

**The State of Texas** §

**County of Edwards** §

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, at 9:00 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 June 6, 2024 at 1:21 p.m.

Present were:

Honorable Marty Graham, Commissioner of Precinct One

Honorable Steve Smith, Commissioner of Precinct Two

Honorable Matt Fry, Commissioner of Precinct Three

Honorable Mike Grooms, Commissioner of Precinct Four, was absent

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 to the United States Flag and to the Texas State Flag were recited. The Court was led in prayer by Commissioner Fry. The roll was then called by Clerk Reyes. All Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Grooms, were present.

**2. Open Forum.** There were no participants in the 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.** Commissioner Graham made the motion to approve the prior minutes, with one change. Under "New Business" the container referred to should be noted as a "sea" container and not a "seed" container. Judge Shanklin also previously requested a change in the minutes under "Open Forum." The word "forgery" should be replaced by the word "perjury." Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any objection, the motion carried 4/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** The burn ban is currently in effect. Commissioner Smith made the motion to allow Judge Shanklin the authority to change the status of the burn ban as needed. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any objection, the motion carried 4/0.

c. **Discuss and Act upon 2024-2025 TAC Health, Dental and Vision Benefits – Bobby Zesch.** Mr. Zesch appeared to address the Court. There will be a health plan rate increase in this coming year of 4.6%, which is an average amount according to Zesch. He reviewed the upcoming year's plans and rate changes. Commissioner Fry made the motion to approve the plans currently in effect and the applicable rate changes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

d. **Discuss and Act upon Victoria County Juvenile Contract and Agreement for secure short term detention of juvenile offenders' space available. – Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin stated that we have contracts with numerous juvenile facilities. If we have an issue, we need to find a place to house these individuals. This agreement will be signed and forwarded to Teri Trull, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer. Commissioner Graham made the motion to approve Victoria County's Juvenile Contract and Agreement for secure short term detention of juvenile offenders' space available. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

e. **Discuss and Act upon Declaration of June 2024 as Men's Health Month. – Judge Shanklin.** Commissioner Fry made the motion to declare June 2024 as Men's Health Month. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

f. **Discuss and Adopt order of Local Government Code, 352.051 regulating certain fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county under drought conditions – Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin stated that the same thing applies with the burn ban. If we are in rain, this doesn't take effect; if it is dry, it is the same thing as the burn ban. Commissioner Fry made the motion to adopt the order of Local Government Code, 352.051 regulating certain fireworks in unincorporated areas of the county under drought conditions; Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 4/0.

g. **Discussion of Contract between Edwards County and JC Stoddard – Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin stated that the Contract with JC Stoddard has been signed and they will start renovations on the Park Building next week. No action taken.

## 5. **New Business.**

**Kimble County Hospital District.** Susan Parker from the Kimble County Hospital District appeared to address the Court under “New Business.” She announced that the Hospital District has hired a new physician named Greg Sattler. His spouse, Amanda Sattler, is a PA. She’ll be coming to our local clinic and should be here on Thursdays and Fridays. If the Rocksprings numbers start going up, the Hospital District hopes to add another day for people to access our local clinic.

Additionally, Ms. Parker announced that the Hospital District is looking to open up a new retail pharmacy. If this is able to be done, it would mean that local patients would be able to get their medications on the next day.

Judge Shanklin announced that more electric outlets are needed in the clinic. He stated that the Hospital District is willing to pay for obtaining extra outlets if Edwards County will pay to redo the flooring. The paint that is on the floor now is peeling and flaking. Ms. Parker stated that the Hospital District received a quote to address the flooring situation but it was unreasonably high. She is open to stripping the paint off the floor and then staining the concrete underneath. Judge Shanklin stated that he would look into the possibility of having jail trustees assist in this regard.

**City of Rocksprings.** Judge Shanklin stated that last night, John Austin Stokes and Nelson Barnes from the D.A.’s Office went to the City Council meeting. They had been invited by Andrew Barnebey to present the case on the COG change. In the time frame between that and our meeting last month, Dale Vasquez, who was part of the San Angelo downtown revitalization called Mr. Stokes and said that he had been contacted by Tony Villarreal about getting the City of Rocksprings an interview with the Governor’s office. (Mr. Villarreal was raised here and also served as a Commissioner.) Mr. Vasquez called Mr. Stokes and they agreed with this request and discussed getting Michelle Garcia from the Middle Rio Grande COG and John Austin from the Concho Valley COG and Jenny Lewis Ford, the lady that heads the Texas Association of Regional Councils, to join in on this meeting with the Governor’s Office. Shanklin stated that Villarreal called Mayor Jimenez

and Jimenez stated that he did not want to do this. Shanklin stated that Jimenez wanted a private meeting with the Governor's office and to exclude the heads of both COGs so they could tell their story as they perceived it.

Shanklin continued by stating that since Michelle Garcia has taken over at the Workforce Commission, they now have an FBI investigation into the Workforce Commission. Jim Glasscock and Mike Grooms serve on this board. The Workforce Commission's money is made up of 65% of the total budget of the Middle Rio Grande COG. Of this budget, 75% was used for administrative costs. 25% was going out to the 9 counties served by the Commission. Now the FBI and the Texas Rangers are looking into this. This is leading back to the Middle Rio Grande COG.

According to Shanklin, last month he saw something unprecedented in this Court. We had the Executive Director of a COG and another Judge come into the courtroom and give testimony that proved that the falsehoods that were being spread to the general population of this community were lies. It became part of the official record when the Court approved these minutes and sent them to the head of the Middle Rio Grande COG and all the Judges and Mayors that make up the Executive Board of that COG.

Shanklin continued by stating that we have individuals associated with the City that are dishonest and continually spread falsehoods. This Commissioners Court in the last 10 years has done everything that the Governor's office has asked us to do on our COG change. We have done it honestly and above board and with the support of all the Judges in the Concho Valley COG. We have done what we were told to do. They changed the rules three times and we went and redid it three times. These are their rules, the State rules, not our rules. We did what they asked us to do. It has been continuously upended by lies, falsehoods, false claims and now it has come to pass that when we do everything according to the rules and by the law, it appears that we are going to prevail even right now as the falsehoods continue to circulate through this community.

Shanklin stated that the County government of Edwards County pays for all the health and safety in Edwards County. The City of Rocksprings does not supplement the Sheriff's Department, the Detention Center, the EMS, the Health Clinic, the Library, free sewage and water and payment of the electric bill for the Nutrition Center, and the Fire Department is housed in a County building. The City collects taxes and does not take care of wastewater anymore nor do they

pick up the trash. So, Shanklin is offended by their lack of honesty and everybody in this community that believes in the truth should be offended also. It is a shame when people outright lie to the poor folks in Edwards County and Rocksprings that there is intentions as to what we do. It has been proven that the City of Rocksprings will receive more funding in the Concho Valley COG than they will in the Middle Rio Grande COG. Where we were sitting in the base at the Middle Rio Grande COG because we didn't have the demographics to match up, we go to the top of the Concho Valley COG. This would entitle this community to more funding. This is a fact.

**HB 3697; Subdivision Regulations.** Shanklin stated that HB3697 passed in the House and was sent to the Senate. The Senate amended it and sent it back the day after Paxton's impeachment. Senator Bettencourt passed this through the day after and the House did not get to read it. Shanklin pointed out Section 4 to the Court, particularly Section 4(b)(4), Section 4(b-1) and Section 4(d).

Commissioner Fry stated that we passed all our Subdivision Regulations and we tried to do what was best for the size of our County and the infrastructure we have in our County and the developers ran and found themselves a representative that could change the State law so that we can't do anything or control the development in our County. Shanklin responded that what has happened now is that the Hill Country Alliance and several Senators are looking into this and are hoping to undo this in the next legislative session. He stated that what we did on the water requirements, they tried to knock this down. So, the Underground Water Districts in rural areas are basically back to square one for a while.

**6. Set time and date for next meeting.** The next meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court is scheduled for the second Tuesday of July, 2024 (July 9, 2024) at 9:00 a.m.

**7. Pay bills.** Commissioner Smith made the motion to approve the bills; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 3/0.

**8. Adjourn.** Commissioner Graham made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 3/0. This meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

*Souli A. Shanklin*

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

Edwards County Judge

Attest:

*Olga Lydia Reyes*

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk

