

**THE COMMISSIONERS COURT August 21, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Commissioner's Court in and for the County of Schleicher met for a Regular Meeting this the 21st day of August 21 2023, with the Commissioners Gary Gibson, Steve Nelson, Kirk Griffin and Chris Meador present when the following proceedings were had to wit.

**(1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance recited and led by County Judge Charlie Bradley.

**(2) DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Quorum determined, Called Meeting to Order at 9:00 A.M.

**(3) CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes form 8-7-2023 Commissioners Court Meeting.
- b. Accounts Payable Check Register 8-7-2023
- c. Payroll Check Register 8-9-2023
- d. County and District Clerk's Report
- e. TIB Security Pledge Release
- f. TIB Security Pledge Release

Motion to accept consent agenda by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Seconded by Commissioner Chris Meador. Motion passes.

**(4) INDIGENT CARE REQUEST**

None at this time.

**(5) ACCOUNT PAYABLES**

**Account Payables/Invoices** – Motion by Commissioner Chris Meador to approve and accept. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Motion passes.

**Schleicher County Payroll Pay Period** – Motion by Commissioner Gary Gibson to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Nelson. Motion passes.

**(6) OFFICIAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE**

**23 Budget Amendments** – Move funds to purchase road equipment – Motion to accept and approve by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Nelson. Motion passes.

**County Funds Report** – Motion by Commissioner Kirk Griffin to approve and accept. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Motion passes.

**Annual 2022 Report of Juvenile Board** – Certification of the facility – Noted for the minutes.



*Accepted  
9-5-23*

(7) PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Elected Officials Salaries
- b. 2024 Proposed Budget
- c. 2023 Tax Rate to service the 2024 Budget

*Stacy Jones Creek* – Thanked the court for not raising tax rates. Asked for clarification on the Published Notice from the Success in regards to the salary raises. Would like to request that commissioner meetings be held in the evenings similar to all the other taxing entities.

Judge Charlie Bradley commented that \$2,500 raise was across the board for all elected officials. Stated that the Sheriff needed to be raised to abide to standards set by the state, a grant allowed for that. The county will be reimbursed through salary reimbursement.

*Rennond Kuykendall* – Questioned where the evaluation for value of property comes from.

Judge Charlie Bradley commented that the appraisal district sets the amounts and they are set locally.

*Cathy Kuykendall* – mentioned the line items on the proposed budget referring to the maintenance and the actual salaries that employees receive. In reference to the elected officials' salary raises she questioned how much time they spend at the courthouse, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Would like more accountability and for them to be more accessible to the public.

Judge Charlie Bradley commented that the two amounts for cemetery and courthouse maintenance are split between 2 (two) full time employees and the (1) one part time (seasonal) employee.

Commissioner Gary Gibson commented that the public, not Judge Bradley, are the bosses for all the elected officials. They are elected by and for the public.

*Kirk Jones* - Voiced that he does not agree with the salary increases for the elected officials.

*Former Justice of the Peace Phil Edmiston* - \$2,500 raise for elected officials is not reflected accurately in the proposed budget. Are we repeating raises from last year's budget? The treasurer has a payroll stipend in her budget, why? Does not agree with any of the raises or the stipend represented in the proposed budget.

Justice of the Peace Rahegyn Franke clarified that she opted to move the \$2,500 to another line item to help cover expenses for her bench exchange program.

Judge Bradley commented that the treasurer's office does not have to conduct the duties of payroll by statute.

Treasurer Henderson commented that she trained her assistant how to figure payroll and audits it on a bi-weekly basis.

*Former Justice of the Peace Phil Edmiston* – stated that he conducted over 44 trips in his personal vehicle while serving as Justice of the Peace, perhaps a travel stipend would be sufficient for Justice Franke.

Sheriff Jason Chatham commented that he had previously visited with Justice Franke offering alternative travel to and from scenes if necessary.

Public Hearing closed at 9:43 a.m.

### **(8) SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR 2024**

County Judge Charlie Bradley stated that the clerk, Mary Ann Gonzalez, had requested a third full time deputy and he did not include it that in the proposed budget. She knew she would not be present so she had visited with him prior to the meeting to question why a third deputy had not been included.

Judge Bradley stated to the court that he excluded it from the proposed budget because he did not feel the need for one. Mrs. Gonzalez asked for a salary increase. In her absence, Judge Bradley mentioned her request to the court.

Commissioner Steve Nelson questioned why she had asked for more money.

Judge Bradley responded that in lieu of receiving a requested third full time deputy, Mrs. Gonzalez elected for a larger raise.

**Break at 9:49 a.m.**

**Reconvene at 9:57 a.m.**

County Judge Charlie Bradley handed out copies of the proposed budget and entertained a motion to accept the proposed budget. Motion to accept and approve the proposed budget by Commissioner Chris Meador. No second received from a member of the quorum. Judge Bradley asked for further discussion from the court so a solution could be obtained.

Commissioner Steve Nelson stated that every year salaries increase with no improvements. More funds are allotted for travel and training that in turn means the county employees are here even less than they are currently.

Commissioner Gary Gibson questioned if a stipend is treated the same as a raise (line item vs. inclusion with salary). Stipends can be removed, where raises stay in the budget?

Motion to approve and accept the proposed budget by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Judge Charlie Bradley. All in favor say "AYE" – Bradley, Meador All opposed same sign – Nelson, Gibson TIE Motion does not pass.

County Judge Charlie Bradley called for alternatives.

Commissioner Steve Nelson asked if he could make the motion to keep the salaries the same as they were last year.

Commissioner Gary Gibson made a motion to approve the proposed salaries without the stipend for the treasurer's office and leaving the stipends for the sheriff and the commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Chris Meador.

Commissioner Kirk Griffin left for a doctor's appointment.

Commissioner Steve Nelson mentioned that salaries are over \$77,000 and the increase for improvements are less – the budget increases are moving in the wrong direction in his opinion.

All in favor say "AYE" – Meador, Bradley, Gibson

All opposed same sign – Nelson

Motion passes.

**Break at 10:09 a.m.**

**Reconvene at 10:47 a.m.**

### **(9) DISCUSSION OF 2024 BUDGET AND 2023 TAX RATE TO SERVICE 2024 BUDGET**

Commissioner Steve Nelson questioned why the sheriff's office had such a significant increase in uniforms amount. Sheriff Jason Chatham explained that all of the personnel from the sheriff's office is required to wear uniforms and Schleicher County does not currently offer them a uniform allowance.

**(10) ADOPTION OF 2024 BUDGET**

Motion to adopt the 2024 budget by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Seconded by Commissioner Chris Meador. Judge Bradley called vote. Gibson – Aye, Nelson – Aye, Meador – Aye, Bradley – Aye, Griffin – Not Present. Motion passes.

**(11) ADOPTION OF 2023 TAX RATE TO SERVICE 2024 BUDGET**

Due to budget changes the court will vote on this matter at a later time. Court will recess till after lunch and return to vote on the 2023 Tax Rate.

**(12) CERTIFYING THE 100% COMPLETION OF 2023 CYBERSECURITY TRAINING**

The State of Texas mandates that all county employees complete cybersecurity training on an annual basis.

Motion to accept and approve 2023 Cybersecurity Training Certification by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Nelson. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" Motion passes.

**(13) RATIFYING LONE STAR GRANT RESOLUTION**

Judge Bradley had to sign the contract prior to this date due to time constraints.

Motion to ratify the approval of the grant contract by Commissioner Steve Nelson. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Judge Bradley abstained. All in favor say "aye" "aye" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(14) OPERATION LONE STAR CONTRACT FOR GRANT WRITER**

County Judge Charlie Bradley entertained a motion to hire the same grant writer that was used last year.

Motion to hire last year's grant writer by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Nelson. All in favor say "aye" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(15) CONCHO VALLEY TRANSIT AGREEMENT**

Judge Bradley addressed the court notifying them that there aren't any changes in the agreement. It is a rural transportation service, not a taxi cab service. Many of the elderly members of our community utilize the service on a weekly basis. He recommends that the court approve the agreement.

Motion to approve and accept the agreement by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(16) RATIFY THE RENEWAL FORM FOR DEBTBOOK**

Judge Charlie Bradley has previously signed the renewal form, the court shall ratify the renewal form.

Motion to ratify renewal form by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Nelson. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(17) ELECTION JUDGES AND ALTERNATE JUDGES FOR SPECIAL ELECTION**

Deputy Clerk Marsha Maskill explained that the lists presented should come from the party chairs, neither chair turned a list in prior to the due date. Therefore, appointments were made for a single election rather than the recommended two-year term using previously approved election judges and alternate judges.

Motion to accept and approve Orders of appointment for November 7, 2023 Election by Commissioner Chris Meador. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(18) NOTICE OF COMBINED PRECINCTS FOR SPECIAL ELECTION**

Motion to approve and accept Notice of Combined Precincts for Special Election by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Judge Bradley abstained. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(19) NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION**

Notice of Special Election only requires Judge Bradley to sign, he will sign with the approval of the court.

Motion to approve Notice of Election by Commissioner Steve Nelson. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Judge Bradley abstained. All in favor say "aye" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(20) ORDER OF SPECIAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Judge Bradley entertained a motion. Motion to approve and accept by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(21) LGS CONTRACT FOR CLERK'S OFFICE SOFTWARE**

Judge Bradley reported that the clerk's office had received a quote to continue services with the current software provider, iDocket, at an extremely high amount for conversion and annual maintenance. County Attorney Clint Griffin confirmed that the amount was outrageous considering our county's size and the number of cases we process.

Motion to accept and approve LGS service contract by Commissioner Steve Nelson. Seconded by Commissioner Chris Meador. All in favor say "aye" "AYE" All opposed same sign. Motion passes.

**(22) BIDS**

None at this time.

**(23) COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Conon Emmons questioned if it was common procedure to hold a public hearing and conduct the vote on the same day. Would it not be more appropriate to conduct each proceeding on a

different day to allow citizens a chance to voice their concerns and get their questions answered?

Cathy Kuykendall suggested that the public hearings be conducted during an evening meeting and the commissioners can vote to adopt agenda items on different dates during their regularly scheduled morning meetings.

Rennond Kuykendall asked the court about accountability for the elected officials – clocking in on time cards.

Judge Bradley responded when citizens contact him with concerns regarding other elected officials, he directs them to contact those elected officials directly due to the fact that he is not their boss. The county judge is not superior or in charge of the other elected officials in the county. In the event of his own absence from his office, Judge Bradley will forward office calls to his cellphone and post a notice on his office door notifying citizens of his whereabouts and providing them with a number where he can be reached. He cannot provide details on the procedures and/or protocol for other offices in the event of absences. Ultimately the citizens and registered voters are the bosses of the elected officials.

#### **(24) NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time.

Judge Charlie Bradley suggests that the court recess until 2:00 p.m. He also took this opportunity to thank the public for taking the time to attend the meeting and for their comments.

The court will recess until 2:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. court reconvenes.

#### **(10) RATIFY THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The court will vote to ratify the property tax rate of 6.59% increase from last year's budget. Motion to accept and approve tax rate of 6.59% by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson.

Call vote: Meador – Aye

Nelson – Aye

Gibson – Aye

Griffin – Absent

Judge Bradley – Aye

Motion passes.

**(11) ADOPT 2023 TAX RATE TO SERVE 2024 BUDGET**

County Judge Bradley and Treasurer Jennifer Henderson handed out forms showing 2023 Tax Rates to serve 2024 Budget.

Motion to accept and approve 2023 Tax Rate by Commissioner Chris Meador. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson.

Call vote: Gibson – Aye

Nelson – Aye

Griffin – Absent

Meador – Aye

Judge Bradley – Aye

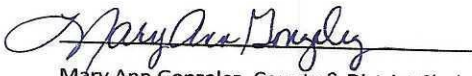
Motion passes.

**(25) ADJOURN**

With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Chris Meador made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gary Gibson. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

**Attendees:** County Judge Charlie Bradley, County Treasurer Jennifer Henderson, County Deputy Clerk Marsha Maskill, Justice of the Peace Rahegyn Franke, County Sheriff Jason Chatham, County Deputy Treasurer Barbara Warnock, County Judge Assistant Stacey Ellingwood, JP Clerk Kaitlyn Lindsey, Kathy Mankin, Rennond Kuykendall and Cathy Kuykendall, Stacy Jones Creek, Phil Edmiston, Melissa Rodriguez, Conon Emmons, Kirk Jones

I, **MARY ANN GONZALEZ, CLERK** FOR SCHLEICHER COUNTY DO HEREBY ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY OF THE Commissioner Court Minutes for the Regular Meeting held August 21, 2023.



Mary Ann Gonzalez, County & District Clerk

Schleicher County