Grimes County Commissioners Court

Chad Mallett
Commissioner, Precinct #1

David E. Dobyanski
Commissioner, Precinct #2

Barbara Walker
Commissioner, Precinct #3

Phillip Cox
Commissioner, Precinct #4

Joe Fauth III, Grimes County Judge
P.O. Box 160
Anderson, Texas 77830
936-873-4476

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Vanessa Burzynski, County Clerk
Joe Fauth III, County Judge

THE STATE OF TEXAS ~ COUNTY OF GRIMES ~ BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 21st day of October 2020 at 9:00 a.m., there was 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 III

1. Call the meeting to order.

Judge Joe Fauth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comments.

We look forward to hearing from the citizens of Grimes County. If you wish to share any thoughts and/or concerns during the Public Comment portion of the Meeting, you must sign-in with the County Clerk before the Meeting is called to order. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.

Road and Bridge Engineer Harry Walker introduced his new employee Betty Henderson. Betty will be working part time in the road and bridge office.

County Clerk Vanessa Burzynski presented certificates to Michael Bower and wife Ruth Bower for their work on digitizing the county records. They are volunteers from FamilySearch and do not get paid for their work. They have voluntarily worked in the county
clerk's office for a year scanning historical documents and books. They have completed their work and are moving on.

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. Consider and take action to approve Budget Amendments and/or Line Item Transfers:

Budget Amendment for FY 2020 - 1

FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0365-3036</td>
<td>T.A.C. INSURANCE CLAIMS</td>
<td>$13,456.85</td>
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Budget Amendment for FY 2020 - 2

FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0451-4412</td>
<td>S.O. – REPAIR &amp; MAINT - VEHICLE</td>
<td>$12,890.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010-0451-4505</td>
<td>S.O. – MACHINERY &amp; EQUIPT</td>
<td>$566.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason: T.A.C. reimbursed Grimes Co. SO for repairs and maintenance on VIN #6421,0988

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Budget Amendment for FY 2020 - 2

FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0375-3044</td>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE</td>
<td>$385.20</td>
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FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4440</td>
<td>DIST CLK – TRAVEL &amp; CONFERENCES</td>
<td>$385.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason: T.A.C. reimbursement ck# 14558 for travel and conferences

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**Line Item Transfer for FY 2020 - 1**

**FUNDS TO BE DECREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4505</td>
<td>DIST CLK - MACHINERY &amp; EQUIPT</td>
<td>$154.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4425</td>
<td>DIST CLK - DUES &amp; SUBSCRIPTIONS</td>
<td>$ 85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4440</td>
<td>DIST CLK - TRAVEL &amp; CONF</td>
<td>$ 51.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4428</td>
<td>DIST CLK - UNIFORMS</td>
<td>$290.25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reason: To create a line item for uniforms and to cover a purchase in the amount of $290.25.

**Line Item Transfer for FY 2020 - 2**

**FUNDS TO BE DECREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4440</td>
<td>TRAVEL &amp; CONFERENCES</td>
<td>$83.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUNDS TO BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0457-4435</td>
<td>ADVERTISEMENT</td>
<td>$83.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reason: To create advertisement line item for District Clerk.

6. Consideration and possible approval of a communications installation permit for AT&T Communications on CR 30 (Wade Road) in Precinct 2. (See Attachment #6.)

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve consent agenda items 3, 4, 5 and 6. Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski

Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

**GRIMES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY – ANDRIA BENDER**

7. Discuss and take action to resolve loss of Victim Services Community Action Project; $159,500.00 value. (See Attachment #7.)

Grimes County District Attorney Andria Bender passed out a document to the Commissioners court called “History of Grant” which outlined the history of this grant and the importance of
these two positions in Grimes County which are funded by this grant. Ms. Bender went over the history of the grant and the need for these two persons to remain on the payroll. This grant was originally approved in 2015 for 1 year and then renewed for an additional 2 years in 2016 and another 2 years in 2018. This grant expired on September 30, 2020. The grant was not renewed this year due to a reporting issue in the Sheriff's office. John Wren, a Crime Victims’ Case Worker/Investigator is one of the employees being paid through this grant and has been with Grimes County for 22 years and has vast knowledge of the duties required and is certified as an investigator. The other position is that of Gilverta Diaz who acts as a liaison to the crime victims coordinator Brenda Williams and is the only bilingual employee in the District Attorney’s office. Ms. Bender asked the court to keep the two positions at a reduced cost of $131,000, eliminating the overtime and travel expenses and office supplies. The original Grant value was $159,500 which included overtime and travel expenses and office supplies.

County Judge Joe Fauth stated that the county has no intention of getting rid of these two positions and that the county will fund the full amount of $159,500 either from County reserve funds or other County emergency funds available. Commissioner Barbara Walker asked if we could use some of the money earmarked for the renovation of the Annex Building to fund their salaries.

A discussion was held as to what happened with the reporting issue in the Sheriff’s Department. Chief Todd Greene stated that when Lieut. Cook left the Sheriff’s Department in 2019, his duties were divided up between two other officers and it was not clear as to whose responsibility it was to keep the reports up to date. Todd Greene also indicated that the Sheriff’s office changed computer programs and is now using a new reporting program that will eliminate this problem in the future.

County Judge Joe Fauth stated that he would like to see the auditor’s office create a grant log in order to keep track of all of the grants the county currently has and when they expire or are up for renewal. Judge Fauth indicated it was his understanding that the Sheriff’s Office was never notified that the grant was about to expire. Judge Fauth indicated that the Sheriff’s Office had never missed a deadline before.

Motion by: Judge Joe Fauth to fund the two positions of John Wren and Gilverta Diaz through the Grant from the State, and if the grant is not approved then the two positions will be funded from the County Budget Fund Balance for budget year 2020-2021.

Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT – ALLEN HOMANN

8. Interpretation Event. (See Attachment # 8.)

AgriLife Extension Agent Kyla Moeller presented the Quarterly Interpretation Event for November 2020.

GRIMES COUNTY BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGER – AL PEELER

9. Update on on-going projects: Grimes County Courthouse, Grimes County Jail, Grimes County Justice Center. (See Attachment #9.)

Courthouse – After the final inspection the project will be completed. There are a few issues that need to be resolved that could possibly take another month to complete. The Engineer will be here next week for her final inspection. The contractors are working on staining the staircase this week.
Jail – The control systems have been installed. Al Peeler said he had to purchase some motors and variable fan drives. The Fire Marshall came and did his inspection of the jail. Only a few minor problems were found. One exit light was not working and there was no panel between the fryer and the stove.

Justice Center – The roof is on the new justice center. The flat (roof) is on as well. The contractors have begun installing the sheetrock inside. The HVAC is now being installed as well. All of the waterproofing has been done on the exterior of the building. The Masonry work will start next month. There have been 72 rain days so far.

Change Orders – Al Peeler presented two change orders for the court to consider. One is for the Air Handler UV Lighting at a cost of $26,051 and the other is for Glass Teller Panels in the County Clerk’s office, District Clerk’s office, the Tax Collector’s office and the Justice of the Peace Office and one ADA sliding window in the County Clerk’s office at a cost of $8,077.00. Since this was not on the agenda for today, these two items will be placed on the next agenda for approval. To date there have been 10 change orders issued for this project.

GRIMES COUNTY IT DIRECTOR – GREGG CANNON

10. Discuss and take action to approve a three (3) year contract for BVOG internet service for the JP #3, Ag Extension and Juvenile Probation offices in Navasota. (See Attachment #10.)

IT Director Gregg Cannon stated that this contract will cost the county $350 per month for internet service. The previous internet provider charged $415 per month.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve a three (3) year contract for BVOG internet service for the JP #3, Ag Extension and Juvenile Probation offices in Navasota.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TODD GREENE

11. Consider and take action to approve the Agreement between Grimes County and Anderson Shiro CISD to provide and manage the School Resource Officer Program and authorize the County Judge as signatory. (See Attachment #11.)

Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to approve the agreement between Grimes County and Anderson Shiro CISD to provide and manage the School Resource Officer Program and authorize the County Judge as signatory.
Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TODD GREENE

12. Consider and take action to approve the Health Services Agreement contract between Grimes County and Southern Health Partners. (See Attachment #12.)
Motion by: Commissioner Mallett to approve the Health Services Agreement contract between Grimes County and Southern Health Partners. Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY TREASURER – JIM-BOB TRANT

13. Consider and take action to amend the Grimes County Investment Policy to revise the number of appointed positions to the Investment Committee from two (2) to four (4) persons, and confirm the following appointees to the Grimes County Investment Committee: Phillip Cox, MaryAnn Waters, Thomas Williams and Kris Gordon. (See Attachment #13.)

County Treasurer Jim-Bob Trant stated that the County Treasurer and the County Auditor will also be a part of the Grimes County Investment Committee.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to amend the Grimes County Investment Policy to revise the number of appointed positions to the Investment Committee from two (2) to four (4) persons, and confirm the following appointees to the Grimes County Investment Committee: Phillip Cox, MaryAnn Waters, Thomas Williams and Kris Gordon. Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

ROAD & BRIDGE ENGINEER – HARRY WALKER

14. Consideration and possible approval of a partial replat of Regan Estates, Lots 1-3 and Lot 19, located in the James Wallace Survey, A-59, Grimes County, Texas, Precinct 3. (See Attachment #14.)

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve a partial replat of Regan Estates, Lots 1-3 and Lot 19, located in the James Wallace Survey, A-59, Grimes County, Texas, Precinct 3. Seconded by: Commissioner Cox
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

15. Consider and take action to release the road maintenance bond for Horseshoe Acres located in Precinct 2 and accept placement of Horseshoe Bend into the County’s maintenance system. (See Attachment #15.)

Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to release the road maintenance bond for Horseshoe Acres located in Precinct 2 and accept placement of Horseshoe Bend into the County’s maintenance system. Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED


Road and Bridge Engineer Harry Walker stated that the trade-in value was $27,000 and the total purchase price would be $215,100. The original list price was $441,375. This amount will be less than the amount budgeted for this year for this equipment.
Motion by: Commissioner Mallett to purchase of a 2021 John Deere 670G through the Cooperative Buyer Program Sourcewell #032119-JDC and allow trade in of the 2012 Volvo G930B motor grader serial #575190 to Doggett. Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

Presentation of Road & Bridge Report (See Attached Report)

GRIMES COUNTY ASSISTANT AUDITOR – MARY JOHNSON

17. Receive and take action to approve the MOU between the BVCOG Transportation Partnership Program and Grimes County for FY 2021. (See Attachment #17.)

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve the MOU between the BVCOG Transportation Partnership Program and Grimes County for FY 2021.
Seconded by: Commissioner Cox
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

COUNTY JUDGE – JOE FAUTH III

18. Discuss and take action on items related to the Coronavirus Relief Fund. (See Attachment #18.)

Assistant Auditor Mary Johnson passed out an updated CARES Act Fund Spreadsheet with the revised numbers of the amount of money spent on COVID-19 expenses that can be applied to the CARES Act Grant Funding. Mary Johnson stated that she had a conference call with TDEM on Friday to get guidance on being reimbursed for the law enforcement expenditures and Grimes County will be receiving additional funding of $122,485. Judge Joe Fauth commented that Mary Johnson was leaving the county at the end of the month and wished her well. No action was taken.

19. Consider and take action to approve the 2020 Tax Roll. (See Attachment #19.)

Motion by: Judge Joe Fauth to approve the 2020 Tax Roll.
Seconded by: Commissioner Walker
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

20. Discuss and take action to meet and form the Grimes County Tax Abatement Guidelines, Criteria/Committee. (See Attachment #20.)

Grimes County Chamber of Commerce Director Johnny McNally was present for this discussion. A discussion was held about modifying the Grimes County Tax Abatement Guidelines for a Solar Farm Project proposed for Grimes County. A discussion was also held as to who would serve on that committee. The current guidelines stated the following persons would be on the review committee: The County Judge, the County Commissioner whose precinct the proposed project would be located, a representative of the Grimes County Chamber of Commerce, a representative of the Navasota Economic Development Corporation, and a representative of the Grimes County Business Community. In addition, the Commissioners Court shall request that the President of the Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Economic Development Corporation select the representatives from their respective organizations and the Commissioners Court shall appoint the business community
representative. Judge Joe Fauth recommended Bob Lieper to be on this committee. Johnny McNally stated that the Navasota Economic Development Corporation was meeting today to select their representative to serve on this committee and that he would represent the Grimes County Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by: Commissioner Mallett to add Bob Lieper and the Grimes County Auditor Jessi Murphy to the Grimes County Tax Abatement Guidelines Criteria Committee
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

21. Review, discuss and approve language changes and modifications to the 2021 VFD contracts with Grimes County. (See Attachment #21.)

Grimes County Emergency Services Coordinator presented the 2021 Contract for County Funding for Firefighting Services to become effective October 1, 2020. The following fire chiefs were present.
Whitehall V.F.D. – Chief Vickers
Shiro V.F.D. – Chief Sharon
Todd Mission V.F.D. – Chief Wenzel

Chief Vickers stated that his department has been working with the county on these contracts since June and as a representative for the Volunteer Fire Departments in the County, they have come up with their own version of the contract that they would like to see implemented, but did not have a copy with him to present to the commissioners court. He also stated that these volunteer fire departments should not be penalized for not being able to meet the required qualifications due to most training classes being cancelled due to COVID-19. One request was to eliminate the tier system all together. His reason was that there was no way that all of the different fire departments would be able to meet all of the requirements and that each department is different, and some fire departments have more personnel and more training than others. He thinks that all of the departments should each receive the same amount of money from the county. Some volunteers cannot afford to take time off from work and family to go to a training that might take 40+ hours in a week. He did agree that all fire departments should have a certain set of basic certifications and requirements for someone to be a qualified fire fighter. There was also a question about why there were separate contracts for each fire department and why there could not be one contract for all fire departments. Chief Sharon stated that all Fire Chiefs are certified to train anyone in this county.

Judge Joe Fauth and Commissioner Phillip Cox were both opposed to removing the tier requirements and agreed that the tier system should be left in place.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to approve language changes and modifications to the 2021 VFD contracts with Grimes County including adding the $35,000 run pool money to Section 3.04 and removing the chiefs from the tier requirements and other language to be determined by the County Attorney Jon C. Fultz.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 5 Vote Opposed: 0 MOTION PASSED

22. Discuss and take action to determine how the Sheriff’s Office will buy or lease vehicles using their 2021 budget dollars.
Motion by: Commissioner Cox to purchase three (3) new vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office.  
Seconded by: Commissioner Walker  
Vote in Favor: 3  Vote Opposed: 2  MOTION PASSED  
Judge Joe Fauth – No  
Commissioner David Dobyanski – No  
Commissioner Chad Mallett – Yes  
Commissioner Barbara Walker – Yes  
Commissioner Phillip Cox – Yes

23. Discuss and take action to join TAHSR (Texans Against High Speed Rail), impacted landowners, other impacted counties and organizations, as a plaintiff in a federal court lawsuit to challenge the Federal Railroad Administration’s issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Texas Central’s proposed high-speed rail project.

Judge Joe Fauth stated that the county will be represented by the Blake Beckham Group at no cost to the county.

Motion by: Judge Joe Fauth to join TAHSR (Texans Against High Speed Rail), impacted landowners, other impacted counties and organizations, as a plaintiff in a federal court lawsuit to challenge the Federal Railroad Administration’s issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Texas Central’s proposed high-speed rail project. Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski  
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED  

24. Consider and take action regarding the Burn Ban and authorize the County Judge as signatory. **No Action**

25. Receive any updates on the Strategic Plan. **No Updates**


Motion by: Commissioner Dobyanski to adjourn.  
Seconded by: Commissioner Mallett  
Vote in Favor: 5  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

Judge Joe Fauth adjourned the Meeting at 12:45 p.m.