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 WORKSHOP 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 12:46 p.m., there was a Strategic Plan Workshop 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: Absent
- 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 12:46 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. for lunch. Meeting reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

2. Review completed projects, update on in-process projects and assign or reassign some of all of the remaining uncompleted projects of the Strategic Plan. (See Attachment #2.)

The last workshop was held on January 22, 2020. Previous workshop was held on Jan 23, 2019.

Judge Joe Fauth stated that the county has completed 33 out of the 67 Strategic Plan Items.
1. in progress
11. in annual review
6. allocated to the state (TXDOT)

Commissioner David Dobyanski explained that the original strategic plan was developed by the Sam Houston State University five (5) years ago and town hall meetings were held to get input from the citizens of the county. That was back in 2017 and an update is overdue.
David Dobyanski suggested that the county should look at doing another round of town hall meetings and get an outside agency to help oversee the project and the progress being made. A few suggestions were using Texas A&M University or Sam Houston State University. Commissioner Barbara Walker also suggested maybe someone with the City of Navasota might know of a group that would be willing to help with the project. She also suggested the Center for Rural Studies. Commissioner Phillip Cox asked about using the V.G. Young Group at BVCOG. Judge Joe Fauth also suggested checking with TAC or CIRA as well. Judge Joe Fauth assigned the following Commissioners to check on the possibility of outside help.

Phillip Cox – Texas A&M University
David Dobyanski – Sam Houston State University
Barbara Walker – City of Navasota
Joe Fauth – CIRA/TAC

The following Strategic Plan items were reviewed.

ITEMS IN PROGRESS

#2 and #3 - Better Internet Speed/Reach/Service to all of County - Judge Joe Fauth & Commissioner David Dobyanski COMPLETED

1. Fiber Ring is Complete and ready for business.
2. Michael Parks with BVCOG is the person that got the Navasota Annex and the Bedias area connected to the Fiber Ring using funds from the CARES ACT.
3. Grimescounty.net is up and running with 2 towers in Grimes County. One on FM 2445 and another on CR 308 and several dishes throughout the county.
4. Mid-South Synergy is installing high speed internet throughout the county and is almost ready.

#6 - County Animal Shelter – Commissioner David Dobyanski

1. Kristen Carrell has been working on the design for the building and will get a price for the building by December 2020.
2. The fundraiser scheduled in October was cancelled due to COVID-19.
3. Kristen Carrell received a 1-year extension on this project.
4. The Anderson VFD constructed a building on the site where the animal shelter was proposed to be located so he will need to select another location.
5. There is a new Facebook Page that was recently created, and a foster program has been started and there have been a lot of phone calls from people wanting to know where they can sign up for the foster program.
6. There is a low cost spay/neuter program in Bryan/College Station available for low income families.

#7 - Digitize County Records – Vanessa Burzynski (County Clerk)

1. Most of the marriage records have been scanned and digitized with the exception of a few of the older marriage books which are scheduled to be scanned in the near future.
2. FamilySearch.org sent two people to help scan and digitize records in the county. Michael and Ruth Bower have been working here at the county on a volunteer basis for an entire year now. They have scanned deeds, probate files, probate birth records, school census records, and various other historical documents including WWI records.
3. We still need to scan the criminal case files and the handwritten Probate Record Minute Books.
4. Birth and Death Certificates are being scanned in house by the county clerk’s office staff but had to be put on hold because the department had a employee out on medical leave for a few months, but that will be an ongoing project for several years.
#14 – Lower Property Taxes for those over 65 – Judge Joe Fauth COMPLETED

1. Property tax rate was lowered for 2020.

#21 – Hire an Animal Control Officer – Commissioner David Dobyanski

1. The state requires that a county with a population over 50,000 must have an animal shelter.
2. Grimes County population is less than 50,000 so there will be no animal control officer.
3. The new animal shelter, once completed, will be drop off only. There will not be staff to go out and pick up animals.

#24 – 4-Way Traffic light at SH90 and FM 1696 – Commissioner Chad Mallett

1. This is a TXDOT issue so Grimes County has no control over this.

#32 & #40 – Branding of Anderson as the County Seat/Branding of County Slogan – Commissioner Barbara Walker

1. The City of Anderson already has their own branding/slogan.
2. Commissioner Walker is working with Katherine Dornak on the Keep Texas Beautiful Project.
3. The County Slogan used to be “Land of Milk and Honey”. Commissioner Walker stated that there is only 1 operating dairy left in Grimes County.

#36 – Building Fire Code Enforcement – Judge Joe Fauth

1. Based on the population of Grimes County, we are not required to have a building code inspector.
2. Move to “annual review” category.

#41 – Citizen Trade School for Professions – Commissioners Barbara Walker and Phillip Cox

1. Barbara Walker and Phillip Cox sit on a committee for Blinn College. Blinn College has been working with Navasota ISD on career training for students.
2. Anderson-Shiro CISD is looking into a welding program and a nursing program.
3. Prairie View A&M might be interested in offering some classes.
4. Auto Mechanic training could be offered on nights and weekends.
5. Move to “annual review” category.

#44 – Reinvestigate Grant Writer Options – Judge Joe Fauth

1. Move to “annual review” category.

#45 – Community Homeless/Transition Living Shelter – Commissioner Phillip Cox

1. Grimes County currently does not have a transition living shelter.
2. Crime victims need a place to stay. A citizen in Plantersville was furnishing a home for abused people and people with health problems. She was looking for donations of furniture, bedding, and clothing.
3. Move to “annual review” category.

#51 – Boy’s and Girl’s Club – Judge Joe Fauth

1. There is no funding available for a Boys and Girls club at this time.
2. Move to “annual review” category.

#66 – Hire a County Manager – Judge Joe Fauth and County Attorney Jon C. Fultz

1. The current budget does not allow for the county to hire a county manager at this time.
2. Move to “annual review” category.
REQUIRES ANNUAL REVIEW

#10 – Reactivate 391 Commission – Judge Joe Fauth
   No action

#12 – More EMS – Commissioners Barbara Walker and Chad Mallett – COMPLETED
   1. The county has received additional ambulances for transporting patients from
      nursing homes, prisons, and the Renaissance Festival.
   2. Better reporting.
   3. New Director Billy Rice.

#17 – Better connection between high schools and technical schools – Commissioner Chad
       Mallett
   1. Combine with #41 – Trade schools for citizens (adults)

#25 – Pave New Roads – Road and Bridge Engineer Harry Walker (ONGOING)
   1. Harry Walker has increased the number of miles per year to be paved.

#34 & #50 – Rural Emergency Department/Decentralized Medical Clinics/Medical Care across
   entire County – Commissioners court – To Be Determined (TBD)
   1. There is a new clinic in Bedias called the BIS Clinic.

#35 – Senior Centers with Adult Care Programs – Commissioner Barbara Walker (TBD)
   1. The adult day care program was moved to Brenham.
   2. The county does not have the money to operate an adult day care center.
   3. The county would also need to provide transportation.
   4. The hospital in Navasota did have a Senior Renewal Program that offered daytime
      classes but that was cancelled due to COVID-19.

#37 – Major Improvements to existing County facilities – Commissioner Phillip Cox and Chad
       Mallett. (TBD)
   1. The new Justice Center is currently under construction.
   2. The annex will need to be renovated after those offices move into the new building.

#46 – Wild Hog Management - Commissioner Phillip Cox (90 days)
   1. Grimes County has applied for a wild hog management program grant.

#57 – Better Healthcare Options for Poor Citizens – Commissioner Barbara Walker
   1. Grimes Health Resource Center provides transportation for the elderly for doctor
      visits.

#61 – Park Programs for Youth and Seniors – Judge Joe Fauth and Commissioner Phillip Cox
   1. The Grimes County Historical Commission (GCHC) has just acquired the Historic
      Anderson Park
   2. The Grimes County Fairgrounds has received a number of upgrades and
      renovations.
   3. Mayor of Navasota Bert Miller has donated land for a park in Navasota.
   4. The City of Navasota has several parks and a community pool.

#64 – Water Treatment Plant – Commissioner Chad Mallett
   1. The City of Iola just received a grant for a sewer treatment plant.

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#20B – Zoning of Subdivision Codes/Enforcement of Zoning Codes Regarding Development - Road and Bridge Engineer Harry Walker [90 days]
   1. Harry Walker is working on updating the Subdivision Rules

#28 – Health Inspection of Food Services – Judge Joe Fauth (1-2 years)
   1. The City of Navasota is looking into this.
   2. The Grimes County Budget cannot afford a health inspector at this time.

#29 – Keeping Parks and Green Space a Priority in Development Plans – Commissioner Chad Mallett (TBD)
   1. King Oaks Subdivision has some green space in its subdivision plans.
   2. The Flooded lots in the buyout program could be turned into green space. The county will be responsible for the upkeep of these properties.
   3. Possibly add some requirements for green space in the subdivision rules.
   4. None of the buyout lots are in incorporated cities. The cost for the county to maintain these lots are minimal. Only 5 residents opted for the buyout so far.

#39 – Widen FM 1774 from Todd Mission to Plantersville – Commissioner David Dobyanski (TBD)
   1. This is a TXDOT issue.
   2. Currently TXDOT is working on the new 249 project on Highway 105 through Plantersville.

#47 & #53 – Review County Waterways for Recreational Use – Commissioner Chad Mallet (TBD)
   1. Navasota River Park – possible location for a park along the Navasota River.

#48 – Lower Speed Limits on Highway 90 and Fm 1696 – Commissioner Chad Mallet (TBD)
   1. TXDOT is responsible for speed limits.

3. Adjourn.

Motion by: Commissioner Walker to adjourn.
Seconded by: Commissioner Dobyanski
Vote in Favor: 4  Vote Opposed: 0  MOTION PASSED

Judge Joe Fauth adjourned the Meeting at 2:47 p.m.