

CALDWELL COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES  
1403 Blackjack Street, Lockhart, Texas  
Regular Meeting July 28, 2014 9:00 a.m.



TOM D. BONN County Judge  
CAROL HOLCOMB County Clerk

ALFREDO MUÑOZ Commissioner Pct. 1  
FRED F. BUCHHOLTZ Commissioner Pct.2  
NETO MADRIGAL Commissioner Pct. 3  
JOE IVAN ROLAND Commissioner Pct.4

**8:30 A.M.**

**WORKSHOP (No Action):** Report from program manager on remodeling of the new Caldwell County Justice Center. No action will be taken at this time.

Program Manager Les Reddin gave report on the status of the Caldwell County Justice Center. He explained that the power is now on in the building and painting is making progress. The progress is on schedule. The next workshop is scheduled for August 11, 2014.

Blayne Stansbury, PE, spoke to the Court explaining the design options and scope of work for the fire lane, road access, and the parking lot of the new Caldwell County Justice Center.

**9:00 A.M.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Call Meeting to order.**

**2014.07.28.01**

**Invocation.** Lockhart Ministry Alliance.  
Rob Clopton with First United Methodist Church opened the meeting in prayer.

**2014.07.28.02**

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags.** (Texas Pledge: Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible).  
Judge Bonn led all present in the Pledge to both Flags.

**2014.07.28.03**

**Announcements:** Items or comments from Court Members or Staff.  
Commissioner Roland told everyone that this past weekend was the St. Mary's Church Jamaica celebration. Judge Bonn said that the Knights of Columbus #3052 also participated in the event.

**2014.07.28.04**

**Citizens' Comments:** At this time any person may speak to Commissioners Court if they have filled out a Caldwell County Commissioners Court Participation Form. Comments will be limited to four (4) minutes per person. No action will be taken on these items and no discussion will be had between the speaker(s) and members of the Court. The Court does retain the right to correct factual inaccuracies made by the speakers. (If longer than 30 minutes, then the balance of comments will continue as the last agenda item of the day).  
No Comments

**2014.07.28.05**

**Consent Agenda.** (Any member of the Court may request that an item within the Consent Agenda to be moved to the Regular Agenda for further discussion and action).

A. Pay Bills in the amount of \$325,722.53 for July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

B. To approve Commissioners Court Minutes for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

C. To approve Commissioners Court Minutes for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

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- D. To approve Resolution No. 09-2014 for the conveyance of the SH 130 Wetland Mitigation site near the southwest corner of North Highway 183 and Plumb Creek from the Texas Department of Transportation to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust.
- E. To approve the appointment of nominees, Marcy Froh and Scott Lloyd, to Caldwell County Historical Commission
- F. To approve the submission of 2013 Form 990-N to the IRS for the Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax for Martindale Volunteer Fire Department as required by Paragraph 8 of the Rural Fire Protection Service Contract with Caldwell County to comply with the yearly reporting to the Caldwell County Judge's Office.
- G. To approve County Maintenance to install hose connectors in the three men's bathrooms in the Courthouse to clean and maintain windows and balconies.
- H. To have Maintenance Department complete the installation of netting on the Courthouse balconies.  
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Roland to approve Consent Agenda items A thru H. All Voting "Aye"

**2014.07.28.06**

**Reports.**

Emergency Management Report – Martin Ritchey

Martin Ritchey gave the Emergency Management report for the month of June 2014.

Environmental Investigator Report – Mike Bittner

Mike Bittner gave the Environmental report for June of 2014 and answered questions from the Court.

Human Resources Report – Deborah Kortan

Deborah Kortan gave the Human Resource report for June 2014.

IT Report – Mark Hinnenkamp

Mark Hinnenkamp informed the Court that information for the selection of phone systems should be ready for selection at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Building Maintenance Report – Curtis Weber

Curtis Weber gave the Building Maintenance report for the month and discussed the status of ongoing work orders.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Report – Carissa Wilhelm/ Michael Haynes

Carissa Wilhelm spoke about the events in June 2014 and introduced two (2) students that were scholarship winners.

Michael Haynes spoke about events held in June and the achievements this year at the 4-H Roundup. Three of the four member team were recognized and showed the award that was won for highest points senior in overall champion at the 4-H Roundup. He spoke about the donation that was received from Wal-Mart and the garden that this would enable them to team with Bastrop County and begin a master gardening chapter.

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- 2014.07.28.07** **Special Presentations.** Recognition to Chisolm Trail 4H Club for their contributions to the Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.  
Judge Bonn presented movie passes to two of the members for the Caldwell County 4H Group that assisted at the Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

5 minute recess  
Reconvene @ 10:00 a.m.

Presentation of Resolution No. 09-2014 for the conveyance of the SH 130 Wetland Mitigation site near the southwest corner of North Highway 183 and Plumb Creek from the Texas Department of Transportation to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Director Oscar Fogle. Accepting the Resolution, Mr. Fogle said not only was this important to Caldwell County and Lockhart, but for Central Texas. The preservation of the Wetland is an educational and a research asset. Commissioner Muñoz said that there was not another Wetland within 200 miles, as most are near the Coastline. He also feels that this would also contribute to tourism for Caldwell County.

**(ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS)**

- 2014.07.28.08** **Discussion/Action** to approve a \$500.00 donation to Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.). **Cost:** \$500; **Speaker:** Commissioner Muñoz; **Backup:** None.  
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Madrigal to approve a \$500.00 donation to Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.). All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.09** **Discussion/Action** to approve a change order for the architect and his civil engineer to prepare the design and scope of work for the fire lane, road access, and parking lot of the new Caldwell County Justice Center.  
Motion made by Judge Bonn, second by Commissioner Muñoz to have the road as parallel, with the road behind the building making that sweeping 45 degree angle to the road behind the building ending with the water retention area and design that as an earthen pond unless concrete required. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.10** **Discussion/Action** to approve 56 chairs for the four courtrooms at the new Justice Center.  
**Cost:** Not to exceed \$12,300  
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Madrigal to approve 56 chairs for the four courtrooms at the new Justice Center with a cost not to exceed \$12,300 to DeWitt, Poth & Sons. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.11** **Discussion/Action** to approve the bid of \$2,500 on the Tax Sale Trust property known as 109 Cosey Street in Luling, Texas in the Bridges Addition subdivision, Lot 3, Block 3, Suit #08-T-8282, assessed value \$4,890 and court costs of \$829.  
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz, second by Commissioner Muñoz to approve the bid of \$2,500 on the Tax Sale Trust property known as 109 Cosey Street in Luling, Texas in the Bridges Addition subdivision, Lot 3, Block 3, Suit #08-T-8282, assessed value \$4,890 and court costs of \$829. All Voting "Aye"

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- 2014.07.28.12** **Discussion/Action** to approve Resolution No. 10-2014 for the TCEQ Grant Application for low impact development infrastructure  
Nick Dornak gave a brief overview of the benefits with the grant for low impact development. The Court discussed the options within the grant and Zeroscaping the landscape of the new Justice Center.  
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz, second by Commissioner Muñoz to approve Resolution No. 10-2014 for the TCEQ Grant Application for low impact development infrastructure. All Voting "Aye" Judge Bonn thanked Nick for his work in the preparation of the Grant.
- 2014.07.28.13** **Discussion/Action** to approve the Order on Public Hearing regarding Petition for Creation of Emergency Services District #3 for City of Martindale and to set a public hearing date.  
Motion made by Commissioner Madrigal, second by Commissioner Buchholtz to approve the Order on Public Hearing regarding Petition for Creation of Emergency Services District #3 for City of Martindale and to set the date for public hearing on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. and the second one on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.14** **Discussion/Action** to select three regional and three local transportation projects to submit to CARTPO for the "2014 Call for Projects".  
Michael Aulick explained the projects and explained the importance of the three that he recommended. Motion made by Commissioner Madrigal, second by Commissioner Muñoz to approve the 3 items on the regional and 3 items on local list recommended by Michael Aulick to submit to CARTPO, but to change # 1 to change Hwy 80 to 4 lanes, not 6.  
All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.15** **Discussion/Action** regarding Burn Ban for Caldwell County.  
Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Madrigal to put the Burn Ban on. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.16** **Discussion/Action** to approve the 2015 Sheriffs' and Constable Fees report as required by Texas Local Government Code Section 118.131.  
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz, second by Commissioner Roland to keep the Sheriffs' and Constable Fees as they are. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.17** **Discussion/Action** to approve the maintenance bond for finished streets and drainage in Spanish Oaks Subdivision.  
Motion made by Commissioner Madrigal, second by Commissioner Muñoz to approve the maintenance bond for finished streets and drainage in Spanish Oaks Subdivision. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.18** **Discussion/Action** to approve insurance renewal premiums for Caldwell County Employees as provided by Texas Association of Counties.  
Deborah Kortan explained the renewal rates and the premiums for Caldwell County Employees. Motion made by Judge Bonn, second by Commissioner Muñoz to keep the variance of the insurance premiums by County as it is. All Voting "Aye"
- 2014.07.28.19** **Discussion/Action** to select a commercial appraiser to conduct the appraisal of the County Justice and Tax office buildings.  
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz, second by Commissioner Muñoz to select Albert Menn with Menn & Associates in Seguin, TX as the commercial appraiser to conduct the appraisal of the County Judicial and Tax office buildings. All Voting "Aye"

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- 2014.07.28.20** **Discussion/Action** regarding the use of the remaining balance of funds from the proceeds of the 2010 Certificate of Obligation.  
Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Buchholtz to accept the specs for the work that needs to be done at 505 E. Fannin St. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of construction.  
All Voting “Aye”
- 2014.07.28.21** **Discussion/Action** to approve budget amendment #2013-14 for Unit Road Department regarding redistribution of funds from repairs and maintenance to operating supplies and from bridge repair replacement to uniforms, signs, tires and contract services for a total amount of funds redistributed of \$17,242.  
Motion made by Judge Bonn, second by Commissioner Madrigal to approve budget amendment #2013-14 for Unit Road Department regarding redistribution of funds from repairs and maintenance to operating supplies and from bridge repair replacement to uniforms, signs, tires and contract services for a total amount of funds redistributed of \$17,242. All Voting “Aye”
- 2014.07.28.22** **Discussion/Action** to approve budget amendment #2013-15 for the distribution of funds in the amount of \$54,760 to cover the construction expenditure by TxDot, which was approved in Commissioners Court on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. **Cost:** \$54,760  
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Roland, to approve budget amendment #2013-15 for the distribution of funds in the amount of \$54,760 to cover the construction expenditure by TxDot, which was approved in Commissioners Court on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. All Voting “Aye”
- 2014.07.28.23** **Discussion/Action** regarding Section 6.01 work hours in the Caldwell County Policy Manual.  
Motion made by Commissioner Buchholtz, second by Commissioner Muñoz to begin working 40 hours per week. The daily hours will be 8:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m. All Voting “Aye”
- 2014.07.28.24** **Discussion/Action** to call a meeting of all stake holders moving into Court House; Darla Law, Deborah Kortan, Larry Roberson, Lori Rangel, and Marie Cavanagh.  
Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Judge Bonn for Commissioner Muñoz to call a meeting of all stake holders moving into Court House; Darla Law, Deborah Kortan, Larry Roberson, Lori Rangel, and Marie Cavanagh. All Voting “Aye”
- 2014.07.28.25** **Discussion** concerning access to the civil attorney by Commissioners Court.  
Commissioner Madrigal said that he had spoken to Mack Harrison about the access to the civil attorney for any questions concerning Commissioner Court. He was assured that he could contact Mr. Harrison, Susannah Meringola or the District Attorney himself. Susannah assured him that schedules had been discussed and that she and Mack had checked their schedules so that either one of them would be available.

Workshop begins: 12:04 p.m.

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**BUDGET WORKSHOP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget workshop concerning the 2014-2015 annual budget. No action will be taken at this time.

County Auditor Larry Roberson explained the adjustments that have been requested that apply to the proposed budget. He has recommended that these funds be put aside to be used towards any last minute costs for the new Justice Center. Commissioner Madrigal is concerned with the position of a full time engineer. Judge Bonn assures him that there will be a need. Commissioner Muñoz asked about hiring another custodial position for the Justice Center. Since there are going to be two less buildings, this has not been put in the proposed budget. Martin Ritchey discussed the budget for the Emergency Management and the need for increased funds for Swift Water rescue training and other emergency programs within the County. He explained the extreme lack of emergency services that Caldwell County has and the training for any crisis that may arise. Fire Chief Danny Rodgers spoke to the Court on behalf of the Fire Chief's Association and the Delhi Volunteer Fire Department. He has concerns for the budget and the age of the equipment that the departments are using. Commissioner Madrigal explained that the Sheriff's Office is also short manpower and equipment.

Workshop ends 1:05 p.m.

**2014.07.28.26**

**Adjournment**

Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Buchholtz to Adjourn. All Voting "Aye"

  
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TOM D. BONN, County Judge