**The State of Texas §**

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**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 11th day of October, 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 October 7, 2016 at 2:14 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 9:03 o’clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Audience member 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:

**Sam Epperson:** Mr. Epperson appeared to address the Court with regards to the contract for preservation of Southwest Texas wildlife. On his written request to speak, Mr. Epperson informed the Court that regarding this issue, there will be a quarterly meeting of the board of directors sometime during this month of October. With their organization being a new 501(c)(3), they sent a copy of the proposed contract to their attorneys. There were some typos. They are governed by a board of directors and this will go before them. Commissioner Sweeten stated that between himself and Commissioner Barnebey, he thought they got the typos taken care of. Sweeten stated that the amount of the contract had been upped by $5,000; Shanklin commented that last year, it had been $20,000. Sweeten mentioned that he had read Epperson’s write-up regarding this issue of preservation/predator control in their organization’s newsletter. He commended him for how extremely informative this article was and he suggested that Epperson submit this article to the newspapers in Rocksprings and Barksdale for publication and dissemination to the public at large. Epperson stated that this had been discussed within their organization as well.

3. **Prior Minutes.**

**September 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.:** There was a discussion regarding Mr. Barnebey’s request for omission of a sentence in the last paragraph in action item (c).Commissioner Sweeten noted that instead of deleting the sentence, the phrase “At the end of the discussion” could be added to the beginning of that paragraph and this would clarify the point that Mr. Barnebey was trying to get across. Additionally, Commissioner Epperson stated that on action item (x), the 1-5 year requirement listed on the chart regarding the salary structure of the road department, should have been 1-3 years for the last three categories on the chart. These corrections need to be made. With the understanding that this corrections should be made, Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**September 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.:** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**September 16, 2016 at 2:15 p.m.:** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**September 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.:** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**September 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.:** Commissioner Epperson made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**September 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.:** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

**October 3, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.:** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve these minutes; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** Judge Shanklin stated that the burn ban was off at this time and there is no reason to reactivate it.

3. **Staff Reports.** Judge Shanklin asked if no one had any questions about the staff reports. Commissioner Sweeten stated that he had a question about a bill. He saw a payment from Mike Grooms for a $1,000 trailer and he did not recall approval to sell this equipment. He remembers receiving higher bids on this trailer from other individuals. So, who authorized this sale? Sweeten stated that we need a policy to ensure that the Commissioners are in the loop with regards to these matters.

Commissioner Barnebey stated that he had a question for the Sheriff. He sees a payment to Ingram Exxon. He asked if the patrol unit being serviced there was back in service. Judge Shanklin stated that the motherboard was not working and the wiring harness needed to be completely replaced; he is not for sure that the unit is back in service. From the audience, Jon Elliott stated that the vehicle was back in service.

c. **Discuss and act on contract for Edwards County EMS. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that this is the same contract that the County and the EMS had last year. Again, he and Commissioner Barnebey cleaned up most of the typos. Commissioner Sweeten made a motion to give the Judge the authority to sign this contract when the EMS returns their signed contract for this fiscal year to the County. Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

d. **Discuss and act on contract for Edwards County Fire Department. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that this is the same exact contract that the County and the Fire Department had last year. Commissioner Sweeten made a motion to give the Judge the authority to sign this contract when the Fire Department returns their signed contract for this fiscal year to the County. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

e. **Discuss and act on contract for Nutrition Center. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Judge Shanklin announced that this contract also followed the same format as last year and funded the electrical service on this building. Commissioner Epperson stated that he would like to make an adjustment. He stated that the Nutrition Center was going to make an annual report about the meals served and he asked that this report be included with a quarterly breakdown. Commissioner Epperson made the motion to approve the Nutrition Center contract with the condition that they change their annual report to include the number of meals served with a quarterly breakdown. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

f. **Discuss and act on contract for Nueces Canyon EMS. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that in the past, we have only had a letter agreement with the Nueces Canyon EMS. However, since we have contracts with our local EMS and Fire Department, we should have one with them. The only difference would be that they have no equipment or facilities. They are to receive $3,000 and to provide EMS coverage for the service area covered by their school district. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Nueces Canyon EMS contract; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnebey. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

g. **Discuss and act on contract for Nueces Canyon Fire Department. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that this contract was basically the same as last year’s contract; again, he and Commissioner Barnebey worked on correcting the typos. They are to receive $1,500 and to provide Fire Department coverage for the service area covered by their school district. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Nueces Canyon EMS contract; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnebey. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

h. **Discuss and act on contract for Preservation of South West Texas Wildlife. – Commissioner Sweeten.** After the discussion had with Sam Epperson in the Open Forum part of the meeting, Judge Shanklin announced that there will be no action taken on this action item.

i. **Discuss and act on use of Certz money to purchase culverts for Miller Creek. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten addressed the Court and stated that this item had been tentatively approved on a prior occasion. He explained that he has a little money remaining in his CERTZ grant funds (about $ 5,500 – 7,000) and he is requesting approval to purchase pipe to go in the Miller Creek crossing area with these funds. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to use the remaining CERTZ grant funds to purchase culverts for Miller Creek; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

j. **Discuss repair and replacement of** **recently damaged road equipment. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that the County does not have an estimate of the damage to the road equipment, as far as he knows. The maintainers have been removed. Commissioner Barnebey asked if there were any initial impressions from the Volvo guys. Sweeten stated that we still have the leased unit. Commissioner Fry stated that the leased unit had also broken down; he pulled it out of the road on Friday. It looked to Fry like the fuel pump was out. He pulled it from CR 520 this past Thursday. Sweeten commented that they had that problem with the loader in Barksdale and it was caused by a loose wire. Fry responded that the code inside it was showing insufficient pressure. Additionally, one of the blades was within a year to be replaced anyway. If we lease this one for 2-3 months, we will be losing money. Sweeten commented that we should go out for bids. Commissioner Fry agreed and made the motion to solicit bids for a replacement motorgrader; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

k. **Discuss issues relating to the closure of Rocksprings Clinic. – Commissioner Barnebey.** Commissioner Barnebey stated that he is concerned that we’re about to lose our clinic and he is trying to find out what the County can do to replace it. He stated that he talked to Ms. Hanson from the Uvalde clinic and that Uvalde would be interested in talking to a community group. He’d be happy to help out in these efforts. Judge Shanklin responded that he had talked to Hanson in the past. We have also been talking to the Hospital District in Junction and Dr. Todd has also been working at it and has met with some people. Gayla Satterfield, who used to work at the Sonora clinic, has talked to some people. Judge Shanklin stated that even Bob Pascasio, who the County initially dealt with when starting this clinic, has made some calls on our behalf.

l. **Consider and Act upon Resolution FY 17 Indigent Defense Formula Grant Program. – Carl Esser.** Judge Shanklin read the FY 17 Indigent Defense Formula Grant Program Resolution to the Court. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the FY 17 Indigent Defense Formula Grant Program Resolution; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnebey. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

5. **New Business.** Clerk Reyes informed the Court that she had already had published a “Help Wanted” ad in the local newspaper, seeking the assistance of a temporary election worker to assist in her office during the Early Voting period of the 2016 General Election. The funds to pay this worker have already been worked into her budget.

**6. Set time and date for next meeting.** The next regular, open meeting of the Commissioners Court will be be moved from the second Tuesday of the month to the FIRST Tuesday of the month on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. due to Tuesday, November 8, 2016 being General Election Day.

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

**8. Adjourn.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to adjourn; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court was adjourned.

APPROVED:

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk