffee and donuts provided instead of lunch. Judge Hill said meals are not required, but he has found it more productive to invite them to a lunch meeting. Judge Hill said he would second Commissioner Fletcher's motion with the amendment of his line item. Commissioner Fletcher made a motion inclusive of Judge Hill's amendment with \$131,562 in savings. (Time: 9:41 a.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Judge Chris Hill

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

Budget drafted option 4 to include the approved savings items and the Court discussed the option. Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the recommended budget, adding the items in 3M, adding seven more months of market movement and the confidential item. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. (Time: 9:49 a.m.)

Judge Hill recessed into Executive Session at 9:49 a.m. under Chapter 55.089, Security, to discuss security equipment and personnel.

Judge Hill reconvened the Budget Workshop Special Session at 10:14 a.m.

Judge Hill asked if the FY2022 one-time items listed on page 2 of option 4 were included in the vote taken previously for FY2022 one-time items. Ms. Arris clarified the items being presented were not included in the previous vote. All of the one-time costs were pulled from document 3D. The recurring costs would start in FY2023. Judge Hill asked if the 75th percentile market movement was part of Commissioner Webb's motion. Commissioner Webb said he had pulled that portion out of the motion. Judge Hill asked for a subtotal of the changes on page 2 of option 4. Ms. Arris said the subtotal is \$6,264,665, and it includes the reductions. Judge Hill said the current vote before the Court would add \$6,659,855 to the General Fund Budget.

Judge Hill asked what tax rate was used for calculating the County tax payment. Ms. Arris said the total tax rate needed was \$0.152704 for this option. The proposed new tax rate was discussed. Judge Hill asked how much would be needed to take off of the added \$6,569,855 to get to the NNR (No New Revenue) Tax Rate tax. Ms. Arris said \$5,410,897 would need to be taken off.

Commissioner Hale said he is supportive of the Fire Marshal and the seven months market movement, but he would like to consider each of the other items individually. Commissioner Fletcher said she struggles knowing there are needs and knowing the SO (Sheriff's Office) is currently struggling to meet statutory requirements on open records. An employee was lost because they were doing two peoples jobs and the new person will need support or the County will wind up in the same situation. Next year will also be a difficult budget and waiting to add these things until next year will be harder.

Ms. Arris said the restoration of the line items could be reduced or eliminated. If it were to be taken off completely, the budget would be reduced by \$1.6 million. Commissioner Webb said the problem with that is the County has to legally pay the court appointed attorney bills. Ms. Arris said the County had savings from COVID-19 and those funds have been used to pay for attorney fees. Those savings could be used going into FY2023, but the lines will need to be restored. Commissioner Webb asked if they could take off half of the amount. Ms. Arris said they could. Commissioners Webb said he is willing to take off \$500,000 from the Court Appointed Attorney line item and \$50,000 from the Court Appointed Attorney Juvenile line item.

Ms. Arris presented Option 5 reflecting the adjustments of the two Court Appointed Attorney line items. The changes do bring the tax rate under the voter approval tax rate. Commissioner Webb amended his motion to incorporate the two changes. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. Commissioner Williams said she is comfortable with Option 5 as presented.

Commissioner Hale said there are still SO (Sheriff's Office) items on the Add/Delete List and asked the Sheriff if the items presented in Option 5 are his priority, or are there any items he would do in lieu of others. Sheriff Skinner said he would sacrifice the CEU (Child Exploitation Unit) sergeant for a traffic deputy and a DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) deputy. Commissioner Fletcher said she is willing to do that knowing the tax rate will still be under the voter approval rate. Ms. Arris confirmed the rate will still be under the voter approval rate if they were to make the changes to the SO positions.

Judge Hill asked Stacey Kemp, County Clerk, if there are any needs in her office that the Court should be aware of. Ms. Kemp said she will need to request them next year because she doesn't have any figures prepared. Judge Hill said he is not sure what will occur next year, but as discussed offline there were pressing needs in Ms. Kemp's office. If there were to be any additions to this budget, Ms. Kemp would have liked to be included. Judge Hill asked, if at this point, she would like to forgo those. Ms. Kemp said yes.

Judge Hill asked Bill Bilyeu, County Administrator, if the outlined option represents the most pressing needs for the County. Mr. Bilyeu said the direction given to departments was this was a slim budget and only emergency items needed to be on the requests. Judge Hill said, as the motion stands, the County is about to add \$5.4 million to the budget. However, none of the requests come from central departments because they were told to not put in requests. The Judge asked Mr. Bilyeu if he had any advice on how to handle this. Mr. Bilyeu said the Court could set aside funds in the discretionary budget and have departments provide a priority list in October 2022. The problem is that some of the needs haven't been vetted for pricing because they were given direction that the budget was tight. Judge Hill said this concerns him because these items may not be the highest priorities in the County. They are just the requests that happened to have made the list.

Commissioner Webb asked Ms. Arris if her department reached out to each department to ask for their requests and vetted each request to determine their priority. Ms. Arris said they did vet each request submitted to come up with the highly recommended list. Judge Hill asked if Ms. Arris was aware of any requests that were not submitted. Ms. Arris said no department has reached out to her stating they had items they would have submitted. Judge Hill asked Mr. Bilyeu if there were any other items that were not submitted. Mr. Bilyeu said there were other items, and Ms. Arris was not aware of them because there was no reason. Mr. Bilyeu said departments were aware of the big ticket items and how much they ate up of the new revenue. Departments understood the market movement discussion as well as the 75th percentile and agreed that taking care of existing employees was a priority. Mr. Bilyeu pointed to the Court's weekly

discussions regarding the difficulty in filling open positions. Judge Hill said he has had conversations with elected officials who have told him they didn't request things because they received direction that there wasn't going to be any funding. There are others who received the same direction but submitted their requests anyway, and now the Court is adopting items that aren't the highest priorities. With no further discussion, the Court voted on Commissioner Webb's motion. (Time: 10:53 a.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 3 – 2 Passed
Nay: Judge Chris Hill and Commissioner Darrell Hale

- 3. Review of Add/Delete List
- 4. Court Recommended Budget Review
- 5. AI-52520 Discussion of Proposed FY 2023 Tax Rate
- 6. Propose Tax Rate

Ms. Arris said a motion was needed to propose the tax rate for the general fund. A motion was made to approve the total tax rate of \$0.152443. (Time: 10:55 a.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams
Vote: 3 - 2 Passed
Nay: Judge Chris Hill and Commission Darrell Hale

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- 7. AI-52521 Schedule Public Hearings

Judge Hill made a motion to adopt the hearing dates as proposed. (Time: 10:55 a.m.)

Motion by: Judge Chris Hill
Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb
Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

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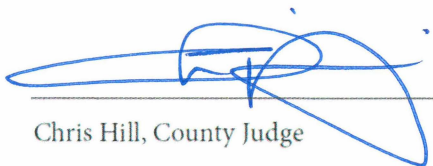
Judge Hill began the public comments session at 10:55 a.m.

a. Tax Rate Public Hearing (Tax Code 26.05 & 26.06)

b. Budget Public Hearing (LGC 111.067 & 111.068)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Court did not recesses into Executive Session. There being no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the Budget Workshop Special Session at 10:58 a.m.

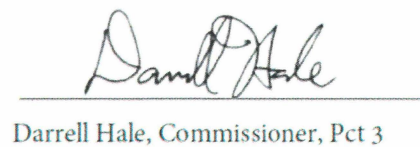

Chris Hill, County Judge

Not Present


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1


Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2




Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3


Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4


ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk