MINUTES

On this the 13th day of January, 2020 the Commissioners Court of Jack County, Texas met in Regular Session at 10:05 a.m. with the following elected officials present: **FILED FOR RECORD**

Gary Oliver, Commissioner Pct. 1 James L Brock, Commissioner Pct. 2 Henry Birdwell, Jr., Commissioner Pct. 3 Terry Ward, Commissioner Pct. 4 Brian Keith Umphress County Judge

____O'CLOCK____M ___________M JAN 2 7 2020

DEPUTY

VANESSA JAMES, County Clerk JACK COUNTY, TEXAS

BY_

PUBLIC FORUM

Judge Umphress opened up the meeting with a presentation of his vision for 2020. He would like for Commissioners and Department Heads to Focus in 2020 on what is in the best interest of Jack County. Judge Umphress has met with Ken Swan of the Vision group for Jack County and they discussed improvement ideas. One project at the top of the list would be to build a stage somewhere on the square to be able to have weddings, concerts or other Community events. Judge Umphress is excited about the New Year and has many great ideas and projects for the beautification of Jack County.

County Tax Assessor/Collector Sharon Robinson shared with Commissioners that the new law firm hired by the county is taking care of business. Eight days into their contract they have recovered \$215,000 in back taxes owed to the County. Word is getting out that things are tightening up and tax payers need to take care of business. Mrs. Robinson commended Commissioners on hiring the new law firm, she says it was definitely the right decision.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

County Treasurer Brad Campsey told the Court that there were several larger items to be paid this month, the backhoe for Precinct 3, the lease on the Sheriff's vehicles and items for the renovation of the County Clerk's office.

Judge Umphress made a motion to pay all accounts and claims submitted for approval. Commissioner Brock seconded and the motion passed (5-0).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Approval of Minutes of Meeting for December 23, 2019;
- (b) Approval/Renewal of Performance Bonds for Reserve Deputy Sheriff Douglas G. Angell, Reserve Deputy Sheriff Jack Randall Hunter, Reserve Deputy Sheriff Melanie D. Jones-Magby, Appointed Deputy District Clerk Brandi Collins;
- (c) Authorization for use of County Road Right-of-Way for Road Crossing by Legacy Exploration, LLC on Puddin Valley Road in Precinct #1
- (d) Approval of 2020 Wrecker Rotation List submitted by Sheriff;
- (e) Approval of 2020 Bail Bonds List submitted by Sheriff;

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items and to make sure Doug Angell's bond says Reserve Deputy. Commissioner Oliver seconded and the motion was unanimous (5-0).

TIMED AGENDA

None.

DISCUSSION OF ACTION TO UPDATE THE JACK COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY MANUEL REGARDING FUNERAL LEAVE

There was discussion on who is considered immediate family, but no action was taken.

UPDATE ON WILDLAND FIRE THREAT TO INCLUDE POSSIBLE LIFTING OF BURN BAN-COUNTY JUDGE

Judge Umphress spoke with Fire Chief Jim Richardson and TBob Hauger about conditions, both felt it is safe to remove the ban.

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to lift the 90 day burn ban which was implemented November 12, 2019. Commissioner Brock seconded and the motion was unanimous (5-0).

APPOINTMENT OF PRO TEM COUNTY JUDGE FOR COMMISSIONERS COURT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Commissioner Ward made a motion to appoint Commissioner James Brock as Pro Tem County Judge for 2020. Commissioner Birdwell seconded and the motion was unanimous (5-0).

DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE TRANSITION OF THE PHONE SYSTEM FOR THE JACK COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND LEC TO VOICE OVER IP PHONE SYSTEM-FRANK HEFNER

Frank Hefner along with representatives from Vested Networks gave an overview of the voice over phone system and answered questions. Frank told the court he would like to get away from analog and move to digital. The vision of Vested Networks is cost savings to their clients and to help IT with security. By signing a 5 year agreement, this would save the County almost \$1000 per month and there would no longer be a charge for long distance calls, only a fixed rate. The current phone charge is \$2500 to \$2600 per month. With the new system we would be connected to the Jack County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Ward made a motion to move forward with the agreement with Vested Networks. Commissioner Oliver seconded and the motion was unanimous (5-0).

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONER PRECINCT OPERATIONS

Precincts 2 and 3 began roadwork after the recent moisture. Commissioner Brock reported that he has been checking prices on tractors and mowers. He received a quote from John Deere and also from McMasters in Decatur and there is a price difference of approximately \$14,000. He is going to move forward with McMasters and place the order. It will take 8-9 weeks for the equipment to be delivered with an approximate cost of \$231,000.

Commissioner Brock will meet with the Wind Farm on January 17th at 10 a.m. and he invited all of the Commissioners to attend. The wind farms will be coming into the Southeast part of the county. The county cannot stop the wind farms from coming, we only have the authority to give abatements.

REPORTS, IF ANY, BY OTHER DEPARTMENT HEADS

Discussion of reconciliation taking place in the Auditor's Office and the current status.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Judge Umphress reported to the court that due to visiting with a licensed arborist it was determined that trees on the courthouse law need to be trimmed. The arborist told the Judge that the mistletoe in the Mesquite trees needs to be removed or it will eventually kill them. This will be on the next agenda.

There will also be the cost of a Paupers funeral and changes to the employee manual.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business motion was made by Commissioner Brock to adjourn. Commissioner Oliver seconded the motion to adjourn and the motion passed unanimously (5-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Gary Oliver, Commissioner Pct. #1

James Brock, Commissioner Pct. #2

Henry Birdwell, Jr. Commissioner Pg. #3

my Ward, Commissioner Pct. #4

Brian Keith Umphress, County Judge

ATTEST:

anessa James, County Clerk

