

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE
COMMISSIONERS COURT OF VAN ZANDT COUNTY
9:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2025**

The Commissioners' Court of Van Zandt County met at the above-named date and time in the County Courtroom in the Van Zandt County Courthouse in Canton, Texas. Members present were County Judge Andy Reese, Commissioner Pct. 1 Mitch Curtis, Commissioner Pct. 2 Cliff Williams, Commissioner Pct. 3 Bobby Phillips and Commissioner Pct. 4 Brandon Barton. Notice was given by posting in compliance with Section 551.041 of the Government Code on all the following before the Court for consideration:

CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE QUORUM. 9:01 A.M. All present (**COMMISSIONER PCT.1 CAME IN A FEW MINUTES LATE**)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS. Judge Chris Martin introduced and welcomed new County Auditor, Catherine Gazda who replaced Sandy Hill after her retirement.

- **RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE**
- Danny Phillips - 5 years of service (Bobby Phillips)

PUBLIC COMMENTS (ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY). Ronnie Jones spoke on items 13, 14 & 15.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items are considered routine by the commissioner's court and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless the county judge, or a commissioner requests an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

- A.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER DISPENSING WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING(S) OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT AND APPROVAL OF SAME FOR DECEMBER 23, 2024.**
- B.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COUNTY'S BILLS FOR PAYMENT AS SUBMITTED**
- C.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RATIFYING OF COUNTY'S BILLS AS SUBMITTED**
- D.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY2025 LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS**
- E.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND APPROVAL ENTRY OF SAME IN THE COURT'S MINUTES AS A MATTER OF RECORD**
- F.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT REPORT OF COUNTY TREASURER TO BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS COURT**
- G.) **DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PIPE AND/OR UTILITY LINES:**
Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and seconded by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

PRESENTATION BY RICHARD BRANDT FROM LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REAPPLYING FOR THE VOCA GRANT TO FUND THE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR THE 2025-2026 TERM. Presented by District Attorney, Tonda Curry who want to apply for a \$50,000 grant, plus office supplies. The county will match \$18,183 for benefits/fringe. Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and seconded by Commissioner Bobby Phillips. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER LINE ITEM TRANSFERS RELATED TO TRANSITIONING THE FIRE MARSHALL POSITION TO FULL TIME AND FUNDING THE INCREASED SALARY AND BENEFITS. Motion to approve by Commissioner Cliff Williams and seconded by Commissioner Mitch Curtis. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTING A COMMITTEE FOR THE VAN ZANDT P25 RADIO PROJECT. Motion to appoint Holly Foster, Chief Zepada, County Judge Andy Reese, Sheriff Kevin Bridger, Barry Black, Jeremy Jones, Ron Beavers, Scott Slaton, Commissioner Cliff Williams as the committee. Motion to approve by Commissioner Cliff Williams and seconded by Commissioner Mitch Curtis. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER APPOINTING RONNIE RAKESHAU TO VOLUNTARILY PICK UP SIGNS FROM VAN ZANDT COUNTY ROW. Keith Pearson spoke. Motion to appoint Ronnie Rakeshaw to pick up signs less than or equal to \$25 in value from the ROW on Van Zandt County Roads 3810, 3837 & 3822. Motion to approve by Commissioner Bobby Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING NECESSARY ACTION TO REACTIVATE THE COUNTY COLLECTION DEPARTMENT. No action taken.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CHANGING THE BONA FIDE SEPARATION DATE FOR A RETIRED EMPLOYEE FROM A MINIMUM OF THREE CALENDAR MONTHS (PAGE 63 OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK) TO 31 DAYS BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK FOR VAN ZANDT COUNTY. Motion to approve by Commissioner Cliff Williams and seconded by Commissioner Mitch Curtis. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REMOVING THE NOTES SECTION OF THE HOLIDAY PAY POLICY IN THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK (PAGE 72) THAT RELATES TO THE TRANSITION THAT ENDED ON 9/30/2024. Motion to approve by Commissioner Brandon Barton and seconded by Commissioner Cliff Williams. All voted in favor.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER HIRING A FINANCIAL ADVISOR. Moved to after Executive Session.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: in compliance with Section 551.0725 of the Texas Government Code, to conduct a closed meeting to deliberate business and financial issues relating to a contract being negotiated. Entered Executive Session at 10:15 A.M.

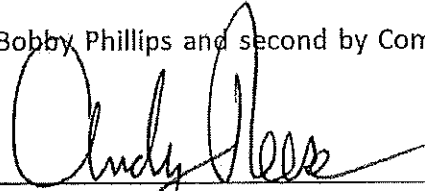
RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION: to consider action, if any, on items discussed in Executive Session. Open session reconvened at 10:47 A.M. Motion to extend an offer to hire Government Capital by Commissioner Cliff Williams and second by Commissioner Brandon Barton. All voted in favor.

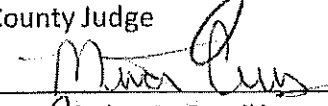
ADJOURNMENT. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Bobby Phillips and second by Commissioner Mitch Curtis. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 A.M.

ATTEST:

Susan Strickland, County Clerk
Van Zandt County, Texas

BY: 


County Judge


Commissioner, Pct. #1


Commissioner, Pct. #2


Commissioner, Pct. #3


Commissioner, Pct. #4