

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting

August 31, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Mike Baughn called the REGULAR Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Thomas County Historical Courthouse on Wednesday, August 31, 2022; followed by the flag salute (Pledge of Allegiance) with Commissioner Brad Flipse and Commissioner Brian Luedke, County Clerk Keesa Mariman, Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock, Emergency Management Director David Becker, Maintenance Director Josh Faber, Treasurer Layn Bruggeman, Abigail Fernandez, Assistant EMS Director Alan David, EMS Director Scott Reese, and Colby Free Press reporter Sloane Enninga.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/REVISIONS:** Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to add **Bid Specs for Digital Sign, Employee Wage Base, EIG Grant for KBOE, Employee Picnic and Consideration of Township in ILOT on Windfarm;** the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**EMS-LUCAS DEVICE GRANT & EIG GRANT FOR KBOE:** EMS Director Scott Reese presented that a Greater NWKS Community Foundation grant was received in the amount of \$15,367.16. This equipment will be used for chest compressions when performing CPR activity. The cost is completely covered by the grant and Director Reese is asking Commission to go ahead and purchase the equipment. Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment with \$15,367.16 in grant dollars; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. Director Reese mentioned that there is hope to purchase a second of these devices later in the year.

Director Reese also provided a form that needed signed by Commission to approve an additional grant that is available for EMT classes. There are currently five participants in the EMT course. Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to authorize Director Reese to move forward and for Chairman Mike Baughn to sign the grant proposal; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**EMS INSULATION BID SHEET:** Maintenance Director Josh Faber presented a bid spec sheet for insulation in the EMS Building. Director Faber is seeking approval for the bid sheet to replace insulation at EMS as this has been an ongoing issue with the original roof leak. Now that the roof has been fixed, it is time to move forward with the insulation. Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve bid spec sheet for insulation in the EMS Building; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**BID SPECS FOR DIGITAL SIGN:** The Health Department provided a bid spec sheet for a digital sign in the parking lot of the Office Complex. Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve the Digital Sign Spec Sheet with adding the statement of disclosure that the board reserves the right to reject bids; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AUGUST PAYROLL:** Commissioner Brad Flipse made a motion to approve August Payroll in the amount of \$396,330.76; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**APPOVE AP:** Chairman Mike Baughn made a motion to approve the **Accounts Payable Payment Registers as follows: Courthouse General in the amount of \$180,262.43, Weed in the amount of \$7,986.95 and Road & Bridge in the amount of \$87,883.47 (as reviewed by both County Attorney Chris Rohr and Chairman Mike Baughn); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNTY BBQ:** It was discussed to have a County Employee BBQ at the Courthouse since there had not been an Employee Appreciation Picnic this summer. Commissioner Brian Luedke made a motion to approve Commission to pay for the meat, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEE WAGE BASE:** Commissioner Brian Luedke made a comment that a lot of business give two raises per year and one of them is a cost of living adjustment based on what the federal government comes out with in October. With that being said, he would like to see our starting salary and tie it to cost of living adjustment so that the new employee wage will include with cost of living adjustment each year. Commissioner Brian Luedke believes this is something the Commission needs to really think about in order to keep up with the private sector workforce.

**WINDFARM TEARING UP THE ROADS:** Chairman Mike Baughn explained that the roads are getting torn up by the wind farm company and encouraged his colleagues to come up with a formula to help with the taxes in townships that are affected. Commission will keep thinking about that.

**MISC:** There will a webinar Sept 8<sup>th</sup> on conservation easements. Sept 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> is an in-person workshop with KNRC. A letter was received from Jeff Horlacher stating he is embarrassed about complaints of our local elections and on the recount. Horlacher stated he is in support of the work County Clerk Keesa Mariman has done and thanked Commission for their service to the public. A notice from KDHE about a water pollution permit was received and will be posted for the public.

**RECESS:** The Commission stood at recess beginning at 9:46 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

**RNR HEARING:** Chairman Mike Baughn called to order the RNR Budget Hearing. The RNR is any tax rate that would regenerate the same tax as the previous year. Thomas County's RNR is 42.924 mills. The Budget they are proposing is 44.416 mills. The first part of this hearing is to call for any citizen who wishes to speak. Hearing none, Resolution 2022-13-Resolution of the Exceeding the RNR. No one present to give testimony. Chairman Mike Baughn called for a Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Brad Flipse-AYE, Commissioner Brian Luedke-AYE, and Chairman Baughn-AYE, no discussion. Resolution 2022-13 is officially adopted.

**BUDGET HEARING:** 2023 Budget, published on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 which is within the statutory notification. Proposed a tax rate of 46.454 mills which would be a raise from 44.409. Chairman Baughn explained that after some further work, it was determined that Commission could bring that down to 44.416 mills as opposed to the current as 44.409. It is a minimal mill increase considering high inflation. Chairman Mike Baughn made a motion to adopt the budget based on the proposed 44.416 mills; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brad Flipse, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously. The 2023 budget is officially adopted.

**ADJOURNMENT:** *With no further business Brad Flipse made a motion to adjourn at 10:11 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Chairman Brian Luedke, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:



Keesa Mariman  
Keesa Mariman, County Clerk

Dated: 9/30/2022

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THOMAS COUNTY

Mike Baughn  
Mike Baughn, Chairman

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Brad Flipse, Member

Brian Luedke  
Brian Luedke, Member