**The State of Texas §**

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**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 12th day of July, 2016, at 9:00 o’clock a.m. there came on and was held in the City of Rocksprings, Edwards County, Texas, at the Edwards County Courthouse therein, a Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas. The Proposed Agenda for this Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas was posted on July 8, 2016 at 3:02 o’clock p.m.

Present were:

Honorable William Epperson, Commissioner of Precinct One

Honorable Lee Sweeten, Commissioner of Precinct Two

Honorable Matt Fry, Commissioner of Precinct Three

Honorable Andrew Barnebey, Commissioner of Precinct Four

Honorable Souli Asa Shanklin, County Judge

Honorable Olga Lydia Reyes, County and District Clerk

1. **Determination of quorum; Call to Order.** The Open Meeting was called to order at 9:01 o’clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Kenneth Reed was asked to lead the Court in an opening prayer. The roll was then called by Clerk Reyes. All Commissioners were present.

2. **Open Forum.** The following persons spoke in Open Forum:

**Don Byrd**: Mr. Byrd appeared in Commissioners Court to request that stop signs be placed at the intersection of CR 390 and CR 394. He believes that this is a dangerous intersection. He is also requesting that the Miller Creek crossing be repaired as soon as possible.

**Alison Payne:** Ms. Payne appeared in Commissioners Court to advocate for those that live on the high part of Camp Wood Hills, in Precinct 2. She has been a resident of Edwards County for 17 years. She addressed the condition of CRs 390 and 398. She stated that she recalls that the roads running through this subdivision were maintained much more frequently in the past; they were, at least, maintained enough to keep the worst patches fixed. Now, it seems to her like these roads have almost been abandoned. She has had many flat tires caused by driving down this road and she stated that these road conditions were worse than she’d ever seen them. She is asking that the County have their road crew please come and fix the worst places along these roads.

3. **Staff Reports.** No action taken.

4. **DELIBERATE, CONSIDER and/or TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

a. **Prior Minutes.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2016 meeting; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** Judge Shanklin is of the opinion that the burn ban needs to be reinstated. The Court concurred. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to reinstate the burn ban; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fry. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. Commissioner Barnebey stated that the County’s Emergency Management Coordinator indicated that there’s a lot more fuel out there this year.

c. **The District needs to “re-ask” the entities to keep some funds that were put into a CD by previous District Chief Appraisers and/or previous staff – Annie Mitchell.** Annie Mitchell from the Edwards Central Appraisal District appeared to address the Court. She stated that, over the past years, surplus funds, left over from that year’s budget, were put into a CD by previous District Chief Appraisers and/or staff. These surplus funds are now being considered to use to purchase a new server. Commissioner Epperson asked Mitchell what the County’s portion of these funds placed into a CD totaled. Mitchell stated that the County’s portion of these surplus funds are $18,159.95 for the County portion and $1,314.74 for the Lateral Roads portion. Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve the Edwards Central Appraisal District’s request to keep the County’s portion of funds that were put into a CD by previous District Chief Appraisers and/or previous staff; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion; Commissioner Sweeten abstained from the vote as he is on the Appraisal District board. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0, with one abstention.

d. **Present, discuss, and take appropriate action on the TAC Group Health Insurance renewal and the Guardian Dental and Vision renewals. – Bobby Zesch.** There is a renewal rate change for the County; the renewal is a 2% decrease from last year’s rate. Edwards County will receive a surplus distribution for 2015 in the amount of $48,647. This amount should be received by the County around the last week of July 2016. The County’s benefit year and plan year are now aligned; this means that deductibles and co-insurance rates start over at the same time as our plan year (it is not a calendar year anymore). The plan year will now run from October to October of each year. There will be changes to our prescription plan coverage. The Guardian Dental plan rate is currently $30.49 will rise to $35.06 per month. The Guardian Vision plan is currently $10.84 and it will rise to $11.17. Mr. Zesch stated that the County can shop around for other vision and dental plans since there is still time. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the renewal rates for the TAC Group Health Insurance and authorized the County Judge and the Country Treasurer to sign as contracting authorities; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. No action was taken on the Guardian and Vision Dental renewal.

e. **Open bids and take action on purchasing a new roller. – Robert Pena.** The County Judge handed out the sealed bids to the Commissioners who opened the bids in Open Court. The amounts and terms of the bids were recited as follows:

**Cooper Equipment Company:** A bid of $99,491 for a new CA2500D Smooth Drum Roller was received from Cooper Equipment Company in San Antonio. The roller would come with a factory warranty of 1 year / 1,500 hours. A 2-year factory warranty would add $2,600.00 to the price; a 3-year factory warranty would add $4,333.00 to the price.

**Holt Caterpillar:** A bid of $116,000.00 for a roller was received from Holt Caterpillar in San Antonio. The roller would come with a standard warranty of 1 year / unlimited hours.

**Romco Equipment Company:** A bid of $104,180.00 for a Volvo Soil Compactor was received from Romco Equipment Co. from San Antonio. This compactor would come with a factory warranty of 1 year / 1,500 hours.

**RDO Equipment Company / John Deere:** A bid of $107,558.48 for a Sakai Smooth Soil Roller was received from RDO Equipment Co. in New Braunfels, Texas. This roller would come with a factory warranty of 1 year / 1000 hrs.

**Associated Supply Company, Inc.:** A bid of $86,900.00 for a Case Vibratory Roller was received from Associated Supply Company in San Antonio. This roller would come with a factory warranty of 3 years / 3000 hours with free travel time.

After discussion, Commissioner Epperson made the motion to accept the bid for the Case Roller from Associated Supply Company, Inc. in the amount of $86,900.00; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

f. **Discuss and/or take action on making a budget amendment for line item 20-600-365 (Equipment) for roller. – Robert Pena.** Judge Shanklin announced that instead of taking the funds to purchase the roller from the County’s savings, if this amendment is approved, the funds will be taken from a certain part of the County budget. This is what the County Treasurer has suggested so that she can just make a line item transfer to cover the cost. Judge Shanklin made the motion to approve a budget amendment for line item 20-600-365 (Equipment) to allow for the purchase of the roller; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

g. **MASA Medical Transport Solutions.** Will Winters appeared to address the Court. He would like to introduce his company, MASA Medical Transport Solutions, to the County. This company provides medical emergency transportation solutions which cover out of pocket medical transport costs. They currently serve over 75,000 members. They offer their Emergent membership at $9.00/month and this covers an employee’s entire household; this is offered to employee groups only. Their platinum membership is offered to the public as well; however, these prices being offered to the County are 45% less than on their website and do not require an initiation fee. Commissioner Sweeten asked if the County needed to set up a date and time for presentation of the plans to employees. This can be done during open enrollment. Commissioner Fry made the motion to allow MASA Medical Transport to present their plans to employees during open enrollment; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

h. **Discuss and potential action on back pay for Michael Owen Simpson. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Mr. Simpson was started in his employment with the Road Department at a rate of $10.00/hour. However, in a prior meeting of the Commissioners Court, the Court set the starting wage at $11.50/hour. In Simpson’s case, he had one month’s worth of work that needs to receive the retroactive pay increase of $1.50/hour. There are also other employees that began work after October 1, 2015 whose pay rate needs to be adjusted. These other workers will need to be addressed next time. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to adjust the back pay for Michael Owen Simpson; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

i. **Discuss and/or take action on renting a sub-grade rock grinder from Iron Wolf. – Commissioner Fry.** The County is looking into renting a sub-grade rock grinder from Iron Wolf. Bo Vandergriff from Iron Wolf was in Court to discuss the wheel loader mounted Crusher. Commissioner Fry inquired as to the terms of the proposed rental agreement. The Crusher would rent for $40,000 per month; this corresponds to 160 hours of operation. The Crusher to be rented is located in Round Rock, Texas. The County would be responsible for getting the Crusher to Edwards County. It comes with full set of teeth and a drum; the County would only pay for what it uses. Iron Wolf is the manufacturer of the equipment but someone from the company will come to train on the Crusher; training usually takes ½-day. If simple issues arise with the machine while it is rented by the County, it would be the County’s responsibility to make those minor repairs. Any major repairs will be taken care of by Iron Wolf. If the machine goes down a week, the County will get that week later on. Vandergriff suggested that the County make sure that it has enough teeth on site. This machine is an impact crusher. No action taken on this item as it has already been approved.

5. **New Business.** Judge Shanklin introduced Sandra Hidalgo-Cook, the General Manager of the Southwest Area Regional Transit District (hereinafter, “SWART”), who was here to address the Court with regards to the services that SWART provides to our community. SWART is a political subdivision of TxDOT. Their Board of Directors is comprised of the County Judges (or their representative) of each county that they serve. They are a rural public transportation district that provides door to door service for the elderly and the disabled. They provide curb to curb service for everything else. Joe Rendon is our community’s driver. SWART has 65 vehicles. They do not outsource; maintenance on the vehicles is all done in-house. Unlike others that outsource their drug and alcohol collections, SWART has their own collectors on site. They own property in Uvalde and Eagle Pass. Everything that they purchase is overseen by TxDOT. Their drivers go through 7 background checks and credentials. They have their own trainer. They provide an $8,000 benefit package and retirement plan for their employees. They have gone paperless and have trackers on their vehicles; if a driver is going 3 miles over the speed limit for over 5 minutes, an alarm will sound. Rides are provided for work/college, shopping, errands (post office, pay bills), visit family/friends, recreation (one route from Uvalde to Eagle Pass for casino visit) and for medical purposes. Ms. Cook provided a printout of their statistics: Edwards County Oneway Trips number 1,127. In order to continue providing services to our County, they need $2,500 in local funds.

6. **Set time and date for next meeting.** The next regular open meeting of the Commissioner’s Court of Edwards County will be on the second Tuesday of August, 2016 (August 9, 2016) at 9:00 o’clock a.m.

7. **Pay bills.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to pay the bills; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fry. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Fry. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This meeting of the Commissioner Court adjourned at 10: 35 a.m.

 APPROVED:

 SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

 Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk