



MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS COURT OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered that on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021 at 1:31pm, June 15 & 16 on or after 8:30am a special meeting of the Commissioners Court was called to order in the Commissioner Courtroom, located at the Midland County Courthouse, 500 North Loraine Street, Midland, Texas. The following members were present:

Terry Johnson, County Judge;  
Scott Ramsey, County Commissioner Precinct No. 1;  
Robin Donnelly, County Commissioner Precinct No. 2; -  
Luis D. Sanchez, County Commissioner Precinct No. 3;  
Randy Prude, County Commissioner Precinct No. 4.

Recorded by Alison Haley, County Clerk

**1. Receive presentations from Elected Officials and Department Heads regarding Midland County Budget.**

Jenny Hilton, County Judge Administrator went over the prepared budget handouts.  
Exhibits: 9-18

**Caroline Graves, Elections Administrator** presented her proposed budget. There is an increase in overtime due to the policy change that was approved. She would like to move one of her employees to a grade 12 step 1. Commissioner Sanchez stated a grade 11 step 3 would be a better idea. There was some discussion about the printing cost increase. Veronica Morales, Auditor described how the reimbursement funds are handled.

**Ruben Mata, Road and Bridge Director of Operations** presented his proposed budget. They would like to increase the chip sealing project from 20 miles to at least 40 miles. Andrew Avis, Public Works Director joined the conversation. Commissioner Sanchez asked about the increase for professional services. Mr. Avis passed out and discussed an explanation of the remainder of the CTIF funds and Capital Outlay funds. This was a lengthy discussion. They would like to purchase 2 new motor graders and a new dump truck. Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing Agent joined the conversation.  
Exhibits: 19

**Andrew Avis, Public Works Director** presented his proposed budget. The big increase is under salaries. They would like to move the Director position from under the Commissioners Court. They would like the office to have a Director, Office (Regulations) manager, and an office administrator with an inspector position to be created 6 months into the year. Mitzi Baker, Treasurer joined the conversation. Education and training and professional services was mentioned.

**Mike Atkins, IT Director** presented the proposed IT budget. Equipment maintenance and software maintenance were discussed. Capital items were discussed. Security was discussed. Wifi replacement at the Horseshoe was mentioned. Mr. Atkins is requesting a new position at a grade 17 step 1 to assist with the audio video equipment throughout the County.

*Take a break at 3:08pm.  
3:25pm back into regular session.*

**Scott Casbeer** presented the proposed budget for Warrant Services. Largest increase is in non-contract vehicle maintenance. They would like comp time to be the same as the Sheriff's Office.

**Douglas Brown, Constable Precinct 1** presented his proposed budget. Noncontract vehicle maintenance was discussed. The Court discussed the maximum mileage for a trade-in vehicle.

**Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing Agent** presented her proposed budget. Equipment and furnishing has increased due to the need for replacement computers.

**Larry Woodruff, Constable Precinct 3** presented his proposed budget. Pretty much stayed the same.

**Russell Malm, County Attorney** presented his proposed budget. He reduced his budget last year and has asked for the amount to be put back to the same as the previous year.

**Jenny Hilton, County Court Administrator** stated that the Commissioner Courts laptops are more than 5 years old.

**Jeanette Chambers, Pretrial Administrator** presented the Pretrial Bondings proposed budget. An increase for equipment rental. Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing agent joined the conversation. Capital Outlay request for \$150,000.00 for Justware Replacement. Justware is a case management system. She is working with Justin Stephens with IT.

*Recess at 3:53pm until tomorrow at 8:30am.  
June 15, 2021 8:00am back into regular session.*

The following members were present:

Terry Johnson, County Judge;  
Scott Ramsey, County Commissioner Precinct No. 1;  
Robin Donnelly, County Commissioner Precinct No. 2; -  
Luis D. Sanchez, County Commissioner Precinct No. 3;  
Randy Prude, County Commissioner Precinct No. 4.

