

January 25, 2018
Regular Meeting

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the 25th day of January, A.D., 2018 there was held a Regular Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Willacy County, Texas at the County Judge's Office, 576 West Main, in the City of Raymondville, Texas for the purpose of transacting the following agenda:

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum.
3. Invocation / Pledge.
4. Public Comment (s).
5. Presentation by Richard Sanders pertaining to windmill projects
6. Discussion: Sheriff's Office would like to advise the court of a change in the Commissary Vendor for the Willacy County Jail.
7. Discussion and Action to accept retirement letter from County Clerk Terry Flores. ACTION REQUIRED
8. Discussion and Action to allow Constable Pct. 2 to apply for and if awarded, to accept grant through USDA rural development for Law Enforcement purposes. ACTION REQUIRED
9. Discussion and Action to allow Constable Pct. 2 to submit application for participation in the Law Enforcement Support Office (1033 program) administered by Texas Department of Public Safety, and participate in mandatory training. ACTION REQUIRED
10. Discussion and Action to allow Constable Pct. 2 to apply for and if awarded, to accept JAG grant awarded through the Office of the Governor. This will be a continuation grant. ACTION REQUIRED
11. Discussion and Action to approve resolution to adopt the FEMA approved Willacy County, Texas Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. ACTION REQUIRED
12. Discussion and Action to print check on 1/26/18 to GM Services (Elvia Alvarado) Invoice number 171 in the amount of \$2,380.00 for paint job to Waldon Sweeper and pay/release check to GM Services after job has been completed. ACTION REQUIRED
13. Discussion and Action to authorize the District Attorney's Office to apply for and if awarded accept grant funds from the BL18 Border Security Program Grant through the Office of the Governor for fiscal year 2017-2018. ACTION REQUIRED
14. Discussion and Action to allow Constable Pct. 4 to apply for and if awarded, to accept JAG grant awarded through the Office of the Governor. ACTION REQUIRED
15. Discussion and Action to approve Benjamin Vera as a full time employee at the Districts Attorney's Office. ACTION REQUIRED

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16. Discussion and Action to consider approving submitting for mental health criminal justice grant from State of Texas. ACTION REQUIRED
17. Discussion and Action to extend temporary halt of issuing building permits for additional game room facilities in unincorporated areas in Willacy County. ACTION REQUIRED
18. Approval of Claims. ACTION REQUIRED.
19. Approval of Travel Request. ACTION REQUIRED.
20. Adjourn.

THE COURT MET:
PRESENT:

Aurelio Guerra, Jr.,	County Judge,	
Eliberto Guerra,	Commissioner, Precinct 1,	ABSENT
Oscar De Luna,	Commissioner, Precinct 2,	
Henry De La Paz,	Commissioner, Precinct 3,	
Eduardo Gonzales,	Commissioner, Precinct 4,	
Annette Hinojosa,	County Attorney,	
Ida Martinez,	County Auditor,	
Elizabeth Rios,	County Clerk Deputy,	

WHEREUPON, the Court was opened to the following proceedings were had to wit:

PERSONS VISITING THE COURT:

Rudy Pena Rodriguez
Richard Morrison
Richard Sanders
Garrett Ketchen

1. Call to Order – Chairman Aurelio Guerra, Jr.
2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum – Commissioner Eliberto Guerra – **ABSENT**
3. Pledge – Commissioner Henry De La Paz Invocation – Commissioner Eduardo Gonzales
4. Public Comments – None

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Agenda # 5
PRESENTATION BY RICHARD
SANDERS PERTAINING TO
WINDMILL PROJECTS

Presentation by Richard Sanders pertaining to Windmill Projects. Mr. Sanders updates to the Commissioners Court in a brief summary on reference to what has been done with the Improvement Breeze Project, which each are commercial operated-December 21, 2017. They are fully operational at a two-hundred, twenty (228) mega-watts wind power. This will be showing on January 1st tax snap shot, on the tax abatement it might be more less from two hundred, seventy million dollars \$270,000,000.00 to two hundred, eighty million dollars \$280,000,000.00 increase on the tax pays from that project alone.

Mr. Sanders gives the thanks to Commissioners Court, County Judge, Sheriff's Department and Amos Prado, Building Inspector for their assistance and support. Mr. Sanders mentions that on April 19, 2018 his company is planning a grand opening, which he would like for the Commissioners Court to attend.

Mr. Sanders, states that he would like to mention to the Court about the contractors treating out six (6) different families during the Thanksgiving Day. They had also raised money on the side to assist sixty-six (66) local families to pay their utility bill.

Some other monies were also donated to the following:

- \$900.00 were donated to Raymondville Lions Club
- \$1,500.00 were donated to Local Dog Shelter and \$400.00 were also donated some other time
- \$6,000.00 were raised on the side during Hurricane Harvey

All contributions were from their own contractors and workers.

Although, about 38% to 45% of the Workforce that were present came from the Local Community. The Job Fairs that they had held were very active. Mr. Sanders, states they will keep track of local spending on the project itself, like what the contractors are spending on whether it is on labor or consumable materials from local sub-contractors. The number the contractors have come up with is \$6.5 million it doesn't see on tax pays, but affects the accountability (economy). Although, they are very pleased with the Local Community and Commissioners Court.

E-ON would like for Commissioners Court to know they are planning a third (3rd) and fourth (4th) Phase in Willacy County. Although, each of the phase might be two hundred (200) to two hundred, twenty (220) mega-watts. Some are over 17,000 to 18,000 acres, which they have already been leased. Mr. Garrett Kechen is the person in charge from their company to lease some more lands.

The third (3rd) phase will be on operation by December 31, 2019. The fourth (4th) phase will be by December 31, 2020, doubling the size of representation of Willacy County. They will be coming back shortly to Commissioners Court on the beginning for the abatement process.

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A new Reinvestment Zone will also be needed, which will be slightly east of Willamar and extended westward all the way to the County Border.

Agenda # 6
DISCUSSION SHERIFF'S OFFICE
WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE THE
COURT OF A CHANGE IN THE
COMMISSARY VENDOR FOR THE
WILLACY COUNTY JAIL

Major, Ernie Garcia with the Sheriff's Department updates to the Commissioners Court of a change in the Commissary Vendor for the Willacy County Jail. The vendor's name is Prodigy Solutions, Inc. Commissioner Gonzales and Chairman Guerra advises Major Garcia for District Attorney, Annette Hinojosa to review the agreement.

Agenda # 7
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ACCEPT RETIREMENT LETTER
FROM COUNTY CLERK TERRY
FLORES

Motion was made by Commissioner De Luna, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales for approval to accept retirement letter from County Clerk, Terry Flores to be effective January 31, 2018. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 8
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ALLOW CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2
TO APPLY FOR AND IF AWARDED,
TO ACCEPT GRANT THROUGH USDA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to allow Constable Precinct 2 to apply for and if awarded, to accept grant through USDA Rural Development for Law Enforcement Purposes. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 9
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ALLOW CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2
TO SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR
PARTICIPATION IN THE LAW
ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE
(1033 PROGRAM) ADMINISTERED
BY TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY, AND PARTICIPATE IN
MANDATORY TRAINING

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to allow Constable Precinct 2 to submit application for participation in the Law Enforcement Support Office (1033 program) administered by Texas Department of Public Safety and participate in mandatory training. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 10
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ALLOW CONSTABLE PRECINCT 2
TO APPLY FOR AND IF AWARDED,
TO ACCEPT JAG GRANT AWARDED
THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR. THIS WILL BE
CONTINUATION GRANT

Motion was made by Commissioner De Luna, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales for approval to allow Constable Precinct 2 to apply for and if awarded, to accept JAG Grant awarded through the Office of the Governor. This will be a continuation grant. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 11
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
THE FEMA APPROVED WILLACY
COUNTY, TEXAS MULTI-JURISDICTION
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De La Paz for approval of a Resolution to adopt the FEMA approved Willacy County, Texas Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 12
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
PRINT CHECK ON 1/26/18 TO
GM SERVICES (ELVIA ALVARADO)
INVOICE NUMBER 171 IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$2,380.00 FOR
PAINT JOB TO WALDON SWEEPER
AND PAY/RELEASE CHECK TO GM
SERVICES AFTER JOB HAS BEEN
COMPLETED

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to print the check and not to be release until the services are completed. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 13
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO APPLY
FOR AND IF AWARDED ACCEPT
GRANT FUNDS FROM THE BL18
BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM
GRANT THROUGH THE OFFICE
OF THE GOVERNOR FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2017-2018

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to authorize the District Attorney's Office to apply for and if awarded accept grant funds from the BL18 Border Security Program Grant through the Office of the Governor for fiscal year 2017-2018. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 14
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
ALLOW CONSTABLE PRECINCT
4 TO APPLY FOR AND IF AWARDED,
TO ACCEPT JAG GRANT AWARDED
THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to allow Constable Precinct 4 to apply for and if awarded, to accept JAG Grant awarded through the office. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 15
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
APPROVE BENJAMIN VERA AS
A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE AT
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval of Benjamin Vera as a full time employee at the District Attorney's Office. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 16
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
CONSIDER APPROVING SUBMITTING
FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRIMINAL
JUSTICE GRANT FROM STATE OF
TEXAS

Motion was made by Commissioner De La Paz, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales for approval for submitting for the Mental Health Criminal Justice Grant from State of Texas. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 17
DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO
EXTEND TEMPORARY HALT OF
ISSUING BUILDING PERMITS FOR
ADDITIONAL GAME ROOM
FACILITIES IN UNINCORPORATED
AREAS IN WILLACY COUNTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna for approval to extend the temporary halt of issuing commercial building permits to the next Commissioners Court on February 8, 2018. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Agenda # 18
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF CLAIMS

Motion was made by Commissioner De Luna, seconded by Commissioner Gonzales for approval of Claims, as presented. Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

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Agenda # 19
IN REGARDS TO APPROVAL
OF TRAVEL REQUEST

Motion was made by Commissioner Gonzales, seconded by Commissioner De Luna that the following travel requests be approved:

1. Extension Office, Matthew Rodriguez to San Antonio, Texas on February 7-9, 2018.
2. Extension Office, Matthew Rodriguez to San Antonio, Texas on February 18-20, 2018.
3. District Attorney's Office, Melissa Cruz travel reimbursement in the amount of \$103.64 to Kingsville, Texas on January 10, 2018. To be paid out of Fund 15.
4. Sheriff's Department, Chief Deputy, Joe Jimenez to Kerrville, Texas on June 12-15, 2018, with June 11th and June 16th as a travel day.
5. Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Larry G. Spence for reimbursement of meals in the amount of \$115.00 to the Gaylord Texan Resort on January 19-20, 2018, the Sheriff's Association of Texas paid for their stay.

Motion was put before the Court by the Chairman. Commissioners De Luna, De La Paz and Gonzales voting AYE. NAYS NONE. Motion was declared carried.

Commissioners Meeting continue with Addendum # 1.