

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2024-1281-12-09
Commissioners Court	§	

An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the November 11, 2024 minutes.

On Monday, November 11, 2024, 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

Judge Hill led the Invocation.
Commissioner Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Judge Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Commissioners Court at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 4:51 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

DECISIONS MANDATED BY LEGAL ENTITIES OUTSIDE OF COMMISSIONERS COURT AUTHORITY:

1. AI-57039 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.
2. AI-57040 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

FYI NOTIFICATION:

1. AI-57021 Intra-County account transfers transmitted October 25, 2024, Auditor.

2. AI-56971 Addendum No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 to Professional Services, Engineering Consulting Services to Collin County (RFQ No. 2024-369) to make various changes to the Request for Qualification, Purchasing.

3. Notification of budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):

a. AI-56994 \$62,401.23 to establish the budget for the FY2025 Bullet Resistant Shields Grant, Auditor.

COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:

Public comments related to an item on the Agenda.

John Stafford, Plano, said he is in support of planning for Collin County's future growth but is in opposition for a new elections facility being built if the sole intention is to appease a certain segment of the Collin County population. The voting machines currently being utilized are only five years old and said it would be a waste of his tax dollars to purchase new voting machines and equipment prematurely. (Time: 3:50 p.m.)

Avis Novak, McKinney, expressed appreciation for the Court's further examination of the BOD (Ballot on Demand) printer request, but has concerns about the pricing structure and timing of the proposal. The most recent bond election could have included the election facility; the operational needs were foreseeable then and remain unchanged now. She expressed that postponing this decision until 2025 could be problematic. (Time: 3:52 p.m.)

Lee Moore, McKinney, stated her support for hand marked paper ballots. She said she was disappointed in the report given in court today showing the year 2026 being the earliest time for BOD printers to be utilized. The current BMD (Ballot Marking Devices), which convert the citizen's vote to unreadable barcodes, lack transparency and do not ensure the voter's choices are accurately recorded. She asked the Court to not combine the need for BOD printers and a new elections facility together as they can be accomplished separately. (Time: 3:55 p.m.)

Maggie Whitt, Murphy, said voter education was a concern. On Election Day, she witnessed at numerous polling locations where many of the judges were brand new and were not comfortable or aware of what they were doing. Additionally, she expressed her support for building a new election facility. (Time: 3:59 p.m.)

Debbie Lindstrom, McKinney, thanked the Court for their efforts on researching the requirements for implementing hand marked ballots. She expressed concern with the lack of instruction given to the voters in regards to verifying their ballot, which made her question how many voters' ballots were incorrect during this election. Every person's vote is priceless; transitioning to hand marked ballots would come with a significant cost but believes this investment would be necessary. (Time: 4:02 p.m.)

Chuck Reynolds, McKinney, said transparency to the voter and the citizen is a foundational element of America. American citizens are asking for security for elections now. He said there should be no expectations for security coming from federal certifications or their agencies. Mr. Reynolds expressed his concerns towards BMD and recommended the Court eliminate them immediately. (Time: 4:05 p.m.)

Cynthia Brugge, McKinney, said she believes there are major concerns with our current election system. The Court has been aware of these concerns for four years yet they have not been addressed. She recommends the County works together to ensure those elected are the ones who were chosen by the voter. (Time: 4:08 p.m.)

Robert Canright, McKinney, said due to the ballot tracking education he received he now has developed trust and confidence in the BMDs. He said he believes Collin County has the best county government and election office in Texas; however, there is still work to do. There is still lack of transparency in the tabulators and auditing process. Mr. Canright said there needs to be more education given to the voters. (Time: 4:12 p.m.)

1. **Consent Agenda Items:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made to approve the remainder of the consent agenda. (Time 1:33 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher
Vote: 5-0 Passed

a. **AI-56982** Disbursements for the period ending November 5, 2024, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1194-11-11

b. **AI-56983** Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1195-11-11

c. **AI-57006** Tax refunds totaling \$96,200.18, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1196-11-11

d. Award(s):

1. **AI-57027** SQL Server Diagnostic Management (Coop Quote No. 2025-023) to SHI Government Solutions, Inc. through DIR Cooperative Contract No. DIR-TSO-4317, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1197-11-11

2. **AI-56985** Road Maintenance, Joint & Crack Sealing Services (IFB No. 2024-355) to various vendors, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1198-11-11

e. Agreement(s):

1. **AI-57005** Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Workforce Commission (Contract No. 2024-450) for online access for the District Attorney's Office, District Attorney.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1199-11-11

f. Amendment(s):

1. **AI-57031** No. 2 to Personal Services Agreement for the VALOR Program (Contract No. 2024-175) with Irma Salera to extend the contract through and including December 31, 2024, update payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1200-11-11

2. **AI-56946** No. 3 to Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services (Contract No. 2021-398) with the City of Celina to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2025, update the compensation clause, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1201-11-11

3. **AI-56970** No. 3 to Interlocal Agreement for Dispatch Services (Contract No. 2022-038) with Melissa ISD to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2025, update the compensation clause, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1202-11-11

4. **AI-56923** No. 4 to Cybersecurity Software (Contract No. 2019-083) to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including December 16, 2025 in the amount of \$99,088, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1203-11-11

5. AI-56945 No. 4 to Interlocal Jail Services Agreement (Contract No. 2020-366) with the City of Celina to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2025, set the rate for FY2025, update the civil liability clause, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1204-11-11

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

1. AI-57003 \$2,479.75 to cover spay/neuter costs, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1205-11-11

2. AI-56992 \$2,153.85 for the purchase of a laptop, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1206-11-11

3. AI-57007 \$1,197,000 for out of county inmate housing for 1st Quarter FY2025, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1207-11-11

4. AI-57008 \$1,149 for the purchase of eyewear and shirts, utilizing the Sheriff's Office Federal Forfeiture Fund, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1208-11-11

h. Miscellaneous:

1. AI-57019 Grant application for the FY2025 Indigent Defense Formula Grant through the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1209-11-11

2. AI-56972 Acceptance of a Hollywood Feed gift card in the amount of \$500, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1210-11-11

3. AI-56965 Adoption of Boundary Changes and Annexations Policy, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1211-11-11

4. AI-57029 Redesignation of Private Road 6021 as Bull Gang Way, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1212-11-11

5. AI-57030 Reclassification of a Deputy Fire Marshal position into a Deputy Fire Marshal Recruit position, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1213-11-11

6. AI-57004 Assignment and Assumption to Cybersecurity Software (Contract No. 2019-083), and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1214-11-11

7. AI-57009 Rescind Court Order No. 2018-1060-12-17, designate the sole source provider for cybersecurity software per Local Government Code, Section 262.024(a)(7)(A-D), and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the sole source affidavit for same, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1215-11-11

8. AI-57011 Acceptance of the TIPS Purchasing Cooperative, TIPS Reward Dollars Program rebate check in the amount of \$257.01 to be deposited in the Going the Extra Mile Employee Incentive Program line item, and budget amendment for same, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1216-11-11

9. AI-56999 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1217-11-11

10. AI-57038 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1218-11-11

2. General Discussion Items:

a. AI-56885 Resolution Opposing Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying, County Judge.

Judge Hill remarked that the Collin County Commissioners Court had previously adopted resolutions, which were sent to state legislators to express opposition to taxpayer-funded lobbying. This issue had become a key priority among conservative voters in Texas and is also a central focus for the Republican Party. While similar bills have been introduced in previous legislative sessions, none have been passed. However, Judge Hill expressed hope that this year may bring a different outcome.

Commissioner Hale voiced his support for the resolution. Commissioner Fletcher emphasized the importance of recognizing that the legislature itself engages in taxpayer-funded lobbying, sending its own lobbyists to Washington. While she agreed with the resolution's overall intent, she suggested revising the language to clarify that the County supports associations, but taxpayers should not be required to fund lobbying efforts. Judge Hill responded by noting that lobbying does not always involve participation in associations that support the County's interests. It is unjust to compel citizens to fund lobbying that promote positions they may oppose.

A motion was made to approve this item as presented. (Time 1:40 p.m.)

Motion by: Judge Chris Hill

Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Vote: 4-1 Passed

Nay: Commissioner Duncan Webb

COURT ORDER NO. 2024-1219-11-11

b. AI-56968 Fire Districts Presentation, Administrative Services.

Yoon Kim, County Administrator, provided the Court with an overview of the Collin County Fire Service Districts presentation. In 2013, the County entered into contracts with several cities to provide fire protection in the unincorporated areas of Collin County. Recently, the County has received letters from cities who want to renegotiate rates and/or are opting out of the agreement. Since October 2013, Collin County has spent \$950,000 annually as well as a Dispatch Subsidy of \$980,975. There are currently 21 cities contracted to cover fire districts, however, there will only be 19 contracted in 2025. Mr. Yoon discussed the reasoning's for Collin County originally entering a fire service agreement and stated the County is not required to provide these services per Sec. 352.001, Tex. Local Government Code. The future options of the Court are to increase the contract amount with the cities, assist in the creation of an ESD (Emergency Services District), or create a CAD (County Assistance District). A few cities have expressed their interest in renewing their contract with the County as long as there is an opportunity to

increase the annual rate. Due to the cost per run varying from city to city, it makes it difficult to raise the subsidy amount equally. Judge Hill said they are thankful for all of the cities who have agreed to contract with the County. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of city-by-city agreement vs a corporate agreement and the possibility to manage cities cost by run. Mr. Kim said we could attempt to renegotiate with the cities to get fire districts covered at a mutually agreeable cost-per-run.

Commissioner Fletcher said it is important to have the unincorporated areas covered due to fire and medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and homeowners insurance. The financial responsibility should not fall on the individuals who are already paying EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and fire taxes for the city they reside in; instead, it should fall on those who live in the unincorporated areas who are currently not paying taxes. Commissioner Webb agreed with Commissioner Fletcher's comments. Judge Hill said the cost of fire provision is increasing regardless of the funding mechanism; therefore, the Court needs to decide to take additional monies out of the property tax rate or to consider an ESD or CAD. Mr. Kim and the Commissioners had a discussion on the process, requirements, the potential voter approved tax rate increase and ESD governance needed in order to create an ESD.

The options for the Courts consideration are negotiate with the current cities to cover all fire districts, increase the contract amount, create a Collin County Fire Department, and help assist with developing an ESD or a CAD. Judge Hill said if the Court were to consider increasing the General Fund budget that would be a discussion for the FY2025 Budget Workshop. If the Court were to prefer the ESD, they would be waiting on a petition from the citizens and the Commissioners would bring the CAD forward if that is the option they choose. Commissioner Webb said he does not like the idea of setting up a Collin County Fire Department and expressed his support to assist with an ESD. Commissioner Hale said he supports the idea of an ESD and said the Court needs to talk with the cities to ensure their costs are covered. This would ensure adequate fire and EMS services are provided. Commissioner Williams said an ESD is the most logical way to go, she understands why surrounding cities are concerned about the cost. A city's primary goal is to serve their residents, when they are called out to an unincorporated area there is potential to not have an adequate amount of service or backup. Judge Hill said he appreciates the comments and understands the positions on all of the cities who have reached out to the County. He said an ESD makes the most sense and is the best way to move forward. Commissioner Fletcher said it is important to have something in place to ensure those who need emergency services in the unincorporated areas can be helped in a timely manner. Judge Hill asked Mr. Kim to look into costs, a proposed time line, and to confirm if legal support is allowed to assist with the ESD process. (Time: 3:11 p.m.)

NO ACTION

c. AI-56774 Elections, Hand Marked Paper Ballots, Election Facility, Administrative Services.

Yoon Kim, County Administrator provided the Court with an overview of the BOD (Ballot on Demand) Transition and Elections Facility Development presentation. Currently the voter checks in at the location through the poll book and is given a ballot with the correct information on it. The voter then uses a BMD to select their choices on the screen, the BMD prints out the ballot and lastly the voter inserts the printed ballot into the DS200 tabulator. Since Collin County has implemented this system, the County has expended \$17,614,104.02. If the Court were to decide to implement a BOD system, there are two different options to choose from. One of the options would be utilizing the same poll book system and having the ballot printed from the computer. This would require the acquisition of 500 additional printers. The second option would be a print station; the voter would receive a tag with their information where they would then scan it at the print station to receive their ballot. The paper required for the BOD are significantly larger and would require additional storage. Once the ballot is printed, the voter would hand mark their choices and then insert their completed ballot into the DS200 tabulator.