**Sheriff Criner** presented his proposed budget. Asking for \$108,000.00 for software maintenance in the Civil and Warrants division. Jayden Perkins explained the Cellebrite software. Veronica Morales, Auditor stated the original purchase was paid from Seized funds. Benny Matlock, Chief Deputy addressed the Court. The discussion of an MOU with other agencies.

Lt. Rebecca Thompson discussed the need for kitchen equipment for the Detention Department. They will purchase some of the items before the new budget year. Equipment and Furnishings for the Records Division. Commissioner Sanchez asked the Sheriff to go through each department. They began with the Administration Department. They are asking for equipment for community service events. They discussed some of the past events that the Sheriff hosted. The ammunition line item was discussed. They have combined it all under one office for all SO departments. Publication line item for the Patrol Department was discussed. The firing range was discussed. Lt. Tommy Davis discussed the Civil and Warrants Department budget. They are requesting new positions.

**318<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge David Lindemood** presented his proposed budget. It is the same as last year.

**Sheriff Criner** continued to present his proposed budget. The SWAT department was discussed. Detention Department was discussed with Lt. Rebecca Thompson. Janitorial supplies have increased due to the increase in price for gloves. Commissioner Donnelly was very disappointed in the speculation that trainees are leaving for more funds. Sheriff Criner is requesting more pay for his officers that put their life on the line every day. They discussed the request for new employees for the Sheriff's Office. They have decided not to request the new transport investigator. No longer asking for the part time clerk to go to a full-time clerk in CID. There was a lengthy discussion about the benefits of a mental health facility. Sgt. Rebecca Thompson explained the need for the personnel they are requesting in the Detention center. Mitzi Baker, Treasurer joined the conversation. Commissioner Sanchez asked about the request for overtime funds. The Auditor and the Treasurer joined the conversation. There was a discussion about changing the way the overtime is paid. They discussed going to an 86/14 scale. The Treasurer stated the benefits to changing the pay down amount to 60 days from 120 days. Commissioner Donnelly presented with Sheriff Criner the idea to change the jail

sergeant to Sergeant pay. The suggestion is increasing everyone 2 grades. The Treasurer stated that each grade increase is 5%.

10:45am take a 10-minute break.

11:09am back into regular session.

**Eddie Melendez, Facilities Director** presented his proposed budget. There was a question about the increase in the building maintenance line item. Debbie Garza, Library Director explained the need for improvement project for the Centennial Library. Veronica Morales, Auditor joined the conversation. There was a discussion about a new book drop area being built. Then a new passport office was discussed. Commissioner Ramsey asked about the combining of the Janitorial services for the County. There was a discussion about the fuel for the generators being in the Emergency Management budget. They discussed the need to replace the concrete ramp at the Annex. The air handler unit at the Downtown Library. Mr. Melendez suggested to move Facilities to the 509 Loraine building and free up the 11<sup>th</sup> floor. County Judge stated the freed-up area could be used for the expansion of the Public Works department. They looked at the budget for the Horseshoe. Joe Kelley, President of Horseshoe Hospitality Services LLC answered the question about the dirt removal. Mr. Kelley stated that they would like to fill a position that was not filled last year due to the 15% cut request. The County funds 9 positions. Mr. Kelley stated that they are requesting a front-end loader and would be happy to accept a used one from Road and Bridge. They discussed panels. Mr. Melendez spoke to the need for a front-end loader. They discussed a storage building for the Cemetery.

**Judge Terry Luck, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1** presented his proposed budget. They are requesting another Death investigator bringing the total to 4. This would be one investigator for each precinct. Commissioner Sanchez wants to make sure the Death Investigators stay under the Justice of the Peace offices. The Court expressed a concern that this is going to grow into a separate department. Commissioner Donnelly stated that he is concerned about the need for the death investigators to be Law Enforcement Officers. Russell Malm, County Attorney joined the conversation. Gina Puckett-Leon Deputy addressed the Court.

**Debbie Garza, Library Director** presented the proposed Library budget. Ms. Garza started out with the organizational chart and the request to change the position titles. She is requesting an additional passport acceptance agent and a marketing coordinator (production specialist). They would like to reclassify the pay grade for some positions. Veronica Morales, Auditor told the Court the amount of revenue that has been accumulated by the passport office. Commissioner Sanchez asked about the number of electronic resources and would like to see if they are all used by the public. The building maintenance line was discussed and the amount for the book drop buildout.

Exhibit: 20-61

12:54pm take a break till 2:00pm

2:02pm back into regular session

**Alison Haley, County Clerk** presented her proposed budget. Asking for a deputy Clerk to be promoted to a bookkeeper. In Special fund account asking for part time position to go to a full-time position.

**Judge Ellen Griffith, Child Protective Court** presented her proposed budget. She is requesting less this budget year.

**Mitzi Baker, Treasurer** presented her proposed budget. There was an increase in equipment and furnishing for a laptop. Increase in education and training.

**Veronica Morales, Auditor** presented her proposed budget. Would like a step increase for her accounts payable Clerk. Membership and dues line item has increased.

**Justin Bunch, Emergency Management** presented the Emergency Management and Risk Managements proposed budget. Requesting pay adjustments for all staff members. Public outreach program for weather radios. Justin Bunch explained all the items in the equipment and furnishing line item, online services. The Capital Outlay EOC build was mentioned and a message board and trailer. Justin Bunch then went over the Risk Management budget. Justin Bunch stated that the Counties fleet program is not very good.

**Judge Elizabeth Rainey, Drug Court** presented her proposed budget. Commissioner Sanchez asked about the increase for UA testing. It has increased due to the numbers. He also asked about the increase for professional services. Judge Rainey stated that they have been able to hire a counselor. Requesting an increase in pay for her court coordinator. She is at a grade 16 step 2 and would like her coordinator to be a grade 16 step 4.

**Allen Bell, CSCD Director** presented the proposed budget for CSCD. Requesting money for an RO water system.

*3:10pm take a 10-minute break.*

*3:20pm back into regular session.*

**Judge Karen Lewis, Title IV-D Court** presented her proposed budget. They are asking for acrobat software.

**Robert Segura, Human Resources Director** presented the HR proposed budget. Recruiting and advertising was discussed. Postage machine issues were discussed. Professional services line item was discussed. Education and training increase was discussed.

**Laura Nodolf, District Attorney** presented the proposed budget for the DA's office. The District Attorney stated that weapons and ammunition was increased. Remove cell phone allowance. Exhibits:62-72

*Recess at 3:52pm.*

*June 16, 2021 8:33am back into regular session.*

The following members were present:

Terry Johnson, County Judge;  
Scott Ramsey, County Commissioner Precinct No. 1;  
Robin Donnelly, County Commissioner Precinct No. 2; -  
Luis D. Sanchez, County Commissioner Precinct No. 3;  
Randy Prude, County Commissioner Precinct No. 4. - arrived at 9:53am.

**Judge Jeff Robnett, 441<sup>st</sup> District Court** presented the proposed budget for the 142<sup>nd</sup> District Court for Judge David Rogers. Requesting an increase for Court Coordinator. There is an increase in the Indigent Defense line.

**Judge Elizabeth Leonard, 238<sup>th</sup> District Court** presented the proposed budget for the 238<sup>th</sup> District Court and the Mental Health Court. There is an increase in the Indigent Defense line. There is no change for the Mental Health Court budget.

**Judge Leah Robertson, 385<sup>th</sup> District Court** presented the proposed budget for the 385<sup>th</sup> District Court and the Veterans Court. Equipment and furnishing being requested for a new laptop. Veterans Court proposed budget was the same.

**Judge Kyle Peeler, CCL** presented his proposed budget. Request an increase for Court Coordinator from 16/2 to a 16/4. Increase under weapons and ammunition.

**Judge Marvin Moore, CCL#2** presented the proposed budget for the County Court at Law#2. Requesting an increase for Court Administrator from 16/4 to a 16/6. Equipment and furnishing for a laptop. Court appointed attorney fees will be going up due to the increase in cases.

**Judge Jeff Robnett, 441<sup>st</sup> District Court** presented the proposed budget for the 441<sup>st</sup> District Court. Indigent defense and transcript increase.

*8:52am go into executive session.*

*9:31am back into regular session.*

**Judge Jeff Robnett, 441<sup>st</sup> District Court** presented the big Combined Court budget. They will not be requesting the new roving coordinator or bailiff.

**Forest Hanna, Juvenile Probation Director** presented the proposed budget for Juvenile Probation and Detention. There was a discussion about the positions funded by the County. Mitzi Baker, Treasurer joined the conversation. The Juvenile Board opened up an account with funds they get from other Counties. They have a contract with Howard County. Commissioner Prude arrived at 9:53am.

**Jenny Hilton, County Court Judge Administrator** stated the Court needed to discuss Capital Projects. Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing Agent joined the conversation. The Mental Health building was discussed. 509 Loraine building and LEB, new building at the Cemetery and Fort Worth building. Commissioner Ramsey stated he would like to fix the bollards around the Courthouse. Eddie Melendez, Facilities Director joined the conversation.

*10:20am take a 10-minute break*

*10:32am back into regular session*

**Abigail Pritchard & Steve Paz** presented the proposed budget for the Extension Office. They have subscription for software and travel and education was discussed. They are now officially fully staffed. Steve Paz discussed some of the programs they will be attending. There has been an increase in interest in agriculture. They also discussed programs they are planning to put on.

**Judge David Cobos, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2** presented his proposed budget. Judge Cobos went through his budget line by line. They are two years behind on trials. Autopsy fees were mentioned. Truancy Court budget was discussed. Teen leadership budget was discussed. Local Truancy Prevention Fund was discussed. Veronica Morales, Auditor gave the court some balance amounts. Judge Cobos stated that GHS has collected a lot of old fines. Commissioner Prude asked for the Judges opinion on the idea for a new all-inclusive facility. The crime level and drug use in Midland is on the rise. Judge Cobos stated what an asset the Death Investigators have been for the County and the money that they are saving the County. The Death investigators are required to have death investigating experience. Judge Cobos went through the Death investigator budget line by line. Exhibits: 73

**Judge John Barton, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4** presented his proposed budget. Judge Barton made a statement about County Government and always looking forward. Thanked the Court for working together with his office. Judge Barton went over his budget line by line.

**Alex Archuleta, District Clerk** presented the proposed budget for the District Clerks office. Thanked the Court for allowing the use of the Horseshoe for Jury qualification. There is an increase in equipment and furnishings. Requesting plexiglass security barrier. They would like to replace 16 computers. Exhibits: 74-80

11:42am recess until 1:30pm

1:33pm back into regular session. Commissioner Donnelly arrived later. Commissioner Sanchez was absent for the rest of the meeting.

Judge Johnson made a statement that in reading the actual statute it says to be eligible for employment as a Death investigators a person must have experience or training in investigative procedures. He also stated that our JP's are not licensed peace officers and they were doing the job before they hired the Death investigators.

**Teresa Moore, Executive Director of Teen Court** presented the request for \$20,000.00 to help meet their operation budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. They have been functioning since 1996. Thanked the Court for their past support. Exhibits: 81

**Shelly Worrell, Chairman Child Welfare Board** presented the request for \$20,000.00 to help meet their operational budget. They have an average of 115 kids receiving care. Exhibits: 82

**Kasey Kelly, Midland County Fair** presented the request for \$50,000.00 to help meet their operational budget of \$318,150.00. Looking forward to a live event. Exhibits: 83

**Angie Valenzuela and Mike Biggs, Crime Stoppers** presented the request for \$25,000.00 to meet their operational budget. Commissioner Donnelly arrived. Exhibits: 84

**Chris Barnhill, CEO PermiaCare** presented the request for \$100,000.00 to meet their operational budget. They were established in 1969. They provide mental health services, intellectual and developmental disability services to name a few. Exhibits: 85

**Judge Billy Johnson, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3** presented his proposed budget. Not that much different. Thanked the Court for their continued support.

**Kristi Hennessy, President Humane Coalition** presented the request for \$120,000.00 for the voucher program to assist with spaying and neutering. They also find forever homes for healthy, adoptable dogs and cats. They provide a voucher program to assist with spaying and neutering. There was a discussion about limiting the number of feral cats. Kristy Engeldahl, Purchasing Agent spoke about her experience with the voucher program. Exhibits: 86

2:38pm take a break.

2:52pm back into regular session.

**Lori Perales, Rape Crisis Center** presented the request for \$20,000.00 to fund their Family Advocate program. Established in 1979. Exhibits: 87

**Karen Patterson, Fix West Texas** presented the request for \$84,000.00 for the spay and neuter voucher program. Started in January 2020. This is more about dogs and cats. It is a social service for the people in the community. Karen Patterson asked the Court to pursue the \$700,000.00 that was donated to the Humane Coalition in 2018 and has not been used. Exhibits: 88-89

**Tonya Eckert, Executive Director Casa de Amigos** presented the request for \$25,000.00 for their social services program. Established in 1964. Thanked the Court for their support. Exhibits: 90-91

**Patty Pisklak, Executive Director CASA of West Texas** presented the request for \$40,000.00 to meet their operational budget. They are advocates for youth. They are

an independent voice for the child. Served 188 children for Midland County last year. Thanked the Court for their support. Exhibits: 92

The Court began a conversation about the \$700,000.00 that was donated to the Humane Coalition and Veronica Morales, Auditor read allowed a response in an email from LuAnn Morgan that they plan to break ground this year. Mitzi Baker, Treasurer started the conversation about salaries and the paying down of overtime and comp hours. Veronica Morales, Auditor and Russell Malm, County Attorney joined the conversation. The Court discussed the decrease in revenue for the County. Veronica Morales stated there is an overall 11% decrease in property taxes. We will see a \$9 million decrease. Commissioner Ramsey said he would like to see numbers for elected official raises.

**Lori Wesley, Museum of the Southwest** presented the request for \$30,000.00 to support their general operating budget. Established in 1966. Lori Wesley gave a power point presentation explaining how great they are. Exhibits: 93

**Tina Gillihan, Director Basin Dream Center for Orphans** a supervised transitional and residential program for young men and women ages 17-24. Requested \$30,000.00 to meet their operational budget. Exhibits: 94-99

**Kristi Edwards, CEO Centers for Children and Families, Inc.** presented the request for \$60,000.00 to assist the Kids first program. Becka Aarons explained the program. Established in 1998. Exhibits: 100

Mitzi Baker, Treasurer reminded that we are on a 26 week pay period. It has presented a problem for the payment of insurance. She would like to pay and deduct those payments from 24 pay checks. This would take effect January 1, 2022. Commissioner Donnelly asked the Treasurer for the numbers for a one grade change and two grade change for the Sheriffs plan for his Sgts.

**2. Discuss Midland County Budget.**

**3. Conduct Executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to consult with County Attorney regarding pending and prospective litigation and other matters.**

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by: Ramsey  
For: Johnson, Ramsey,  
Donnelly, Prude

Second by: Donnelly  
Against:

Exhibit:  
Abstaining:

The meeting ended at 4:39pm

**A Meeting of the Commissioners Court will be held on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 9:00a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom, 500 North Loraine Street, Midland County Courthouse Commissioners Courtroom.**

**I, Alison Haley, County Clerk certify that this is an accurate accounting of the special proceedings of the Commissioners Court meeting on June 14-16 2021.**



*Alison Haley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Haley, County Clerk