**The State of Texas §**

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**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 11th day of April, 2017, 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 April 6, 2017 at 3:18 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, was absent

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 9:05 o’clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The roll was called by Clerk Reyes. All Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Fry, were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Court was led prayer by Commissioner Epperson.

2. **Open Forum.** There were no participants in Open Forum.

3. **Staff Reports.** There were no questions regarding the Staff Reports.

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

a. **Prior Minutes.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the minutes from March 14, 2017; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** No action was taken on this agenda item.

c. **Discuss and/or take action to approve Proclamation: Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2017.** – Judge Souli Shanklin. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the proclamation declaring the month of April 2017 as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month; Epperson seconded the motion. No Commissioners noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

d. **Discuss and/or take action to approve Resolution in Support of Legislation to Protect Aquifers. – Commissioner Lee Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten addressed the Court. He stated that most counties have approved this resolution and it was undertaken in support of legislation initially entered by State Rep. Tracy King to protect the watershed of the Nueces River. He feels that we should do the same. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Resolution in Support of Legislation to Protect Aquifers; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioners noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

e. **Discuss and/or take action on pay increase for Milton Martin. – Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten addressed the Court. Judge Shanklin confirmed that Milton’s current pay was $11.50/hour. Sweeten stated that Milton has done an exceptional job as far as putting together maintenance records and policies and working with the County Treasurer updating records. Milton’s done an outstanding job in this regard. Sweeten would like to see him get a pay raise to $13.50/hr. Commissioner Epperson interjected that the issue of hiring Milton had not been brought up to him; he has never even seen his application and now he is here asking for a raise. Sweeten responded that Milton was not asking for a raise. There are also some other individuals who are working for the Road Department whose applications were also not discussed. Commissioner Barnebey asked who hired these individuals. Hasn’t it traditionally been the Commissioners Court as a whole who is supposed to hire them? Shanklin stated that Robert Pena, in the past, would bring the Court his recommendations and then basically hire them. Epperson interjected that he feels excluded from this process and that by excluding any Commissioner from this process, the Court is excluding those voters who elected that Commissioner and this is a disgrace to the people. Shanklin stated that there is now more openness with regards to the Road Department than ever before. Sweeten made the motion to give Milton Martin a $2.00/hr. raise. Shanklin stated that this is not even a living wage. Barnebey asked when Milton was hired officially and who hired him officially. He inquired of County Attorney Moody, who was sitting in the audience, if a vote from the Court wasn’t required to hire someone for the Road Department. Moody stated that the thought that had come to his mind was, if the hiring procedure was not legally followed, then would happen with the health insurance for that employee? Shanklin stated that if that employee filled out their application and it was accepted, and, if they were working for the County, then that employee was covered by our insurance. Moody says that he doesn’t know the answer to this question but it is something that could come up. Commissioner Barnebey then seconded the motion to raise Milton’s salary. The motion carried 3/1, with Commissioners Barnebey, Sweeten, and Judge Shanklin voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Epperson voting in opposition.

f. **Discuss and/or take action on Interlocal Agreement for Road Work with Rocksprings ISD. – Judge Souli Shanklin.** This work has already been completed. The school has sent the County an Interlocal agreement. Some changes were made. The school signed the agreement and it was returned last week. Commissioner Barnebey stated that the agreement should include that the school is to be responsible for the road signs; it is their road, not our road anymore. Barnebey wants this specified in the minutes. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Road Work with Rocksprings ISD; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Epperson. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

g. **Discuss and/or take action on buying truck for Road Department. – Commissioner Fry.** Commissioner Sweeten addressed the Court in Commissioner Fry’s absence. He stated that we had received a bid back through the Buy Board on a pickup. The bid was for a 2017 Chevrolet 3500HD Silverado 4x4 Crew Cab pickup for $31,540. Sweeten thinks this is a good bid. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Buy Board bid; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnebey. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

h. **Discuss and/or take action on application process for a Road Supervisor. – Commissioner Epperson.** Epperson would like to see ads put out and that the Court be diligent about hiring a new Road Supervisor. Sweeten recalled that the Court approved a superintendent’s job description a few months ago. He inquired from Epperson if this was the position he was talking about. Epperson responded in the affirmative. Sweeten stated that we do need to advertise this position. We can put it on [www.GovJobs.com](http://www.GovJobs.com) website and also in the San Angelo, San Antonio, and local newspapers. Commissioner Epperson made the motion to advertise for the position of a Road Superintendent; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

i. **Discuss and/or take action on FEMA related deadlines. – Commissioner Epperson.** Commissioner Epperson stated that there is a FEMA deadline approaching and he wanted to know if any extensions had been filed. Sweeten asked Milton to address this. The FEMA deadline is May 19th. Judge Shanklin stated that he thinks that this deadline cannot be extended since it has already been extended once. No action to be taken on this item at this time.

5. **New Business.** No new business.

6. **Set time and date for next meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Edwards County Commissioner Court is scheduled for the second Tuesday of May (May 9, 2017) at 9:00 a.m.

7. **Pay bills.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to pay the bills; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the bills. The motion carried 3/1, with Commissioner Epperson noting his opposition to paying all bills except for general funds bills and Road Department bills for the purchase of the pickup and the advertisement of the job of Road Superintendent.

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to adjourn this meeting of the Edwards County Commissioner Court. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0. This meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

 APPROVED:

 SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

 Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk