

State of Texas	§	Court Order
Collin County	§	2025-1102-10-06
Commissioners Court	§	

An order of the Commissioners Court approving the filing of the August 25, 2025 minutes.

On Monday, August 25, 2025, 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 Webb led the Invocation.  
 Commissioner Hale led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
 Commissioner Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

Judge Hill called the Collin County Commissioners Court meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was recessed into Executive Session at 4:19 p.m. and reconvened at 5:18 p.m. Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

President Hill called to order the meeting of the Collin County Health Care Foundation at 5:40 p.m. and adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

#### FYI NOTIFICATION:

1. AI-58510 P-Card Disbursements, Auditor.
2. AI-58482 Change Order No. 26 to CCADF Medical Mental Health Expansion (CSP No. 2023-398) with Sedalco, Inc. to make various changes to the contract, Construction & Projects.

3. **AI-58615** Sheriff's Commissary Funded Positions for Fiscal Year 2026.

Russell Schaffner, Deputy County Administrator, explained that the FY 2026 Budget included funding for three jail positions of an Inmate Program Coordinator and Two Detention Officers, using Commissary Funds. Since the County does not directly hold these funds, the Sheriff would be invoiced within five business days after budget approval, with full payment due by September 30. Mr. Schaffner clarified that Commissary Funds are governed by state law and can only be used for the benefit of inmates, including personnel and programs. He noted these funds generate \$500,000–\$600,000 annually, with the account currently holding over \$3 million. Sheriff Skinner confirmed support for using commissary funds for the three positions, stating they were essential and had previously been funded through the General Budget. (Time 2:10 p.m.)

**COMMISSIONERS COURT BUSINESS:**

**Public comments related to an item on the Agenda.**

Debbie Lindstrom, Citizens Defending Freedom, opposed spending nearly \$2 million on Electronic Voter Check-In Systems, citing recent budget cuts and questioning the necessity of the upgrade. She raised concerns about replacing wet signatures with electronic ones, noting reliability issues and legal risks. Ms. Lindstrom questioned whether the new system would preserve the current process in which clerks confirm voter addresses. She proposed alternative uses for the funds, including support for local poll workers, law enforcement, and paper-based election security measures. She also proposed cost-saving measures like reducing Precinct sizes and consolidating early voting locations. (Time 1:35 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged her suggestions but stated the need for a poll book was necessary, noting the current vendor was defunct. Ms. Lindstrom expressed openness to funding only the poll book portion and delaying the rest. Judge Hill agreed to consult the Elections Administrator. (Time 1:36 p.m.)

Lee Moore, agreed with Debbie Lindstrom's remarks and added that with potential future changes like closed primaries and precinct-level voting, printed poll books could become a viable option for Election Day. She cautioned against committing to large expenditures that might become obsolete and stated her opposition to adding systems that could reduce election security. (Time 1:38 p.m.)

1. **Consent Agenda Items:** Judge Hill asked for comments on the consent agenda. Judge Hill pulled items 1e2 and 1e3 for comment. With no further comments, a motion was made to approve the remainder. (Time 1:32 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5-0 Passed

a. **AI-58518** Disbursements for the period ending August 19, 2025, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-827-08-25

b. **AI-58519** Indigent Defense Disbursements, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-828-08-25

c. **AI-58559** Tax refunds totaling \$126,890.90, Tax Assessor-Collector.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-829-08-25

d. **Advertisement(s):**

1. **AI-58567** Computers, Peripherals, and Accessories (IFB No. 2025-275), Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-830-08-25

e. **Award(s):**

1. **AI-58566** Employee Locker Room Refresh-Collin County Justice Center (IFB No. 2025-102) to Concord Commercial Services, Inc. and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Construction Agreement for same, Construction & Projects.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-831-08-25

2. AI-58598 Election Pollbooks (Coop. Quote No. 2025-349) to VR Systems, Inc. through BuyBoard Contract No. 710-23 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the Sale & License Agreement, Elections.

