

COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
110 S. Main St. 2nd Floor, Lockhart, Texas
Regular Meeting March 27, 2017 9:00 a.m.



KEN SCHAWÉ	County Judge	HOPPY HADEN	Commissioner Pct. 1
CAROL HOLCOMB	County Clerk	EDDIE MOSES	Commissioner Pct. 2
		ED THERIOT	Commissioner Pct. 3
		JOE IVAN ROLAND	Commissioner Pct. 4

Call Meeting to Order. Judge Schawe calls the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All members present.

Invocation. Lockhart Ministerial Alliance

Pastor Greene opens the meeting in prayer.

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 leads all present in the pledge to both flags.

Announcements. Items or comments from Court members or staff.

Commissioner Haden addressed the Caldwell County Republican Club during a Q & A meeting. The Payroll Committee should have recommendations for the court after a couple more meetings. The Subdivision Committee met and has been productive, Commissioner Theriot will add details. Lockhart is having its Sip and Stroll this weekend to raise money for city beautification. Luling's Roughneck Cook-off is also this weekend and some of his kids are participating. He met with Susan Bohn, LISD Superintendent of Schools, to discuss how the county and school district can partner, particularly pertaining to economic development. He also met with Robert Tobias, City of Lockhart Economic Development Director, to discuss the county and city working together to generate more funds and business coming to the county. **Commissioner Moses** went to McMahan Saturday for a Community Center fundraiser and attended a Chamber of Commerce Appreciation Banquet in Luling on Thursday. Tuesday there is a feral hog taskforce workshop at Foundation Farm from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Thursday he will attend the CARTS meeting and April 1st is the Roughneck Cook-off in Luling where you can sample or judge the food. **Commissioner Theriot** says Commissioner Haden hit on a lot of what he had to say but expands on the Subdivision Committee saying that after another meeting they should have the recommendations refined and be bringing them back to the court. The Greater San Marcos Partnership participated in a study group to get representation at a regional level. Rob Tobias and Trey Bailey, President of Luling Economic Development Corporation were there so Lockhart and Luling were well represented. He would like to make a statement about something that has bothered him over the last couple of weeks. He says he has been the target of blatantly false statements made by the EPICC Group, particularly in their newspaper advertisements, that he assumes were approved by their primary corporate sponsor. The only purpose he sees in making those types of statements is to intimidate him and damage the reputation of him and his family. Due to what he believes is a pattern of these falsehoods, half-truths, and hate filled statements he will not in the future recognize or engage with EPICC in any discussion he has concerning the landfill. He states that as always he will continue to discuss and attempt to address the legitimate concerns of the individuals and the property owners around that area and that he shares their concerns in wanting to get a better project.

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Commissioner Roland says good morning and that he had slow time off because he spent it answering and attending to many calls. He also went to the Caldwell County Hispanic Chamber Gala where they awarded Business of the Year to Bluebonnet Electric Company. **Judge Schawe** says he sees a lot of positive growth in the future of Caldwell County. He met the new Veterans Service Coordinator Al Dos Santos who he says is committed and hard-working.

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).

James Greene announces Lockhart Ministerial Alliance will be hosting worship services the 10th, 11th, and 12th at First Lockhart Baptist at noon followed by lunch as well as a Sunrise Service Easter Morning at 7 a.m. on State Park Hill.

CONSENT AGENDA. (The following consent items may be acted upon in one motion).

1. **Approve payment of County invoices in the amount of \$261,132.82.**
2. **Accept and approve the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending on August 31, 2016 from the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD).**
3. **Accept and approve the 2016 Certificates of Compliance Continuing Education for County Judge, Ken Schawe.**
4. **Accept and approve the 2017 Certificate of Educational Training from the V.G. Young School for County Commissioners Courts for Commissioner, Precinct One, Hoppy Haden.**
5. **Accept and approve the 2017 Certificate of Educational Training from the V.G. Young School for County Commissioners Courts for Commissioner, Precinct Three, Edward Theriot.**
6. **Approve issuance and payment of Surety Bond #71650316 in the amount of \$100,000.00 for County Auditor, Debra French, effective April 1, 2017 for a term of two years.**
7. **Approve continuation and payment of Surety Bond #15768313 in the amount of \$10,000.00 for Sanitation Director, Kasi Miles, effective April 14, 2017 for a term of one year.**

Motion made by Commissioner Moses, second by Commissioner Haden to accept consent agenda items one through seven. All voting "Aye".

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ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

8. **Discussion/Action** regarding a Proclamation on behalf of the Volunteers of America Texas recognizing local volunteers. **Cost: None; Speaker: Judge Schawe; Backup: 1.**

Judge Schawe invites the Volunteers of America who are present to come up and introduce themselves. They are Slerilyn Leone, Cortina Moore, David Holguin, and Dianne McDonald. Judge Schawe reads the Proclamation. So moved by Commissioner Haden, second by Commissioner Theriot. All voting "Aye".

9. **Discussion/Action** regarding the burn ban. **Cost: None; Speaker: Judge Schawe/Martin Ritchey; Backup: None.**

Martin Ritchey does not recommend that the burn ban be in effect at this time. Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Moses to leave the burn ban off. All voting "Aye".

10. **Discussion/Action** regarding the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan application to TDEM and to approve a resolution authorizing submission of a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan; matching funds; and authorizing the County Judge to act as the county's Chief Executive Officer in all matters pertaining to the participation in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Judge Schawe/Martin Ritchey; Backup: 1.**

Martin Ritchey displays a binder holding the current Hazard Mitigation Plan. He says these plans are the opportunity to outline areas of weakness that funding might be needed for and without such a plan prepared there will not be assistance given. He says expertise is required to create one of these plans and he recommends a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Application is submitted to FEMA and the resolution is signed. So moved by Commissioner Moses, second by Commissioner Roland. All voting "Aye".

11. **Discussion/Action** to request proposal/bid for an administrative consultant/firm to prepare the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and the subsequent preparation of a Multi-hazard Mitigation Action Plan and the management of the project, if funded, by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. **Cost: None; Speaker: Judge Schawe/Martin Ritchey; Backup: None.**

Martin Ritchey goes over the potential costs involved in getting a consultant on board and possible districts and entities who might contribute in order to have a grant application drawn up. He gives examples of projects that would qualify and how the area would benefit from the Multi-hazard Mitigation Action Plan. He and the court discuss the cost if no one else comes on board and if they are not awarded the grant. Martin Ritchey says he would like feedback and additional contributor ideas from the court. Judge Schawe asks if Mr. Ritchey is just asking to get a bid out and Mr. Ritchey confirms that he is and adds that on the front end he only expects to spend one to two thousand dollars for the application costs. Once it is nailed down what all principalities will be participating the court can delegate cost division. So moved by Commissioner Theriot, second by Commissioner Roland and Commissioner Haden that we request a proposal bid for an administrative consultant firm to prepare a FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Action Plan. All voting "Aye".

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17. **PUBLIC HEARING at 9:30:** regarding the installation of all-way stop signs and children at play signs in Prairie Lea, Precinct 2. **Cost: \$1,190.00; Speaker: Commissioner Moses; Backup: 1.**

R.W. Gratham is a Prairie Lea resident in favor of the stop signs who says the traffic is already picking up and he has grandchildren in the the area and he would appreciate if the court would see fit to do something.

There are no other speakers. Public Hearing closes at 9:35 a.m.

18. **Discussion/Action** regarding the installation of all-way stop signs and children at play signs in Prairie Lea, Precinct 2. **Cost: \$1,190.00; Speaker: Commissioner Moses; Backup: 1.**

Judge Schawe reads Discussion/Action item 18. Commissioner Moses says he will make that motion, second by Commissioner Haden. All voting "Aye".

12. **Discussion/Action** to create a committee consisting of Judge Schawe, Commissioner Hoppy Haden, Bob Bush, Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Rangel, Treasurer, Debra French, Auditor and Chief Deputy Mike Lane to incorporate changes discussed in the Employee Handbook Workshop. **Cost: None; Speaker: Commissioner Haden; Backup: None.**

Commissioner Haden explains the reason for the committee's formation. Motion made by Commissioner Haden, second by Commissioner Moses to create a committee consisting of Judge Schawe, himself, Bob Bush, Human Resources Coordinator, Lori Rangel, Treasurer, Debra French, Auditor, and Chief Deputy Mike Lane (Commissioner Haden says he has not asked him, but Mike Lane is in the courtroom and confirms he will participate) to go through that and incorporate those into a new employee manual that he thinks will be much better than the manual we currently have. All voting "Aye".

13. **Discussion/Action** to approve budget amendments on line item changes for the Tax Assessor-Collector: Line 001-2140-1040. **Cost: None; Speaker: Judge Schawe/Darla Law; Backup: 1.**

Judge Schawe explains adjustments are being made to salaries which created the line item changes. He adds that there will be no additional cost. Motion made by Commissioner Roland, second by Commissioner Moses to approve item 13. All voting "Aye".

14. **Discussion/Action** to consider re-scheduling the regular April 24, 2017 meeting of the Commissioners Court to an evening meeting. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Commissioner Roland; Backup: None.**

Commissioner Roland explains why he requested the meeting's re-scheduling. Karen McCrary, Luling Newsboy & Signal, asks Commissioner Roland to remain on item 14's topic. The court discusses options of a Special Meeting, or Workshop in addition to the regular meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Roland to have a Special Meeting on April 24th at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Moses asks if there will still be a regular meeting and Commissioner Roland confirms there will be a regular meeting and a Special Meeting regarding 130 Environmental Park, second by Commissioner Moses. County Clerk Carol Holcomb confirms the Special Meeting's location will be at 110 S. Main St. 2nd Floor, Lockhart, Texas. All voting "Aye".

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- 15. Discussion/Action** regarding the Texas State Comptroller Statement of Account dated February 17, 2017 indicating an amount due of \$8,616.68. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Judge Schawe; Backup: 1.**


Judge Schawe is asking for approval to get the bill paid ASAP. So moved by Commissioner Haden, second by Commissioner Moses. Judge Schawe, Treasurer Lori Rangel, Auditor Debra French, Commissioner Roland, and Commissioner Haden discuss the origin of the bill, it being paid on time, how it is paid, possible discrepancies in the future, and the potential to have it waived. Debra French asks for the court's permission to write a letter asking for the amount to be waived. Amended motion made by Commissioner Haden, second by Commissioner Moses to allow Ms. French to write the letter trying to get this \$8,616.68 not as a penalty and if not the motion would be if they deny that to go ahead and pay it. All voting "Aye".

- 16. Discussion/Action** regarding the courthouse lawn. **Cost: TBD; Speaker: Judge Schawe/Curtis Weber; Backup: None.**

Maintenance Supervisor Curtis Weber and the court discuss the weeds on the courthouse lawn, the prospective ways to get rid of them, and the possible costs. Motion made by Commissioner Moses, second by Commissioner Theriot for Commissioner Moses to get some recommendations. All voting "Aye".

Adjournment. So moved by Commissioner Moses, second by Commissioner Haden to adjourn. All voting "Aye". Adjournment at 10:04 a.m.

I, CAROL HOLCOMB, COUNTY CLERK AND EX OFFICIO 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 27, 2017.



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

