THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE STATE OF TEXAS ~ COUNTY OF GRIMES ~ BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 21st day of July 2021 at 9:00 a.m. there was a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners Court of Grimes County, Texas at the Grimes County Annex Building, 114 W. Buffington, Anderson, Texas with the following members present:

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

COUNTY JUDGE JOE FAUTH III

1. Call to order.
   a. Invocation
   b. Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag
   c. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag, “Honor the Texas Flag. I Pledge Allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

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.

- Charles Abraham – made a comment against countywide permitting
- Kevin Clark – made a comment in favor of countywide permitting
- Paul Holder – made a comment in favor of countywide permitting
- Johnny McNally – made a comment in favor of countywide permitting
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:

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**Budget Amendment for FY 2021 - 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>0010-0375-3044</td>
<td>MISC. REVENUE</td>
<td>$438.99</td>
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</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>0010-0423-4405</td>
<td>RENTALS &amp; CONTRACTS</td>
<td>$438.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reason: Reimbursement ck#55045053 from Toshiba for overpayment on voter's copier.*

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**Budget Amendment for FY 2021 - 2**

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0375-3044</td>
<td>MISC. INCOME</td>
<td>$915.00</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>0010-0409-4440</td>
<td>TRAVEL &amp; CONFERENCES</td>
<td>$915.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reason: Reimbursement ck#15267 from T.A.C.A. for CDCAT Conferences for County Clerk's office.*

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**Budget Amendment for FY 2021 - 3**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>
Grimes County Commissioners Court  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2021  
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0010-0365-3036 TAC INSURANCE CLAIMS $1,462.40

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LINE ITEM #</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0010-0451-4412</td>
<td>S.O. – REPAIR &amp; MAINT./VEHICLES</td>
<td>$1,462.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reason: Reimbursement from T.A.C. on repairs for 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe VN#5622.*

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

**IN FAVOR** 5 **OPPOSED** 0 **MOTION PASSED**

**GRIMES COUNTY BUILDING MAINTENANCE MANAGER – AL PEELER**

6. Update on on-going projects: Grimes County Jail and Grimes County Justice Center. (see Attachment #6).

Al Peeler gave an update on the new Justice Center Building.

- New completion date is October 1, 2021
- There were 10 rain days in July. Total of 149 rain days.
- Tile and flooring is now being installed
- 220 yards of concrete are being poured tomorrow @ 2pm
- Building was keyed on Tuesday.

Al Peeler commented that county employees and elected officials have been found wandering around the job site. Unauthorized persons are not allowed to enter the construction site without prior approval from the Project Manager. The contractor Collier Construction has stated that any unauthorized persons found on the job site will cause them to shut down operations for the day and charge the county for that day. This is a safety and liability issue with the insurance company. Anyone wishing to visit the construction site must have prior permission. Judge Joe Fauth instructed his administrative assistant Cherie Wagner to send out an email to all employees stating that nobody is allowed on the jobsite except for authorized personnel.

**Project Modifications** – nothing has changed since the last update. There are 10 change orders pending and most of those will be denied.

**Update on the Jail** – The mildew has come back on the administrative side of the jail. On the jail side 2 new a/c units have been installed and are working as expected. On the administrative side the a/c units are older and not working as they should be. Climatec, Envirotec and Frontier will be coming out to the jail to address these issues and put together a game plan. There has been a lot of humidity in the building. Judge Joe Fauth asked if the problem could be resolved without having to buy new a/c units. Al Peeler stated that the heating elements were bad and needed to be upgraded.
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT – ALLEN HOMANN

7. Quarterly interpretation event. (See Attachment #7).

Summer intern Amy Neal presented the quarterly report. Amy passed out an invitation to the commissioners for the 4H Annual Awards Banquet to be held on August 1st. Miss Neal also stated that the Agrilife Extension Office will once again be handing out back to school backpacks, but citizens would need to go online and sign up prior to the event.

GRIMES COUNTY IT DIRECTOR – GREGG CANNON

8. Consider and take action to approve the rewiring of the network lines in the Sheriff’s Department and Jail as well as remove 60+ old cameras and cables. (See Attachment #8.)

Gregg Cannon presented a proposal to remove old wiring from the sheriff’s office and reroute the existing lines to an area outside of the sheriff’s office in the new Justice Center. Currently the IT Department must be escorted into the jail every time they need to work on the network. Mr. Cannon stated that this was not critical but should be done as soon as possible. Mr. Cannon asked if this project could be paid for out of the American Rescue Act Funds and if not, it should be budgeted for this coming budget year for 2022. There was a discussion on how to fund this project and even possibly using fund balance. There was also a discussion on whether this constituted an emergency or not. The auditor recommended not using fund balance. The cost of the project is $44,201 with half due up front of $22,100. There was a discount incentive offered if the county were to combine this project with the other project which included running fiber internet to the other county offices in Anderson including the Appraisal District and the Fire Department. That cost is $161,000. Judge Joe Fauth indicated that this was something that needed to be done sooner than later. Judge Fauth stated that this item would be discussed in the upcoming budget workshop after this meeting. This item was tabled. No action taken.

GRIMES COUNTY CLERK – VANESSA BURZYNSKI

9. Consider and take action to approve agreement with Permitium to provide online vital records services at no cost to the County. (See Attachment #9.)

County Clerk Vanessa Burzynski presented an agreement with Permitium to provide online vital records services. Customers can request and pay for birth and death certificates online as well as Marriage Licenses. Once the application is received the documents will be mailed or the customer can choose to pick it up in person. There is a $4 convenience fee that is passed on to the customer as well as a credit card transaction fee. This would be an alternative to the customer coming to the office in person. Everything can be done electronically. Judge Joe Fauth asked that this be looked at by the IT department prior to approval to make sure this website is secure.

Motion by Commissioner Phillip Cox to approve the agreement with Permitium to provide online vital records services at no cost to the County, with the approval of the IT Department.

Seconded by Commissioner David Dobynski.

IN FAVOR 5  
OPPOSED 0  
MOTION PASSED
10. Discuss and take action to appoint an advisory committee to investigate the feasibility of construction contractor permitting within Grimes County.

A discussion was held concerning the feasibility of putting together a permitting process for contractors for new construction. Commissioner Phillip Cox stated that several counties have started doing this. He stated that we already have sewer permits and road permits. Mr. Cox stated that he would like to form a committee to get some ideas on how to get something going in the county. Mr. Cox stated that there are unlicensed contractors doing work in the county and that there are safety issues and concerns. The county is growing, and more housing is on the way. Mr. Cox also stated that we owe it to the people to offer some type of protection. Mr. Cox stated that the county should form an advisory committee with local contractors to discuss this further.

Commissioner Barbara Walker stated that her concern was that this committee needed to be balanced by bringing in citizens from the community as well. Mrs. Walker stated that this is one reason why people come to Grimes County because they want to avoid regulations and inspectors. The county would need to implement regulations and hire inspectors and employees. The septic department is already overwhelmed, and this would add even more work to their department. She did not feel comfortable signing off on anything and then being held liable if something goes wrong.

Commissioner David Dobyanski stated that he did not think the permitting process will change anything. People will still hire unlicensed contractors to save money.

County Attorney Jon C. Fultz stated that there was no liability to the county either way.

Judge Joe Fauth stated that he has not received any complaints from citizens about this.

Motion by Commissioner Phillip Cox appoint an advisory committee to investigate the feasibility of construction contractor permitting within Grimes County.
Seconded by: No Second.
IN FAVOR 0  OPPOSED 0  MOTION FAILED

11. Discussion of the status of Grimes County Animal Rescue and possible action on Amendment of Agreement with Grimes County regarding location of animal shelter.

Kristen Carrell with Grimes County Animal Rescue has been working on this project for Grimes County for the past 7 years. Kristen handed out a map of the proposed new location for the new animal shelter which would be adjacent to the sheriff’s office and behind the new justice center. There is a 40-acre tract of land. Kristen stated that she has all the forms needed to build the building and hopes to break ground by the end of this year. The animal shelter will be close to the new road being constructed off Highway 90 to the new Justice Center and sewer and water lines will need to be run under the road. There are plans for a 70-foot dog run for the dogs to run and play. She also stated that the shelter would need to be built with a 20’ utility easement and future parking. Kristen also stated that this would be a no-kill shelter. She stated that they have a foster program and are sending dogs to New
York to find homes. They can only hold dogs for 30 days. The site has been flagged. There was some concern from Al Peeler, the project manager of the new Justice Center, about the flags being within the fenced construction area for the new building. No action was taken.

ROAD & BRIDGE ENGINEER – HARRY WALKER

12. Consideration and possible action to renew Special Road Use Agreement for Blue Jay Solar. (See Attachment #12.)

Motion by Commissioner Chad Mallett to renew Special Road Use Agreement for Blue Jay Solar for 30 days. Seconded by Commissioner David Dobyanski.

IN FAVOR 5  OPPOSED 0  MOTION PASSED

Presentation of Road & Bridge Report

Harry Walker stated that the two properties to be sold have been surveyed. Notice was posted for the abandonment of the two roadways in Stoneham. City of Navasota stated that they had no objection to closing the alley way between the two properties on Piedmont.

Entergy has plans to build a new transmission line in the Southwest part of the County in the area of Plantersville and the new 249 highway. Commissioner David Dobyanski asked about a substation on FM 1774 and CR 351. Mr. Walker stated that the county might need to setup some meetings with Entergy as this would be a significant impact to the county.

Mr. Walker stated that road and bridge will start paving tomorrow on Tall Pine.

GRIMES COUNTY JUDGE – JOE FAUTH III

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

No action.


No updates.

15. Adjourn.

Motion by Commissioner Barbara Walker to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner David Dobyanski.

IN FAVOR 5  OPPOSED 0  MOTION PASSED

Joe Fauth adjourned the Meeting at 11:00 a.m.