Commissioner Fletcher asked Kaleb Breaux, Elections Administrator, to address concerns raised by the public speakers. He explained that on August 1, the Texas Secretary of State's Office was notified by Votec of a possible shutdown if counties didn't meet new payment demands. The shutdown did not occur, but due to instability, the County began evaluating alternative vendors. They selected VR Systems for both Voter Registration and Poll Book Services due to compatibility with the state and alignment between systems. Concerns were raised about the loss of wet signatures. Mr. Breaux confirmed digital signature capture would still occur via tablet using a stylus and that signature prompts were state-certified. Commissioner Fletcher inquired about the feasibility of adding a second, wet signature. Mr. Breaux said it was technically possible but inefficient and required confirmation with the vendor. The system could export digital rosters for records. He detailed an aggressive implementation timeline including data freeze on August 28, training from September 8–12, and a go-live date of September 12. Mr. Breaux confirmed existing data was secure and stored on county servers. Cost savings were noted as \$40,000 annually on maintenance and an 80% reduction in data plan costs. VR Systems was chosen among three state-compatible vendors. The decision was narrowed by system alignment needs, and other counties like Denton and Bexar were referenced as partial users of VR Systems. Mr. Breaux confirmed Collin County would be the largest county in Texas to implement both components. Judge Hill asked about signature options. Mr. Breaux said using a label for wet signatures might be feasible by swapping hardware and would confirm with the vendor. (Time 2:04 p.m.)

A motion was made to approve the agenda item as presented. (Time 5:39 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5-0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-832-08-25**



3. AI-58599 Voter Registration System (Coop. Quote 2025-350) to VR Systems, Inc. through BuyBoard Contract No. 710-23 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute the License and Maintenance Agreement, Elections.

This item was discussed under agenda item AI-58598.

A motion was made to approve the agenda item as presented. (Time 5:39 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-833-08-25

4. AI-58578 Ford Ranger for Facilities (Contract No. 2025-343) to Silsbee Ford Inc. through TIPS Contract No. 240901, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-834-08-25

5. AI-58576 John Deere Tractor and Utility Loader (Contract No. 2025-344) to Coufal-Prater Equipment, LLC d/b/a United AG & Turf through Sourcewell Contract No. 082923-DAC, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-835-08-25

6. AI-58532 Juvenile Probation Vehicles (Contract No. 2025-341) to Sames Bastrop Ford, Inc. through TIPS Cooperative Contract No. 240901, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-836-08-25

**f. Agreement(s):**

1. AI-58511 Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services (Contract No. 2025-293) with the City of Farmersville commencing on October 1, 2025 through and including September 30, 2026, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-837-08-25

2. AI-58512 Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services (Contract No. 2025-291) with the City of Josephine, commencing on October 1, 2025 through and including September 30, 2026, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-838-08-25

3. **AI-58574** Interlocal Agreement with the City of Lavon concerning the Bear Creek Natural Open Space Community Park Land Acquisition Project, 2018 Bond Project OI18PG40, Engineering.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-839-08-25**

4. **AI-58569** Assessment Collection Services Agreement between the Collin County Tax Assessor-Collector and the City of Celina for the Parks at Wilson Creek Annex Public Improvement District, Tax Assessor Collector.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-840-08-25**

**g. Amendment(s):**

1. **AI-58562** No. 1 to GPS Offender Monitoring (RFP No. 2022-230) with Buddi US, LLC to extend the contract through and including November 29, 2025 and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Purchasing.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-841-08-25**

2. **AI-58543** No. 3 to Personal Services Agreement, VALOR Case Manager (Contract No. 2025-185) with Henry Hernandez to amend the payment schedule, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, 296th District Court.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-842-08-25**

3. **AI-58545** No. 3 to Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services (Contract No. 2023-302) with the City of Weston to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2026, set the rate for FY 2026, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-843-08-25**

4. **AI-58513** No. 4 to Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services (Contract No. 2022-040) with the City of Lowry Crossing to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2026, set the rate for FY 2026, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-844-08-25**

5. **AI-58515** No. 4 to Interlocal Agreement for Environmental Services (Contract No. 2022-039) with the City of Wylie to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including September 30, 2026, set the rate for FY 2026, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Development Services.

