

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FANNIN**

**IN COMMISSIONERS COURT
FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS**

On this 19th day of August, 2014 the Fannin County Commissioners Court met in a Special Meeting after public notice was posted on the 15 day of August 2014 at 5:25 p.m. with the following members being present:

Creta L. Carter II	County Judge
Gary Whitlock	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Stan Barker	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Jerry Magness	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Dean Lackey	Commissioner, Precinct 4

The following business was transacted to-wit:

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Carter called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

ITEM 1. TO ATTEND PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE - IN COUNTY COURTROOM, FANNIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE BONHAM, TEXAS - REGARDING A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOTAL TAX REVENUES FROM PROPERTIES ON THE TAX ROLL IN THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR BY 2.058319 PERCENT (PERCENTAGE BY WHICH PROPOSED TAX RATE EXCEEDS LOWER OF ROLLBACK TAX RATE OR EFFECTIVE TAX CALCULATED UNDER CHAPTER 26, TAX CODE). YOUR INDIVIDUAL TAXES MAY INCREASE AT A GREATER OR LESSER RATE, OR EVEN DECREASE, DEPENDING ON THE CHANGE IN THE TAXABLE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY IN RELATION TO THE CHANGE IN TAXABLE VALUE OF ALL OTHER PROPERTY AND THE TAX RATE THAT IS ADOPTED.

Richard Glaser, Criminal District Attorney / County Attorney submitted a Support Staff Salary Comparison chart and stated request is made for 5 employees to receive a salary increase of 12.78% over what the Court has proposed; that increase of \$14,488.89 is requested to keep the staff at last year's rate when it was supplemented by the District Attorney's Discretionary Fund.

Mr. Glaser stated there has been an increase in violent crimes and several capital cases putting a strain on resources including costs for discovery and expert witnesses; if the County were to fund the \$14,488.89 to maintain the current staff with years of expertise in their field, the Discretionary Fund could be freed up to pay for other costs.

Commissioner Barker recommended Mr. Glaser use his Discretionary Fund to pay for the support staff rather than to fund the assistant district attorneys.

Judge Carter stated the County has more assistant district attorneys than most counties of comparable size, those attorneys are paid more than most counties of comparable size make; the Court has set the salaries in the past and Mr. Glaser did not accept that budgeted amount and made

the decision to use Discretionary Funds to compensate the attorneys, had that not occurred it would not be an issue now.

Commissioner Lackey stated the funding requested can either come from the District Attorney's budget or by raising taxes.

Brandon Caffee, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer stated \$120,000 is currently proposed for the department's budget; funding is requested for the office manager position either as a full time or part time position; all county grants will be impacted by a loss of reporting if the position is not filled.

Mr. Caffee stated page 3 of the Budget packet reflects [Juvenile] State dollars were used to reimburse the County General Fund for detention; in 2012 it was about \$12,000 and in 2013 it was \$13,000; every effort is made to see if any funds left over at the end of the fiscal year can be transferred to the County to assist when the County is over budget as it is this year.

Ms. Pat Ward stated the commissioners perform a proficient job in maintaining road and bridges in the county; it is recommended the Court look at what services or areas can be cut such as travel expense; the Sheriff's department does need more cars and trained individuals, the current salaries are not sufficient; the current coverage for the county is not sufficient.

Mr. Norman Lance stated law enforcement and prosecution should both be top priorities and no cut in funding for those departments is sought; the current tax rate is burdensome; it is recommended that some services be cut rather than raise taxes.

Commissioner Barker stated if other department's budgets are cut the result is going to be long lines; each department considers itself to be of a higher priority than the others; the question is where should cuts be made that are reasonable and fair. Commissioner Barker stated the Sheriff's Department has one of the largest budgets and still needs more positions filled.

Judge Carter stated the Court has held the increase in salaries as a priority when other counties are not able to provide that; services have not been cut and taxes have not been raised.


Ms. Ward stated the priorities should be on safety.

Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The above and foregoing represents true and correct minutes of the Fannin County Commissioner's Court meeting in Special Session the 19th day of August, 2014.

(LGC 81.003)

ATTEST:


Tammy Biggar
Fannin County Clerk

