

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FANNIN**

**IN COMMISSIONERS COURT
FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS**

On this 20th day of May 2011 the Fannin County Commissioners Court met in a Special Meeting after public notice was posted on the 16th day of May 2011 at 10:07 a.m. with the following members being present:

Creta L. Carter II	County Judge
Gary Whitlock	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Stan Barker	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Dewayne Strickland	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Joe Strong	Commissioner, Precinct 4

The following business was transacted to-wit:

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Carter declared the time to be 10:02 a.m.

ITEM 1. INVOCATION

Mike Towery, Treasurer

ITEM 2. ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Judge Carter declared a quorum.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC FORUM

No Comments.

**ITEM 4. DISCUSSION REGARDING ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY WORKSHOP –
COUNTY JUDGE**

Stan Barker stated concern regarding operating costs. Dewayne Strickland stated he did not think the operating costs would be as high as projected. Judge Carter stated the cost of \$1.00 per city resident per city would be insufficient considering that not all cities are expected to participate.

Mr. Barker gave a projected cost of approximately \$80,000 to \$85,000 for one full time employee and one part-time plus a cost of approximately \$103 per dog with an estimate of 850 dogs per year based upon the history of the City of Leonard's shelter; additionally Leonard has restructured their own shelter and could not be expected to participate. Gary Whitlock stated that the cities of Savoy and Ector have both declined to participate. Judge Carter stated he did not anticipate more that \$15,000 in supplemental support on an annual basis.

Nancy Young asked if other counties have shelters. Judge Carter said his research showed little to no counties with shelters with the exception of the few with money from oil and gas royalties to subsidize the counties; typically the county seat cities provide shelters and not counties. Mr. Barker stated the county is not required by the State to provide a shelter and with budgets getting smaller and the concern over whether or not the county can maintain the services it provides currently is a concern.

Lt. James Woods, Chief Deputy of the Fannin County Sheriff's office stated that the county calls for assistance are usually livestock and consideration should be given to the care and sheltering of livestock and not just small animals further citing an incident in Honey Grove with 100 horses and an incident in Ector with about 50 horses.

Judge Carter restated his concern for where the money would come from. Mr. Barker stated all departments would be required to make cuts. Judge Carter stated the only other option would be to raise taxes which he stated he is not willing to do.

Mr. Strickland stated the County could start on a small scale and he was willing to increase taxes by 1/2 cent and received feedback from some citizens that they are willing to pay the tax increase to pay for a shelter.

Joe Strong stated that once the shelter was started there would be no going back.

Mr. Barker stated the petition presented only contained approximately 825 signatures from a population of 33,000 people which is not a sufficient representation with not know how many people would be against it.

Lt. Woods further stated a vehicle would be needed along with overtime for employees to cover daily shifts 7 days per week and off-hours calls.

Mr. Whitlock stated that people that he spoke with had asked whether or not the County could afford the shelter; and stated a long term commitment should be considered.

Judge Carter stated they would make a determination after the next meeting on the following Monday in which all of the public who wished to speak would be allowed to do so, so that all those who are concerned will have a voice.

ITEM 5. ADJOURN

Motion by: Commissioner Joe Strong
Second by: Commissioner Dewayne Strickland
Vote: 5-0 Passed

The above and foregoing represents true and correct minutes of the Fannin County Commissioner's Court meeting in Special Session the 20th day of May 2011.

(LGC 81.003)

ATTEST:



Tammy Biggar, Fannin County Clerk