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-845-08-25**

**h. Change Order(s):**

1. AI-58486 No. 1 to Collin County Courthouse Chilled Water Lines Replacement (IFB No. 2024-419) with DMI Corp. to delete Vault 4 and add Vault 5, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-846-08-25

2. AI-58522 No. 1 to Postmortem Toxicology (Contract No. 2024-188) with National Medical Services, Inc. d/b/a NMS Labs to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including October 6, 2026, include a price re-determination, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Medical Examiner.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-847-08-25

3. AI-58539 No. 2 to Equipment, Rental: Road Construction and Right of Way Maintenance Equipment (Contract No. 2023-363) with Herc Rentals, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including November 5, 2026, include a price re-determination, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute and finalize same, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-848-08-25

4. AI-58540 No. 2 to Road Materials: Cement Treated Base & Cement Stabilized Backfill (Contract No. 2023-353) with Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including October 15, 2026, include a price re-determination, and further authorize the Purchasing Agent to finalize and execute same, Public Works.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-849-08-25

**i. Contract Renewal(s):**

1. Equipment, Rental: Road Construction and Right of Way Maintenance Equipment (Contract No. 2023-363) to extend the contract for one (1) year through and including November 5, 2026, Public Works:

a. AI-58533 Star Tractor, Ltd.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-850-08-25

b. AI-58534 RDO Equipment Co.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-851-08-25

c. AI-58535 Holt Texas, LTD.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-852-08-25

d. AI-58536 RB Everett & Co.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-853-08-25

e. AI-58537 Kirby Smith Machinery.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-854-08-25

j. **Budget adjustment(s)/amendment(s):**

1. AI-58579 \$601,000 for utility costs, Facilities.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-855-08-25

2. AI-58485 \$60,090 to reallocate funds for Jail Operations, Sheriff.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-856-08-25

3. AI-58571 \$2,242,213 to re-budget funds received from the sale of land to TxDOT for the US 380 project, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-857-08-25

4. AI-58572 \$1,049,950 to re-budget funds received from the sale of land to TxDOT for the US 380 project, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-858-08-25

k. **Miscellaneous:**

1. AI-58530 Participate in Opioid Settlement with Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus, Administrative Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-859-08-25

2. AI-58499 Acceptance of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Grant Contract for the FY2026 Title IV-E County Child Welfare Services through and including September 30, 2032, Auditor.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-860-08-25

3. AI-58542 Acceptance of the Bissell Pet Foundation Grant award in the amount of \$1,460, Development Services.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-861-08-25

4. AI-58581 Final Plat for Bailey Crossing Phase 1, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-862-08-25

5. AI-58582 Acceptance of roads within Wyndham Ridge for county maintenance, Engineering.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-863-08-25

6. AI-58561 Redesignation of Private Road 6058 as Victory Drive with associated address updates, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-864-08-25

7. AI-58577 Redesignation of Private Roads 5882, 5883, 5884, 5885, 5886, 5887, 5888, 5889, 5890, 5891, 5892, 5893, and 5894 with associated address updates, GIS/Rural Addressing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-865-08-25

8. AI-58523 Exemption from the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and further authorize the Human Resources Director to submit proper notice to authorities, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-866-08-25

9. AI-58531 Amended list of equipment manufacturers for IT procurement standards, Information Technology.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-867-08-25

10. AI-58484 Declare Collin County property as surplus, authorize the Purchasing Agent to sell via on-line auction per Local Government Code 263.152, and advertise for same, Purchasing.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-868-08-25

11. AI-58587 Personnel Appointments, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-869-08-25

12. AI-58588 Personnel Changes, Human Resources.

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-870-08-25



## 2. General Discussion Items:

- a. AI-58524 Public Hearing - Placement of regulatory signs on various County Roads, Public Works.

Dayne Shepherd, Assistant Director of Public Works, requested the Court's approval for the placement of regulatory signs on various County Roads. All necessary requirements have been met. Judge Hill noted the types of signs included stop signs, no parking, and school zone signs.

Judge Hill opened the Public Hearing at 2:13 p.m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, Judge Hill closed the Public Hearing at 2:13 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:13 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Vote: 5-0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-871-08-25**

- b. AI-58564 Public Hearing - Re-plat of Lots 2R1, 2R2, and 2R3 of Lavon View Estates, Engineering.

