THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE STATE OF TEXAS ~ COUNTY OF GRIMES ~ BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 5th day of February 2020 at 9:00 a.m., there was begun and held a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners Court of Grimes County, Texas with the following members present:

County Judge, Joe Fauth III    Present
Commissioner, Pct. #1, Chad Mallett  Present
Commissioner, Pct. #2, David E. Dobyanski  Present
Commissioner, Pct. #3, Barbara Walker  Present
Commissioner, Pct. #4, Phillip Cox  Present

COUNTY JUDGE – JOE FAUTH

1. Call to order.

Judge Fauth called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Invocation was given by Judge Fauth.

2. Public Comments

We look forward to hearing from the citizens of Grimes County. Please share any thoughts and/or concerns during the Public Comment portion of the Meeting. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.

Connie Clements announced that the Grimes County Crime Stoppers is hosting a Mother – Son Dance Saturday, February 8, 6-8 p.m. at the Anderson Community Center. Photo booth, DJ, Refreshments, door prize and more will be available. Tickets will be sold at the door for $5. Space is limited.
Bob Goldstein representing Grimes County Grimes Stoppers thanked the county for their continued support for Crimes Stoppers. 90% of funding goes towards the software and tips that comes across the Newspaper in Grimes County. They also have a bookmark out that you can take a picture with your phone or camera to support the kids.

David Dobyanski announced that there will be a Blood Drive on February 18th at St. Mary’s Catholic church on CR 1774 in Plantersville from 8:00 am till 1:00 pm. Free breakfast will be served.

Barbara Walker announced that a presentation will be held at the Navasota Center on February 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm by Fred Baldwin and Wendy Watriss sponsored by Two Rivers and the Grimes County Historical Commission entitled “Grimes County: A Journey in Time”.

Al Peeler was presented with the Historical Courthouse Stewardship award from the Texas Historical Commission at their annual conference held in Austin, Texas and also the county was presented with a check for $1,000.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Items identified within the Consent Agenda are of a routine nature and will be passed with one vote without being discussed separately. If a member of the Court requests that a particular item be discussed prior to the Meeting, the Agenda item will be pulled from the Consent Agenda and discussed as part of the regular agenda at the appropriate time. One vote will approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

3. Consider and take action to approve the Treasurer’s List of Claims and Bills.

4. Consider and take action to approve payroll.

5. Receive and approve the Grimes County 4th Quarter Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2019.

Barbara Walker thanked the Treasurer’s office for the new software that they are now using.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve Consent Agenda Items #3, #4, and #5.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0

COMMISSIONER PCT. #2 - DAVID DOBYANSKI

6. Consider and recognize the following employee for their years of service:
   Nancy Franek- 5 years

Commissioner Dobyanski presented Nancy Franek with a 5-year service pin. Nancy is a secretary for the Grimes Health Resource Center.
GRIMES COUNTY IT DIRECTOR - GREGG CANNON

7. Consider and approve registration of all County employees for the state-mandated Cybersecurity Training to be completed by June 2020.

Gregg Cannon explained that the cybersecurity training is offered free through TAC (Texas Association of Counties) and takes about 20 minutes. Commissioner Walker asked if this was to be an annual training. Commissioner Mallett asked if this training was going to be tracked in Human Resources and Mr. Cannon replied that it would be tracked in the IT Department and not in Human Resources (HR). An email will be sent out to all Employees reminding them to complete the training by June 2020.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve cybersecurity training for all employees.
Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0

8. Consider and approve items for auction.

Gregg Cannon recommended two items to be auctioned. An Apple iMac 27” computer and a Kyocera FS-9520DN copy machine from the voters office.

Motion by: Commissioner Mallett to approve items for auction.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0

GRIMES COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR - LUCY YBARRA


Lucy Ybarra explained that she received a petition from the Democratic Party requesting early voting be extended to Sunday, February 3, 2020 at the Navasota Center during the hours of 1pm – 4:30 pm and a notice will be posted at all polling locations. It is not required to be posted in the newspaper which will save the county $400. No vote was taken, and no action was taken.

ROAD AND BRIDGE ENGINEER - HARRY WALKER

10. Consideration and possible approval for a Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for Expert Analysis (Magellan) for installation of a pump station on CR 311.

Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to approve Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for Expert Analysis for installation of a pump station on CR 311.
Seconded by: Commissioner Cox
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0
11. Consideration and possible approval of a Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for J7 Services on Dogwood Trial and Deer Run.

Harry Walker explained that this will look like a subdivision. There will be a total of 46 cabins with 2 acres per cabin. Each cabin will be 300 square feet (16x18) or (20x8) or (20x16).

Motion by: Commissioner Cox to approve Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for J7 Services on Dogwood Trial and Deer Run.
Seconded by: Commissioner Walker
Vote in Favor: 5    Vote Opposed: 0

12. Consider acceptance of Road Maintenance Bond for Anderson Ridge subdivision.

Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to approve Road Maintenance Bond for Anderson Ridge subdivision.
Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett
Vote in Favor: 5    Vote Opposed: 0

13. Authorize Road & Bridge to enter into agreements with Maxx HDD, LLC and Grimes County NET regarding internet service for the new maintenance barn on FM 2445.

Harry Walker proposed an agreement between Grimes County Road and Bridge, Maxx HDD, LLC and Grimes County.NET to install an 80-foot free standing cell tower adjacent to the west side of the new county Maintenance Barn on FM 2445. Total cost of installation is $16,700 with Grimes County paying $5,010 of that cost. Grimes County will also install a small fence enclosure around the tower. Grimes County and Maxx HDD, LLC will pay a monthly service fee for internet service from the tower. Grimes County.NET will retain 25-year exclusive rights to use of the tower for other customers at a 40% discount on the cost of the tower construction. The first 3 years are free with 20mb speed. County Attorney Jon C. Fultz commented that this is not free internet and that the county is paying for the tower to be built on someone else’s property. This is basically a 3-party contract. After 3 years the county will be paying the commercial rate of $105 per month. Harry Walker explained that the adjacent landowner is starting to build on their property that they purchased from the county and that they will be picking up the taxes. The fence will be on their property not on the county property.

Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to approve the agreement with County Judge as signatory.
Seconded by: Commissioner Cox
Vote in Favor: 5    Vote Opposed: 0

14. Consideration and possible approval of proposed salary adjustments for Road & Bridge personnel.
Commissioner Cox remarked that the current policy does not allow us to do this at this time. Harry Walker explained that this money is currently within the budget now. Commissioner Dobyanski remarked that if we do not continue to raise the pay for these crews we are going to lose out on some good employees. Commissioner Cox stated that he is all for this raise, but just not now, but would not mind discussing this on next year's budget during the budget process. In the past 2 years he (Harry Walker) has proposed merit raises and the court proposed a cost of living raise. Commissioner Walker commented that she believed we should give merit raises for 2020-2021.

Motion by: Commissioner Cox to approve the proposed salary adjustments.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0

COUNTY JUDGE - JOE FAUTH III

15. Discuss and take action to train and hire a Human Resources Director due to the retirement of Lucy Pope, effective May 29, 2020. (See Attachment #15.)

Judge Fauth remarked that Lucy Pope has turned in her resignation/retirement notice to be effective May 29, 2020. He put this on the agenda now so we can interview and process the paperwork to get the best person for the job. We will have March and April to hire and train someone. The County Treasurer Janice Trant indicated that her office would be willing take on the role of HR (Human Resources) in their department.

Commissioner Walker stated that she thought there was a need to have the HR and Treasurer departments separated. She was not here when the two were combined. Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Dobyanski both agreed with Commissioner Walker.

Judge Fauth stated that the position needs to be posted and we need to look for a new HR Director. He thanked the Treasurer for willing to take this department over. The extra money for 6 weeks of training would need to come out of fund balance.

Commissioner Cox commented that we needed to make this public and advertise for at least 30 days. He mentioned that the typical salary for HR Director was $70,000 per year. He was under the impression that we no longer posting internally. Lucy Pope explained that it would be posted for 3 days in house and 5 days to the outside public and would be posted on the website. There is already a county employee that has reached out to the county judge and expressed an interest in the job. Lucy Pope will go ahead and post it. At the end of the month we will meet to discuss and take action to determine a process to hire, due to the retirement of Lucy Pope and will make a decision by the end of the month.

Motion by: Judge Fauth to post the position of HR Director internally for 3 days.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0
16. Review, discuss and take action upon review of Gessner’s proposal for material testing.

Commissioner Mallett explained that the architect underestimated the cost of testing at $20,000 when actually the cost could be between $50,000 and $70,000. Commissioner Mallet recommended that we ask that it not exceed $45,000. Brad from Collier Construction indicated that we could roll the $20,000 allocated for testing into the contingency fund and pay for the testing out of that fund. Al Peeler commented that this needed to be expedited because they are ready for the testing to begin and he recommended that we approve this proposal and we should not skimp on testing because it was highly important that it be done properly. Commissioner Cox agreed with Al Peeler and Chad Mallett. The money is available to pay for this. Judge Fauth asked the representative from Gessner Engineering if they could do this job for no more than $45,000 and he said he could not promise anything but that they wanted to do the best job they could for the most economical way.

Motion by: Commissioner Mallett to wait for a new proposal and review at next meeting.  
Seconded by: Commissioner Cox  
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0

17. Discuss Commissioners Court Regular Meeting scheduled on February 12, 2020 and cancel/ reschedule based upon V.G. Young Conference attendance which is also on that date.

Since all of the commissioners will be attending the V. G. Young conference on February 12, 2020 the regular meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for February 26, 2020.

18. Consider and take action regarding the Burn Ban and authorize the County Judge as signatory.

No action taken.


Commissioner Cox reported that he had spoken to the Ag Extension Agent about the hog problem.

20. Adjourn.

Motioned by: Commissioner Dobyanski to adjourn.  
Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett  
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0

Judge Fauth adjourned the Meeting at 10:22 a.m.