**The State of Texas §**

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**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 14th day of February, 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 Amended Agenda for this Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas was posted on February 9, 2017 at 8:55 o’clock a.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

Sabrina Montoya, County and District Chief Deputy 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 Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Court was led in an opening prayer by Commissioner Epperson. The District and County Clerk was not present due to a probate trial being conducted. The roll was then called by Deputy Clerk Montoya. 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.**

**January 10, 2017.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2017; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

c. **Take action on Amendment to Tract 34 of the Mail Trail Subdivision – Judge Souli Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin asked County Attorney Moody to address the Court. Moody stated that 10.33 acres is being added to Tract 34. All the affected owners have already signed the plat. This subdivision is in Precinct 3 but Commissioner Fry stated that he had not previously heard anything about this amendment. However, under the advice of the County Attorney, Fry made the motion to approve the Amendment to Tract 34 of the Mail Trail Subdivision. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

d. **Discuss and act on contract for Hill Country MHDD Centers for Telepsychiatry Services for clinic and detention center. – Judge Souli Shanklin.** Shanklin began the discussion on this item by stating that these telepsychiatry services will be offered at no cost to Edwards County. Hill Country MHDD and the County are looking at helping our criminal courts with these services as we will now be able to have anger management counseling, psych evaluations, and AA meetings locally. Commissioner Barnebey stated that he would like to know the general process for obtaining these services. The representative from Hill Country MHDD said that these services were being made available due to a grant from the State Department of Health and Human Services to be able to provide these health services in rural areas. He provided a brief overview as to how services were to be offered via teleconference with a psychiatrist. Commissioner Sweeten asked if this system was being utilized in other counties. He was told that it was being used in other counties, hospitals, and jails such as the Kendall County Jail, Sid Peterson Hospital in Kerrville, and the Junction Hospital. Hill Country MHDD is basically going to provide a service for the people in this community to get their psychiatric services on site. The initial contact will be made locally. Sweeten confirmed that the County’s responsibility will be restricted to maintaining the building where the clinic would be located, utilities, etc. Training seminars will also be offered. Commissioner Barnebey asked about the cost. He was told that there would be no fees for the County associated with these services. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the contract for the Hill Country MHDD Centers for Telepsychiatry Services for clinic and detention center; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

e. **Discuss Mental Health Training class offered by Hill Country MHDD.- Judge Souli Shanklin.** This is an informational item. Commissioner Sweeten asked if EMS had been notified about this training. Shanklin stated that his office is trying to get notice out to as many persons as he can. Barnebey suggested also notifying the local pastors.

f. **Discuss and/or take action to approve purchasing a pickup truck for the Road Department.** **– Commissioner Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten led the discussion on this item. He stated that we currently have one pickup out at the County Yard that is worn out and ready to be auctioned off. We are also to the point where because we have more workers, another vehicle is needed since they are all pulled in different directions. He would like to see the purchase of a new 4-wheel drive, ¾-ton, double cab pickup. Commissioner Epperson asked where the money would come from. Sweeten stated that there was surplus money in the Road Department budget. The money is there and there is also a surplus from last year. This is sitting in the checking account. A line item transfer can be made to use this money. The Treasurer was asked about available funds. She stated that there is a surplus, but the exact amount is not known. A budget amendment will need to be done to add money to the equipment line. To know about how much money is left, she stated that the Commissioner needed to look back to last September’s reports. However, there is money available to purchase this item. Sweeten stated that we need to obtain bids on a new pickup and then at that point we can establish the amount that needs to be amended in the budget. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to solicit bids for a 4-wheel drive, ¾-ton, double cab pickup truck for the Road Department; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

g. **Discuss and potential action on appointment of a Crew Boss for Road Department and compensation for that position. – Commissioner Lee Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten stated that there was really no one in charge at the Road Department currently. The road crew basically look to Michael Simpson as their leader. He would therefore like to see Simpson appointed as a Crew Boss and to provide him compensation for this appointment. Simpson has accomplished more in the short time he’s been here than was accomplished in the last several years. Commissioner Barnebey asked when we were going to get back to the rotation department. Shanklin stated that it would not be much longer. Our road hand numbers are up and the work with the Iron Wolf is almost completed. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to appoint Michael Simpson as the Crew Boss and increase his compensation to $17.50 an hour. Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

h. **Discuss and potential action on Job Description for Road Superintendent and posting ad for that position – Commissioner Lee Sweeten.** Judge Shanklin stated that this information had been disseminated to the Commissioners prior to this meeting. Commissioner Sweeten drafted the job description, borrowing and adapting some text from the Schleicher County Road Superintendent job description. Commissioner Epperson wanted to add “bump gates” and “economical construction” to the job description. Commissioner Sweeten made those additions and grammatical corrections. Epperson then inquired about the salary for this position; should overtime be paid instead of making it a salaried position to save the taxpayers some money? Shanklin stated that it would not be advantageous for the County to do this since this person would be on call 24/7. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the Job Description for the Road Superintendent and posting ad for that position; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

i. **Discuss and potential action on purchasing computer for Road Department record keeping. – Commissioner Lee Sweeten.** Commissioner Sweeten led the discussion on this item. He would like to look at getting the same kind of laptop computer that the County recently purchased for the Constable; the price for that computer was $595. He would also like to purchase the 2007 Microsoft Office package, which by now should be discounted. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to purchase a computer and Microsoft Office software for the Road Department for record keeping purposes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Epperson. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

j. **Discuss and potential action on assisting Rocksprings ISD with road construction – Commissioner Matt Fry.** Mr. Byrom from Rocksprings ISD was present in Court. Commissioner Fry stated that Mr. Byrom had called him to address an ongoing concern with loading and unloading our school students on a state highway. There is currently a project to run a road along the back side of the school through the area where the elementary playground used to be so that the loading and unloading of the students can be undertaken. The City volunteered to help to school with this project but they don’t have the equipment needed to do it correctly. The school needs some equipment help. Fry offered to personally give the school more base material if they needed it. They are asking for some help to get our kids safely away from the highway. Commissioner Sweeten stated that he didn’t think there was a statute that prevented the County from helping the school out in this situation and he was in favor of assisting. Commissioner Fry stated that this project might take 2 days, tops. County Attorney Moody interjected that this could be done via an interagency agreement between the County and the school; the school would need to furnish a basic “request assistance” letter. Shanklin stated that the Court could give him the authority to sign the agreement. Commissioner Fry made the motion for the County to assist the Rocksprings ISD with their road construction; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

k. **Discuss and potential action on selling of surplus road equipment. – Commissioner Andrew Barnebey.** Shanklin stated that there is a Freightliner truck that is currently being sold by Lone Star from San Angelo, Texas, that could be used to pull the tractor trailer that would haul our Iron Wolf machine. The individual selling this truck said that he would take some of our surplus equipment as a trade-in. This would save the County some money. Both Commissioners Epperson and Fry stated that we needed an estimate from the seller as to the specific cost of the vehicle and the amount we would get for our surplus equipment. There is a list of surplus equipment that has been prepared by Martin from the Road Department and the Judge’s secretary will get this disseminated to the Commissioners. Commissioner Sweeten stated that there is some equipment that we cannot trade in, such as two old pickups. We can take bids to sell these. There is also some other equipment that has not been put on the list since it is still being put together. Sweeten would like to see the equipment being sold. Shanklin suggested that it could be published in the paper and that bids could be submitted to the County Judge’s office. Fry asked if instead there was a website where this could be done, i.e., govdeals.com. Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve a trade-in of surplus equipment if the bid is acceptable to the Court; Commissioner Fry seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0, with Commissioner Epperson abstaining from the vote.

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 Commissioner Court will be on the second Tuesday of March, 2017 (March 14, 2017) at 9:00 a.m. in the Edwards County Courtroom.

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

8. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This regular, open meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

APPROVED:

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk