

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES  
110 S. Main St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Lockhart, Texas  
Regular Meeting March 28, 2016 9:00 a.m.



KEN SCHAWÉ  
CAROL HOLCOMB

County Judge  
County Clerk

ALFREDO MUÑOZ  
EDDIE MOSES  
NETO MADRIGAL  
JOE IVAN ROLAND

Commissioner Pct. 1  
Commissioner Pct. 2  
Commissioner Pct. 3  
Commissioner Pct. 4

**Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting called to order by Judge Schawe at 9:03 a.m. All members of the court present.

**2016.03.28.01**            **Invocation.** Lockhart Ministerial Alliance.

Pastor Bryan Dziadik-Willingham of Grace Lutheran Church in Lockhart, Texas opened the meeting with prayer.

**2016.03.28.02**            **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 Schawe led all present in the Pledge of both flags.

**2016.03.28.03**            **Announcements.** Items or comments from Court Members or Staff.

Commissioner Muñoz attended two job fairs in the area and announced good responses. He met with a group of people who took over the Wetlands, a park north of town who is conducting a survey for suggestions on what to do with the park. He attended the Kid Fish event at the City Park and said it was very successful. He said there was a pre-construction meeting last week and it was confirmed that Old Fentress Road will start construction first, then Westwood and Cherryville to follow. He said they are estimating construction to begin the first part of April. He announced he will be a host to site selectors on April 9<sup>th</sup> who are interested in the Feral Hog Program and seeing what Caldwell County has to offer. Commissioner Moses wished everyone a Happy Easter. He announced coming up is the Roughneck Cook-off and Oil City Car Show in Luling, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He mentioned Bonnie Dredla from Luling was on Wheel of Fortune recently. He said there was a cake auction at Luling High School that raised \$8,500.00 for scholarships. He thanked the Unit Road Department for the new culverts in the Prairie Lea area. He announced a Battle of the Bands contest on April 30<sup>th</sup> where the winner will play at this year's Thump in Luling. Commissioner Muñoz thanked the Unit Road Department and Dwight Jeffrey for their work on Borchert Loop. Commissioner Madrigal wished everyone a Happy Easter and announced he celebrated at many different Easter events this past weekend. He said he has met with TxDOT in regards to a flashing light at FM 1966 and Hwy 142 and announced it has now been approved. Commissioner Roland said he drove on county roads recently and spoke with the Unit Road Department about possible repairs if able to get funding. He said his daughter and two grandchildren visited him over the Easter weekend. Judge Schawe thanked Dwight Jeffrey from the Unit Road Department for his hard work.

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**2016.03.28.04**      **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 Citizen's Comments

**2016.03.28.05**      **Consent Agenda.** (The following consent items may be acted upon in one motion. Any member of the Court may request that an item within the Consent Agenda be pulled for separate discussion and/or action).

- A.      Approve payment of County invoices in the amount of \$149,739.80.
- B.      Approve payment of Bond Renewal #15768313 for Sanitation Director, Kasi Miles.
- C.      To accept the Certificates of Completion from County Treasurers' Association of Texas for successfully completing the continuing education provisions of Section 2256.008, and Section 83.003 of the Texas Local Government Code for 2015.

Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Moses to approve Consent Agenda items A-C. All voting "Aye".

**(ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS)**

**2016.03.28.06**      **Discussion/Action** regarding the burn ban for Caldwell County. **Cost:** None; **Speaker:** Judge Schawe/Martin Ritchey; **Backup:** None.

Martin Ritchey recommended leaving the burn ban off after reviewing the KBDI index.

Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Madrigal to leave the burn ban off. All voting "Aye".

**2016.03.28.07**      **Discussion/Action** regarding the purchase of one new ambulance within the current fiscal year, and a second unit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. **Cost:** TBD; **Speaker:** Judge Schawe/Vance Rogers/Erik Olufs; **Backup:** 4.

Judge Schawe presented a handout regarding the current status of the reserves. He said pulling funds from the reserves to pay for the ambulance would drop the county's reserves below level. He suggested tabling this item until next fiscal year. Commissioner Muñoz added the City of Luling is to purchase a new ambulance next fiscal year also in which the county is responsible for half the cost. Commissioner Moses researched the ambulance that was purchased by the City of Lockhart and compared it to other ambulances that cost less. Shift Captain, Chris Shomell responded to Commissioner Moses' concerns and stated the importance of purchasing an F-450 ambulance. Commissioner Moses said he believes a F-350 ambulance would be just as sufficient and cost less than the suggested F-450. Chris Shomell stated this purchase is a capital expenditure for EMS that will need to be budgeted every year. Commissioner Madrigal clarified that all members of the court are on board with the City of Lockhart.

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Financial Director for the City of Lockhart, Jeff Hinson explained the benefits of purchasing the F-450 ambulance and stated it will save the county money over time. He mentioned the box from the ambulance can be reused an estimated two to three times. Director of EMS, Erik Olufs said they plan on using reserved ambulances for transfer services until the system is set up in which they'll move to a transfer truck.

Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Madrigal to budget it into next year's budget for one ambulance to replace the one in Lockhart. All voting "Aye".

**2016.03.28.08**

**PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:30 AM** regarding alterations to Powell Road in Luling. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Commissioner Moses; Backup: 4.**

Judge Schawe opened the Public Hearing at 9:39 a.m.

Chris Powell explained the current issues occurring on Powell Road. He stated drivers speed on the road and use it as a cut through to by-pass red lights. He shared concern for safety of others and agreed with making Powell Road a dead end cul-de-sac.

Judge Schawe said he was concerned if an accident occurs on IH-10 and Powell Road no longer has an outlet. He also described issues for first responders who may need access to Powell Road. He mentioned the idea of speed bumps as an alternative. Commissioner Moses said out of the twelve residents who live on Powell Road, eight of them signed a petition agreeing to the road closure and two more verbally agreeing to the change.

Archie Abrameit owns property on Powell Road and spoke of safety concerns. He said he supports the amendment.

Judge Schawe closed the Public Hearing at 9:50 a.m.

**2016.03.28.09**

**Discussion/Action** to alter Powell Road in Luling by turning a thoroughfare into a dead-end road with a cul-de-sac, and authorize the Court to adopt a resolution of support thereof. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Commissioner Moses; Backup: 4.**

Commissioner Moses clarified EMS and the Fire Department are okay with the changes to the road as long as first responders are able to turn their vehicle around. Judge Schawe would like to try alternative methods to the issues on Powell Road instead of making it a dead end cul-de-sac. Civil Attorney, Jordan Powell reminded the court it must be a unanimous decision in order to alter the road, She stated Commissioner Moses has received approval from TxDOT for these changes. She said no additional right of way would be needed. Judge Schawe stated he would not vote for or against and suggested having the Sheriff's Office patrol the area. Chief Deputy, David Brent addressed the court to state there is not enough staff within the Sheriff's Office to patrol Powell Road effectively. He also shared concerns for first responders in the event of an emergency if Powell Road is to become a cul-de-sac with only one outlet.

Motion made by Commissioner Moses, second by Commissioner Roland to make it into a dead end cul-de-sac authorizing the court to do this. All voting "Aye".

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**2016.03.28.10**

**Executive Session** pursuant to Sections 552.071 and 552.072 of Texas Government Code: consultation with counsel and deliberation regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of County-owned property located at 100 E. Market Street. Possible action may follow in open court. **Cost:** TBD; **Speaker:** Judge Schawe; **Backup:** None.

Judge Schawe stated no executive session was needed. He said there is an amendment to the time allowed for a survey on property located at 100 E. Market Street. Instead of 30 days allowed, they are requesting an extension to 50 days. They are also requesting an extension from 15 days to 30 days to review the title commitment. He clarified the county's broker is okay with these changes. Judge Schawe asked the court for authorization to sign the amendment.

Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Moses to extend those dates and allow the Judge to sign the contract to amend it. All voting "Aye".

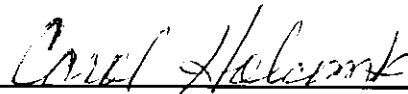
**2016.03.28.11**

**Adjournment.** Motion made by Commissioner Muñoz, second by Commissioner Moses to adjourn. All voting "Aye".

Meeting Adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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I, CAROL HOLCOMB, COUNTY CLERK AND EXOFFICIO CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true and accurate record of the proceedings had by the Caldwell County Commissioners' Court on March 28, 2016.



CAROL HOLCOMB, COUNTY CLERK AND EXOFFICIO  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF  
CALDWELL COUNTY, TEXAS

