

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Van Zandt County Commissioners Court will be held on June 23, 2021 at Van Zandt County Courthouse for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to collect unpaid fines, fees and court costs as provided in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 103.0031 and authorizing the execution of such agreement.

The agreement to be considered is necessary for the unpaid fines, fees and court costs owed to Van Zandt County to be collected in the most effective manner. The County desires that such unpaid fines, fees and court costs be collected as provided in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP firm is fully qualified to provide this representation, being the largest law firm specializing in the collection of governmental receivables in the State of Texas, as well as the United States, and having been engaged in this specialized legal service for more than 40 years. In addition, the Linebarger Goggan Blair and Sampson, LLP firm possesses infrastructure and technology, such as call center technology, that the County does not currently possess.

The specialized legal services required by this agreement cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the County due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house attorneys and staff with the level of experience and competence necessary to perform these activities.

Linebarger will be compensated on a contingent fee basis as provided in Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Article 103.0031. This Article specifically provides for an additional collection fee in the amount of 30 percent in certain cases to compensate collection attorneys. A contract to pay inside or outside attorneys on an hourly basis would represent an additional cost to the County.

Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interests of the residents of the County because the unpaid fines, fees and court costs will be professionally and competently collected without the additional costs to the County of implementing infrastructure and technology, and employing in-house personnel or paying outside counsel on an hourly fee basis which would otherwise be required.