

The State of Texas

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County of Edwards

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**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020, 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 Agenda for this Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Edwards County, Texas was posted on January 9, 2020.

Present were:

Honorable William Epperson, Commissioner of Precinct One

Honorable Lee Sweeten, Commissioner of Precinct Two

Honorable Matt Fry, Commissioner of Precinct Three

Honorable Kenneth Reed, 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 9:00 o'clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Court was led in prayer by Commissioner Reed. The roll was then called by Clerk Reyes. All Commissioners were present.

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

3. **Staff Reports.** There were no questions on the staff reports.

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

a. **Prior Minutes.**

**November 14, 2019.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2019. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0, with Commissioner Epperson abstaining.

**December 10, 2019.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the minutes from December 10, 2019. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0, with Commissioner Epperson abstaining.

b. **Burn Ban.** The burn ban will stay in place. No further action taken.

c. **Discuss and Act upon Resolution of Award for grant writing and grant administration services for 2020.** The Court opened the bids received for the County's grant writing and grant administration services for 2020. Bids were received from Langford Community Management Services; Traylor & Associates Incorporated; and Esser & Company Consulting LLC. All Commissioners reviewed the bids in open court and completed an "Administration/Professional Services Rating Sheet," assigning each company a total score. After totaling the scores for each company, the scores were as follows: Esser and Company: 461; Traylor & Associates: 403; and Langford Community Management Services: 355. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to award the contract for grant writing and grant administration services for 2020 to Esser & Company Consulting LLC. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

d. **Discuss the Preliminary Plat for Rancho Paula Verde East. Matt Fry.** Commissioner Fry made the motion to approve the preliminary plat for Rancho Paula Verde East. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

e. **Discuss the Preliminary Plat for Contrary Creek Subdivision. Kenneth Reed.** Surveyor Bengé Bushong stated that several reports (OSSF and Hydrology Study) are pending completion and will be presented along with the final plat. Commissioner Reed made the motion to approve the preliminary plat for Contrary Creek Subdivision; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. Reports pending completion.

**f. Discuss Lease Agreement of the Chester L. Todd Building in Kimble County Hospital District. Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin stated that the state policy regarding the designation and set up of rural health care clinics has sunsetted. The Kimble Hospital District, when considering opening a local clinic, thought they would be the same as the previous rules. Those rules provided a grant that would pay the clinic personnel salaries. But, these rules are no longer in effect and the new rules have not yet been published. However, Luke Young, from the Kimble County Hospital District, visited with Judge Shanklin yet and communicated to him that he has potentially found a way that funds can be accessed through the County to offset these costs. This matter is at a standstill.

**g. Discuss policy on retention of email and text messages. Lee Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten addressed the Court. He became informed at his last seminar that each county department should create, and have in place, a policy for retention of emails and text messages. The Court would like each department to create a policy for retention of emails and text messages. Commissioner Sweeten will sit down with the County Attorney to come up with a county policy that allows each county department to create their own individual policies. This item was solely for discussion and no action was taken.

**h. Motion to approve First Year Motions**

**i. Motion to declare County Court a continuous term.**

**ii. Motion for County Judge to sign vouchers and In Vacation Bills.**

**iii. Motion for County Treasurer to make transfers as needed for payroll, payroll taxes, etc.**

**iv. Motion for County Treasurer to write checks for County expenses as follows: Withholding taxes, social security payments, Treasurer's fees to the State Treasurer, insurance premiums, stamps and postage for County offices from the United States Post Office, all electric bills, fund transfers from government programs, etc., as we have them in operation, and County trapper salaries.**



Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve all of the First of the Year Motions listed above; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motions carried 5/0.

i. **Discuss and Act upon Designation of Edwards County Health Officer.** Dr. Todd agreed to continue to serve as the County Health Officer. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve Dr. Todd as the County Health Officer; Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

j. **Discuss and Act upon Edwards County entering into a joint primary contract with the Republican Party of Edwards County and the Democratic Party of Edwards County.** Olga Lydia Reyes. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Edwards County Clerk to enter into a joint primary contract with the Republican Party of Edwards County and the Democratic Party of Edwards County; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

k. **Discuss and Potential Action on water for Sheriff's substation in Barksdale.** Lee Sweeten. Commissioner Sweeten informed the Court that the County has been paying for a water meter in Barksdale and it has not been used. After discussion with the Barksdale Water Supply Corp., it was suggested that this water meter could be transferred to the Sheriff's substation where they do not yet have access to water. A deposit would not be required since everything is already set up; it would just be transferred. Commissioner Fry made the motion to approve the transfer of the County's existing water meter to the Sheriff's substation at no cost; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

l. **Discuss and Act upon the Resolution for the support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station.** William Epperson. Commissioner Epperson read the Resolution for the Support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station in open court. Commissioner Epperson made the motion to approve the Resolution; Judge Shanklin seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

[Clerk's Note: The Court recessed at 9:53 a.m. to reconvene at the County's former health clinic for the formal dedication of the plaque naming the building in honor of Dr. Chester L. Todd. The Court reconvened at 10:02 a.m. in that facility.]

m. **Formal dedication of Plaque at the Chester L. Todd Building. Lee Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten read the plaque that was put in place to honor Chester L. Todd at the Edwards County building to be used for a future health clinic. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the dedication of the plaque and naming of the County's building as the "Chester L. Todd" Building. Commissioner Reed seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

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

6. **Set time and date for next meeting.** The next regular open meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court will be on the second Tuesday in February (February 11, 2020.)

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

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Reed made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This meeting of the Edwards County Commissioner Court adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVED:

Souli Asa Shanklin

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN  
Edwards County Judge

Attest:

Olga Lydia Reyes

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk

