THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE STATE OF TEXAS ~ COUNTY OF GRIMES ~ BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 17th day of November 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.

   - Connie Clements spoke in favor of agenda item #14. Scanning and preservation of Marriage License Books by the County Clerk. She stated that she was a history buff and indicated that these historical books needed to be preserved.
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- Commissioner Barbara Walker announced that free COVID-19 shots will be given at the Navasota Center in Navasota on Friday, December 3, 2021.
- David Lilly announced that free COVID-19 shots will be given at the BIS Clinic in Bedias on Friday, November 19, 2021 from 10am – 2pm. Drive thru only. Also, COVID-19 shots are also being given at the Texas Renaissance Festival on Saturdays and Sundays during normal operating hours.
- Commissioner David Dobyanski announced that there will be a courthouse lighting ceremony held at the courthouse on Saturday, November 27, 2021 from 2pm – 6pm.

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. (See Attachment #3.)

4. Consider and take action to approve payroll.

5. Consider and take action to approve Budget Amendments and/or Line-Item Transfers. (See Attachment #5.)

MOTION BY Commissioner Barbara Walker to approve consent agenda items 3, 4 and 5.  
SECONDED BY Commissioner David Dobyanski  
VOTE IN FAVOR 5 VOTE OPPOSED 0 MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY COMMISSIONER PCT #2 – DAVID DOBYANSKI

6. Consider and recognize the following employee for their years of service.

- Kathy Wingard – 35 years

ERNST & YOUNG LLP SENIOR MANAGER – EVAN HORN

7. Candela Solar Farm presentation and discussion. (See Attachment #7.)

Mr. Evan Horn with Ernst & Young LLP passed out a presentation about the proposed Candela Solar Farm proposed to be built in Iola. Candela Renewables was established in 2018, but the employees have 25 years of experience in the solar farm industry. This project will be located near CR 164 near Gibbons Creek Reservoir 5 or 6 miles south of the current Blue Jay Solar Project. This solar farm will product 210 megawatts of electricity with a proposed completion by year 2023. Land for this project has been leased by several landowners totaling 2,000 acres. The solar farm will tie into the Keith 138 substation and will be operational for about 30 years. This project will produce approximately $126 million in tax revenue for the county. This project will produce about 250 jobs during the construction phase. County Judge Joe Fauth asked about battery storage. Mr. Horn indicated that there are no plans for battery storage at this facility.
8. Consider and take action regarding Cellebrite software subscription.

DA Investigator John Wren stated that the District Attorney's office wants to purchase the Cellebrite software which will enable the DA's office to retrieve and download data from cell phones as evidence. The information is downloaded to a computer. Law Enforcement has been using this software for 15-20 years. This software will allow the DA's office to share data with the Navasota Police Dept., Sheriff's Department and Justice of the Peace offices. The initial cost of this web-based software is $6,758 for the first year which comes out to $509 per month. There is also a one-time training fee of $4,000. Total costs of the program are about $11,000 plus the cost of a new computer. John Wren indicated that the DA's office will pay for the first year out of asset forfeiture funds but wanted to know if the court would consider this during next year's budget process as a future annual expense.

NO ACTION TAKEN

9. Consider and take action to approve the addition of Full Coordinator Access to LGS for the 12th District Court (See Attachment #9.)

**MOTION BY Commissioner Barbara Walker to approve the addition of Full Coordinator Access to LGS for the 12th District Court. SECONDED BY Commissioner Phillip Cox.**

- VOTE IN FAVOR 5
- VOTE OPPOSED 0
- MOTION PASSED

10. Consider and take action to approve the migration of the JP1, JP2, and JP3 offices to LGS. (See Attachment #10.)

**MOTION BY Commissioner Phillip Cox to approve the migration of the JP1, JP2, and JP3 offices to LGS. SECONDED BY Commissioner Chad Mallett.**

- VOTE IN FAVOR 5
- VOTE OPPOSED 0
- MOTION PASSED

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES COORDINATOR – DAVID LILLY


EMC Coordinator David Lilly presented the court with a printout of all of the volunteer fire department run totals for 2021. The average cost was $3.34 per run for a total of $40,740.

12. Consider and take action to approve adding an additional 31 radios to the Grimes County 700/800 radio count with eight (8) of these radios for Grimes County First Responders, five (5) for the Plantersville VFD, one (1) for the Richards VFD, and 17 for the Todd Mission VFD. These additional radios are needed for each department to equip new members added or to fully equip existing members.

EMC Coordinator David Lilly stated that Grimes County currently has 341 radios.

**MOTION BY Commissioner David Dobynski to approve adding an additional 31 radios to the Grimes County 700/800 radio count with eight (8) of these radios for Grimes County First**
Responders, five (5) for the Plantersville VFD, one (1) for the Richards VFD, and 17 for the Todd Mission VFD. SECONDED BY Commissioner Chad Mallett.

VOTE IN FAVOR  5  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY CLERK – VANESSA BURZYNSKI

13. Consider and take action to approve the contract with Kofile to scan and restore old probate minutes books. (See Attachment #13.)

County Clerk Vanessa Burzynski presented a proposal from Kofile to scan and restore old probate minutes books dating back to the early 1800's and 1900's at a cost of $186,984.50. Mrs. Burzynski had some of these old books on display for the commissioners to view. County Judge Joe Fauth asked if there were funds available for this project in records management funds and the answer was yes. Records Management funds are dedicated funds that can only be used for scanning and preservation. Commissioner Phillip Cox questioned the need for additional storage space for these books. Mrs. Burzynski explained that these books are permanent records and must be retained by the county and that it was her job to make sure these records were properly maintained and properly stored. Once the books are restored, they will be protected from further deterioration and by scanning these books, they will be made available online to the public and will be a back up in case the original books are ever damaged or destroyed. Commissioner Phillip Cox also asked Mrs. Burzynski about the criminal case files. He wanted to know if she had plans to have those scanned as well and the answer was yes. Mrs. Burzynski also stated that a portion of this project will be paid for out of a $10,000 grant received by the Texas Bar Association Historical Foundation.

MOTION BY Judge Joe Fauth to approve the contract with Kofile to scan and restore old probate minutes books. SECONDED BY Commissioner David Dobyanski.

VOTE IN FAVOR  4  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED
COMMISSIONER PHILLIP COX ABSTAINED FROM VOTING

14. Consider and take action to approve the contract with Kofile to scan and restore old marriage license books. (See Attachment #14.)

County Clerk Vanessa Burzynski presented a proposal from Kofile to scan and restore old marriage license books at a cost of $50,598.96. These marriage license books are from 1899 to 1944. According to Mrs. Burzynski, these books are permanent historical records of the county and must be preserved. Once scanned these books will be available online to the public and the scans will be used as a back up in case the originals or ever damaged or destroyed. This is a project that was started last year but was put on hold so the auditors could audit the Records Management funds. This projected will be funded out of the Records Archive Fund.

MOTION BY Commissioner David Dobyanski to approve the contract with Kofile to scan and restore old marriage license books. SECONDED BY Commissioner Chad Mallett.

VOTE IN FAVOR  4  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED
COMMISSIONER PHILLIP COX ABSTAINED FROM VOTING
ROAD AND BRIDGE ENGINEER – HARRY WALKER

15. Consideration and possible approval of the replat of King Oaks, Section 4, Block A, Lots 24 & 25. (See Attachment #15.)

MOTION BY Commissioner Chad Mallett to approve the replat of King Oaks, Section 4, Block A, Lots 24 & 25. SECONDED BY Commissioner Barbara Walker.

VOTE IN FAVOR  5  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED

16. Consideration and possible approval of the reduction in road security bond for the Heyman subdivision to the road maintenance bond level. (See Attachment #16.)

MOTION BY Commissioner Chad Mallett to approve the reduction in road security bond for the Heyman subdivision to the road maintenance bond level.
SECONDED BY Commissioner David Dobyanski.
VOTE IN FAVOR  5  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED

17. Consideration and possible approval of the renewal of a Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for Blue Jay Solar. (See Attachment #17.)

MOTION BY Commissioner Chad Mallett to approve the renewal of a Special Road Use and Indemnity Agreement for Blue Jay Solar. SECONDED BY Commissioner Barbara Walker.

VOTE IN FAVOR  5  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED

GRIMES COUNTY JUDGE – JOE FAUTH III

18. Advise the Commissioners Court of Amendment No. 1 to GLO Contract No. 19-076-033-B686. (See Attachment #18.)

MOTION BY Judge Joe Fauth III to approve Amendment No. 1 to GLO Contract No. 19-076-033-B686. SECONDED BY Commissioner Barbara Walker.

VOTE IN FAVOR  5  VOTE OPPOSED  0  MOTION PASSED

19. Discuss and take action on Resolution and Ballot for Grimes Central Appraisal District Board of Directors Election. (See Attachment #19.)

Judge Joe Fauth presented the commissioners with a list of candidates for Board of Directors for the Grimes Central Appraisal District. A discussion was held as to who the court wanted to be on the Board of Directors. It was noted that there are currently 5 members. County Clerk Vanessa Burzynski read aloud the 5 members names. Because Scott Nevill is deceased, Judge Joe Fauth recommended the court cast votes for Carol Garnett instead of Mr. Nevill. Grimes County gets 1,528 votes divided by 5 candidates, which the court should allocate it’s votes for 305.6 each. The votes were cast as follows:

Charles Frede – 305 votes
Carol Garnett – 308 votes
Sam Ruffino – 305 votes
Kathleen Terrell – 305 votes
Dianna Westmoreland – 305 votes
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MOTION BY Commissioner Phillip Cox to approve the Resolution and Ballot for Grimes Central Appraisal District Board of Directors Election.
SECONDED BY Commissioner David Dobyanski.
VOTE IN FAVOR 5 VOTE OPPOSED 0 MOTION PASSED

20. Revisit allocation of funds received from housing out of county prisoners and take any necessary action. (See Attachment #20.)

There was a discussion as to how much of the funds received from Coryell County should be allocated to the jail. County Judge Joe Fauth stated that the county receives $55 per day per person and that currently there are approximately 22 prisoners. County Judge Joe Fauth calculated that the county would potentially receive $36,300 per month or $435,600 per year. Commissioner Chad Mallet suggested that 100 percent of the funds be allocated to the jail for repairs and maintenance of the jail facilities. Currently only 50 percent is being allocated to the jail and the other 50 percent to the County’s General Fund.

NO ACTION TAKEN

21. Consider and take action to approve proposed ARPA expenditures. (See Attachment #21.)

NO ACTION TAKEN

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

23. Receive any updates on the Strategic Plan.

No updates to the Strategic Plan.


MOTION BY Commissioner Barbara Walker to adjourn.
SECONDED BY Commissioner David Dobyanski.
VOTE IN FAVOR 5 VOTE OPPOSED 0 MOTION PASSED

Judge Joe Fauth adjourned the Meeting at 11:02 a.m.