Clarence Daugherty, Director of Engineering, requested the Court's approval for the replat of Lots 2R1, 2R2, and 2R3 of Lavon View Estates. All necessary requirements have been met.

Judge Hill opened the Public Hearing at 2:14 p.m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, Judge Hill closed the Public Hearing at 2:14 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the item. (Time: 2:14 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5-0 Passed

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-872-08-25**

**c. FY 2026 Budget:**

**1. AI-58547 Public Hearing - Proposed FY 2026 Tax Rate.**

Monica Arris, Budget Director, presented the FY 2026 Proposed Tax Rate Public Hearing. She reported that new construction growth remained steady at 3–4% annually, with the No New Revenue Tax Rate generating additional revenue only from new construction. Residential property values increased 2.37%, commercial/industrial 4.73%, and apartments decreased 0.04%. The proposed tax rate remained \$0.149343. The average home value rose 5% to \$663,190, resulting in an average county tax of \$823.79 with a homestead exemption, up \$74.81 from last year, or \$4.89 without. She explained taxable value is lower than market value due to the 10% homestead cap. Pursuant to House Bill 1522, median homestead values are now used for taxpayer impact, with the average homeowner seeing a \$46.91 increase. Collin County's portion of a sample tax bill was 8.7%. Truth-in-Taxation details, five-year comparisons, and rate components were reviewed, noting the proposed rate was 2.4% above the No New Revenue Rate, with M&O down 6.6% and debt service up 2.3% (Time 2:22 p.m.)

**NO ACTION**

**2. AI-58548 Public Hearing - Proposed FY 2026 Budget.**

Monica Arris, Budget Director, presented the FY 2026 Proposed Budget. General Fund revenues were projected at \$323.5 million, up 4.5% over the prior year, with total expenditures of \$341.5 million including a one-time \$18 million retiree COLA. Road and Bridge Fund revenues were projected at \$31.7 million, down 2.4%, with expenditures of \$48.2 million, up 32.9%. Permanent Improvement Fund totaled \$2 million, down 21.3%. Debt Service revenues were \$109.7 million, up 8.8%, with \$114.6 million in expenditures. The Healthcare Fund totaled \$6.8 million, up 11.6%, after combining with the Bioterrorism Group. Other funds reported \$113.8 million in revenues and \$84.6 million in expenditures. Total County revenues were projected at \$586.4 million, up 5.6%, with total expenditures of \$597.8 million, up 12.4%. The proposed budget included 2,162.5 FTEs (Full Time Equivalents), with added and restructured positions across departments and grant-funded roles shifted to County funding. The Sheriff's Office added 64 jail positions, restructured internally, and shifted jail program staff funding to Commissary funds, resulting in a \$1.8 million net budget increase. (Time 2:33 p.m.)

**NO ACTION**

3. ~~AI-58549~~ Adoption of an order setting and approving the FY 2026 Elected Officials salaries.  
(Time 3:48 p.m.)

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

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-873-08-25**

A motion was made to include the Elections Technology Resource Coordinator as a Personnel Position.  
(Time 3:52 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Duncan Webb  
Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale  
Vote: 5-0 Passed

A motion was made for the contract for CSCD \$1,539,351 into contingency for one-time expense for Fleet purchases. (Time 4:11 p.m.)

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

4. ~~AI-58550~~ Adoption of an order setting and approving the FY 2026 Budget. (Time 5:32 p.m.)

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

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-874-08-25**

A motion was made to Adopt the FY 2026 Budget for Special Road District Trails of Blue Ridge.  
(Time 5:32 p.m.)

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

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-875-08-25**

A motion was made to Adopt the FY2026 Tax Rate of \$0.15 for Special Road District Tails of Blue Ridge  
(Time 5:32 p.m.)

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

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-876-08-25**

5. **AI-58551** Adoption of an order setting the maintenance and operating tax rate for FY 2026.  
(Time 5:30 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher  
Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale  
Vote: 3-2 Passed  
Nay: Judge Chris Hill and Commissioner Cheryl Williams

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-877-08-25**

6. **AI-58552** Adoption of an order setting and approving the debt services tax rate for FY 2026.  
(Time 5:30 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher  
Second by: Commissioner Darrell Hale  
Vote: 4-1 Passed  
Nay: Judge Chris Hill

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-878-08-25**

7. **AI-58553** Adoption of an order setting the combined tax rate for FY 2026. (Time 5:31 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale  
Second by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher  
Vote: 3-2 Passed  
Nay: Judge Chris Hill and Commissioner Cheryl Williams

**COURT ORDER NO. 2025-879-08-25**

8. ~~AI-58555~~ Restrictions on funds in compliance with Government Accounting Standards Boards (GASB) Statement Number 54 for FY 2026. (Time 5:32 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Susan Fletcher

Second by: Commissioner Duncan Webb

Vote: 5-0 Passed

COURT ORDER NO. 2025-880-08-25

### **3. Executive Session Items:**

Judge Hill recessed Commissioners' Court into Executive Session at 4:19 p.m., in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Government Code, to discuss Personnel Matters.

#### **Personnel (551.074)**

Judge Hill reconvened the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

A motion was made to delete Legal Clerk II & Court Administrator at JP4 and add a Legal Clerk I, JP1 and a Legal Clerk I, JP4 (Time 5:19 p.m.)

Motion by: Commissioner Darrell Hale

Second by: Commissioner Cheryl Williams

Vote: 5-0 Passed

#### **Public Comments not related to an item on the Agenda.**

Debra Westerheim, Celeste, thanked those who listened and allowed the sharing of personal information regarding the Jail Programs. She acknowledged Paul and Tracy Spurgin of Flint Ministries, Amy Larson from the Programs Department, Officer Pope, and Chief Jaquess. She noted that Flint Ministries had provided Bible Studies and Pod Ministries for over a year, impacting many inmates. She stated that the lack of funding should not prevent inmates from accessing the program. (Time 2:35 p.m.)



Jana Ashburn, Lucas, clarified her concerns based on nearly five years in the Programs Department. She previously raised issues about inadequate funding, which worsened in recent weeks as programs were dismantled and reassigned within the jail. She explained that staffing changes had left critical gaps, including one Pod Officer responsible for 80 inmates, creating safety concerns. She invited officials to observe her class and the jail environment firsthand to better understand the situation. She questioned whether new commissary funds were actually adding positions or simply restoring staffing levels to what they had been a month prior. (Time 2:38 p.m.)

Judge Hill clarified that the Commissioners Court had not removed any positions from the Programs Department and highlighted that recent staffing changes were decisions made by the Sheriff's Office. He explained that three program positions remained but were proposed to be funded by the Commissary Fund instead of the General Fund. Commissioner Fletcher supported this shift, citing budget constraints and the availability of Commissary Funds, which were deemed appropriate for inmate programs. She acknowledged the challenges caused by limited tax revenue and the need to balance all County Services. Commissioner Hale stated his Budget Proposal aimed to reduce jail overtime without raising taxes. He noted that some positions in the Programs Department were not originally created for that purpose and had been reallocated. He supported the current budget and expected improvements over the next year. Sheriff Skinner confirmed that resources had been shifted internally to address overtime and warned that the jail could become more dangerous due to reduced staffing in other areas. He acknowledged that 60 new positions would help but noted they would take time to fill and train. (Time 2:56 p.m.)

Kyle Sims, McKinney, raised concerns about repeated tax increases in Collin County without implementing a zero-based budget. He noted that the current budgeting process was compressed into a few weeks and suggested beginning the process months earlier to improve transparency and accountability. He recommended using a zero-based approach to create a balanced budget that meets taxpayer and county needs. Mr. Sims also pointed out the absence of third-party audits and detailed financial reviews, urging more thorough budgeting practices in the future. (Time 2:59 p.m.)

Commissioner Fletcher responded by stating she had previously supported zero-based budgeting and still saw value in the approach, though many county costs were recurring and unavoidable. She explained that the budgeting process begins months in advance, with departments submitting requests in early spring, followed by internal reviews by Budget and Human Resources staff. Commissioner Hale added that while Collin County had not fully implemented zero-based budgeting, its current practices closely resembled it. He and Commissioner Fletcher independently reviewed account balances and found minimal unused funds, concluding the County was already operating with tight fiscal discipline under a low tax rate. (Time 3:05 p.m.)

Cindi Sabelli, Anna, shared that she runs AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) programs in the jails and is confused because, despite hearing that programs and positions are still funded, her AA program has been canceled due to budget cuts and missing positions. She also mentioned that the Veterans group she used to lead was canceled entirely. She highlighted how vital these programs are, saying she wouldn't be standing there without AA, and stressed that many people in jail need AA or recovery programs even more than incarceration. (Time 3:08 p.m.)

Judge Hill thanked Cindi for her comments and explained that the Commissioner's Court does not control the operation of Jail Programs and does not make decisions to cancel or approve them. He suggested that program cancellations are likely related to staffing, since programs require employees to operate. He also noted he was unsure if the cancellations were temporary or permanent, and said these operational decisions are made by the jail, not by the Commissioner's Court. (Time 3:08 p.m.)

TJ Bishop, Blue Ridge, stated he was speaking on behalf of Flint Ministries. He acknowledged that he is not experienced in budgets or politics. As a Christian, he stated his responsibility is to share his testimony. Having been incarcerated in the past, he expressed appreciation for Sheriff Skinner, Chief Jacques, the officers, and the program directors, stating that the work being done at Collin County Jail is significant. He noted that it is impactful to see individuals at his church who were recently incarcerated, and he shared how his past experiences now enable him to serve others. He asked the Commissioners to continue supporting the programs provided by Flint Ministries, highlighting their importance in the jail. (Time 3:11 p.m.)

Paul Spurgin, Farmersville, spoke regarding the budget cut that resulted in the termination of his wife's position as an Administrative Secretary at the Sheriff's Office. She had worked for Collin County for 20 years, including 12 years in the Courts and eight years with the Sheriff's Office. He described her as highly committed to her role, noting that she previously received the Civilian Employee of the Year Award and managed responsibilities for two bureaus under Chief Bristow and Chief Price. He stated she had worked beyond regular hours, including on holidays, and often assisted Deputies after hours. In addition to her official duties, she also volunteered in the jail, providing ministry services. He pointed out her long tenure and dedication to the Sheriff's Department and expressed concern about the impact of the job loss resulting from the budget decision. (Time 3:13 p.m.)

Judge Hill acknowledged Tracy's dedication to the County and noted that, although the budget had not yet been formally adopted, it was anticipated that her position would be impacted. He stated he had been informed that another department had already expressed interest in hiring her in anticipation of her availability. Commissioner Fletcher clarified that the situation was a result of a reorganization, not a budget cut. She acknowledged that the reorganization did affect individual employees, including Tracy. Commissioner Fletcher added that the Sheriff's Office received \$2.4 million in additional personnel funding to support staffing needs for the new jail extension. She also noted that the Sheriff's overall budget saw a \$9.1 million increase, and reiterated her understanding of Tracy's contributions and the recognition she had received. (Time 3:14 p.m.)

Luke Cyr, Whitewright, said that reducing or shifting funding for jail programs overlooks their role in helping inmates change. He shared that after being in Collin County Jail in 2002 and 2003, outside volunteers helped him turn his life around. He emphasized that programs like these reduce repeat offenses and should not be funded through the commissary, which he believes should serve other inmate needs. He urged continued support for such programs. (Time 3:17 p.m.)

Dalton Johnson, Princeton, expressed concern regarding Sheriff Skinner's statement that the Court is defunding the police. He noted the Sheriff's budget increased by \$10 million but staffing shortages remain, with only 41 of 82 requested positions approved last year, leading to high overtime and turnover of 20–30%. He stated reduced benefits and limited promotions hurt morale and retention, questioned Judge Hill's statement on jail morale, and urged the Court to seek direct feedback from officers. (Time 3:21 p.m.)

Commissioner Hale said over the past few years, more than 100 positions were added to the Sheriff's Office through proposals, costing taxpayers and causing tax increases. He noted the Sheriff's Office grew by nearly \$10 million despite claims of defunding. Some positions were cut to prioritize needs, and other departments did not receive recommended positions. He opposed further tax increases and aimed to avoid a budget crunch requiring more cuts. Commissioner Fletcher clarified that although 41 of 82 requested positions were initially approved, delays in opening new jail facilities affected hiring. They ultimately secured 60 positions this year. She noted the Sheriff's Office needed time to recruit and train staff and reported recent overtime was low and expressed commitment to funding core functions while balancing county resources and asking questions about non-core spending. (Time 3:24 p.m.)

Donald Hudson, McKinney, said prison ministry has been important to him, crediting Terry Box for involving him in Collin County. He questioned how often staff at the Detention Center are visited compared to inmates and expressed concern about staffing cuts amid increasing jail populations. Mr. Hudson raised concerns about employee morale and pay disparities with other cities. He also questioned how many positions would be available when the new facility opens and noted the challenges of hiring and retaining staff in the criminal justice system. (Time 3:30 p.m.)



Commissioner Fletcher stated that the County maintains a relief factor policy and follows minimum staffing standards set by jail regulations. She noted the Sheriff has communicated these requirements, and the recent addition of 60 Detention Officers was in line with those standards. Commissioner Hale added that, in response to staffing challenges, the Court approved hiring dedicated recruiters two years ago. He explained that to achieve a net gain of 40 to 50 officers, the County must hire 80 to 90 annually due to turnover and training issues. He said 127 were hired recently, resulting in only one current vacancy. (Time 3:32 p.m.)

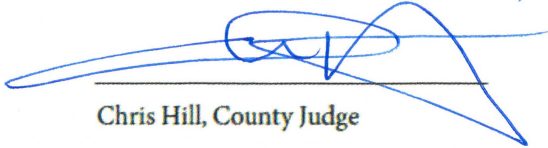
Judy Dishong, Plano, stated she attended recent budget meetings and understood the challenges. She said the County had avoided addressing tax rate increases for years and emphasized the need to better communicate with the public about funding needs. She noted that public perception, including misinformation on social media about defunding police, could worsen if not addressed. She asked the Court to engage all residents, not just regular attendees, to explain why a tax rate increase may be necessary to maintain county services. (Time 3:35 p.m.)

Commissioner Hale responded to Judy Dishong's comments by outlining his efforts to communicate with the public. He said he had sent a message through Nextdoor to 110,000 people, posted on his Facebook page, and hosted a town hall meeting, which no one attended. He stated he remained open to other ideas on outreach and welcomed conversations in any format, emphasizing his transparency and accessibility. Commissioner Fletcher added that many residents are confused by property tax bills, which come from the Collin County Tax Office but include multiple taxing entities. She clarified that Collin County accounts for about 7–8% of the total bill, while cities make up about 20% and ISDs (Independent School Districts) 67–70%. She explained that Texas funds education through property taxes due to the lack of a state income tax, which contributes to the high overall tax bills. (Time 3:40 p.m.)

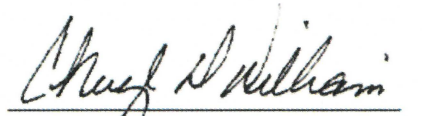
Laura Brown, Howe, advocated for maintaining staff levels and inmate programs at the Collin County Jail. She noted that many inmates come from cycles of incarceration and lack moral guidance, which programs can help address through education and mentorship. She referenced Flint Ministries and expressed the role of moral instruction, including teachings like the Ten Commandments, in breaking those cycles. She stated that early intervention while incarcerated can reduce future incarceration rates. She concluded that without sufficient staffing to support such programs, the cycle would continue. (Time 3:44 p.m.)

Shana Ward, Sheriff's Department, expressed that morale at the department is currently at an all-time low after 14.5 years of service. She mentioned it was hard to see her colleagues feeling down despite her optimism. (Time 3:46 p.m.)

There being no further business of the Court, Judge Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

  
Chris Hill, County Judge

  
Susan Fletcher, Commissioner, Pct 1

  
Cheryl Williams, Commissioner, Pct 2



Not Present  
Darrell Hale, Commissioner, Pct 3

Not Present  
Duncan Webb, Commissioner, Pct 4

  
ATTEST: Stacey Kemp, County Clerk