Mr. Kim stated that each print station would require two to three additional poll workers, resulting in an added expense of \$170,000. The Court reviewed the capital costs associated with acquiring BOD equipment, privacy booths, drayage, printer cartridges, and ballot stock for both options. The funding for the transition to BOD equipment would come from Collin County's General Fund, tax notes, Certificates of Obligation (CO), or a General Obligation Bond. A recent space study revealed that the Elections Department requires 51,000 square feet for efficient operations, and the BOD equipment would likely increase the space requirement by an additional 5,000 square feet. Currently, the County's elections facility is only 24,700 square feet. Mr. Kim outlined the estimated costs and funding options for constructing a new facility, leasing space, reusing the healthcare building, or purchasing and remodeling a building. The timeline for completion is estimated to be four to five years, depending on the direction the Court chooses. Commissioner Webb inquired about the remaining lifespan of the current BMD system, to which Mr. Kim responded that it still has four to five years left. Commissioner Hale asked if there was any available space for storage, and Mr. Kim mentioned that while some areas in the Courthouse have been identified, they are not suitable for workspace. Commissioner Williams expressed a preference for the County to own its buildings rather than lease them. Commissioner Fletcher concurred, emphasizing that regardless of the decision on the BOD system, the need for a new Elections Facility must be addressed. (Time: 3:48 p.m.)

The Court heard Public comments related to agenda item AI-56774.

Commissioner Williams said the discussion about acquiring additional space for the elections office and purchasing BOD equipment are two different issues. She asked what the price difference between the BOD and BMD would be over the next 10 to 20 years. Commissioner Fletcher agreed with Commissioner Williams comments and expressed the need for voting education. She said she is not opposed to purchasing new voting equipment but believes it is important to hear the opinions of the Collin County

citizens in the form of a bond election. Commissioner Webb agreed that the discussion about acquiring additional space for the elections office and purchasing BOD equipment are separate issues and said he would be supportive of a bond election for a new elections facility. He does not believe there is an election integrity issue and believes Collin County has the best elections department and administrator. He said it is not responsible to purchase BOD equipment prior to the current BMD equipment expiring and the possibility of there being major legislative changes. Commissioner Hale said he liked the approach of the BOD process and the transparency they offer. The new elections facility is something that he believes was missed on the last bond election because we have a need for the space now and expressed the importance on voter education for all generations.

Judge Hill agreed that Collin County has the best elections department; however, he cannot prove it to the voters. He said he checks and audits his own ballot after every election to ensure his vote was cast accurately. Due to the population size of Collin County, we will be required to use machine tabulators for so long as state law requires all votes to be turned in within 24 hours. He expressed appreciation that the Commissioners provided distinction between the additional space for the elections office and purchasing BOD equipment being two separate issues and agrees on moving forward with increasing the election facility space. Judge Hill said in the meantime, there is empty shell space throughout the current County buildings that can be used for election equipment storage. He expressed his support for improvements in Collin County's election integrity and moving to hand marked paper ballots. He recommended hand marked paper ballots be the first item approved during FY2025 Budget hearing. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they are not prepared to make a decision in regards to FY2025 budget without knowing the priorities and needs for next year.

A motion was made to adopt hand marked paper ballots, the equipment for which shall be included in the FY2025 budget. (Time: 4:50)

Motion by: Judge Chris Hill

Second by: None

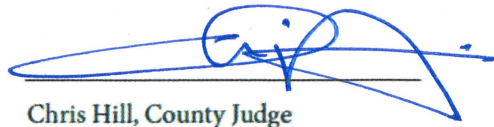
Vote: Failed

NO ACTION

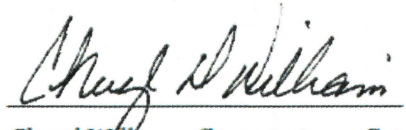
3. Executive Session Items:

The Court did not recess into Executive Session.


There being no further business, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.



Chris Hill, County Judge


Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1


Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2




Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3

Not Present

Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4


ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk