

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF LYNN

On this, the 13th day of May, 2024, the Lynn County Commissioner's Court of Lynn County met in a Regular Called meeting at 9:30 a.m., at the regular meeting place thereof in the County Court Room in the Courthouse in Tahoka, Lynn County, Texas, with the following members of court, to wit:

**Mike Braddock
Matt Woodley
John Hawthorne
Don Blair
Larry Durham
Karen Strickland**

**County Judge
Commissioner, Precinct One
Commissioner, Precinct Two
Commissioner, Precinct Three
Commissioner, Precinct Four
County Clerk and Ex Officio
Clerk of the Court**

Commissioner's Woodley, Hawthorne, Blair, Durham and Judge Braddock were present, and the following member(s) absent: (none), constituting a quorum of the Court present, at which time the following business, among other proceedings, was had:

Judge Braddock started the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags, and County Commissioner John Hawthorne, lead the invocation.

2. Public Comments pertaining to agenda items

Judge Braddock gave the public an opportunity to discuss anything relating to agenda items.

- District Judge Reed Filley addressed the court about the sound system in the District Courtroom, and spoke about his projected budget for the year 2024-2025.
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3. Discuss and act upon Support Letter for Memory Care Unit for LCHD (Grant)

Judge Braddock spoke about the support letter. He stated this grant is 100% funded. The grant is for a 16 bed Memory Care Unit. The making of this Memory Care Unit will employ about 20 people. The building will be on the West Side of Lynnwood. The whole grant is worth 3 million dollars. LCHD is going to go up for the full 3 million dollars, but suspects the building of the Memory Care Unit is going to be about 2 million dollars. Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion with Commissioner Blair seconding the motion to accept the Letter of Support for the Memory Care Unit. All voted in favor, motion carried.

4. Discuss Groundwater Availability Certification for Platting 230.1-203.11

Judge Braddock just wanted to give this to the commissioners to look over and make a decision at a later date on adding this certification into the requirements for making a subdivision in Lynn County. Judge Braddock stated that the engineer will have to prove that there is water on that property. Judge Braddock stated that it will be for subdivisions. Judge also stated this is TCEQ requirement.

5. Discuss at act upon the purchase of Motorgrader for Pct. 2 and Pct. 3

Judge Braddock stated the purchase price with trade in, are as follows:

Precinct 2 - \$175,276.56

Precinct 3 - \$185,577.00

Commissioner Durham made the motion with Commissioner Woodley seconding the motion to accept the purchase of Precinct 2 & 3's Motorgraders. All voted in favor, motion carried.

6. Discuss and act upon requesting unclaimed Property Capital Credits for Lynn County

Judge Braddock stated we do this every year, that we don't know the amount that's coming, we just have to accept them, if we get any. There are certain things that money can be spent on. Judge Braddock also stated we hope to use if for a Literacy Program. Commissioner Blair made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding the motion to accept the unclaimed Property Capital Credits for Lynn County. All voted in favor, motion carried.

7. Consider and act upon Budget Amendments

County Treasurer, Amy Schuknecht, stated there were no budget amendments to approve.

8. Approve County Finance Report

County Treasurer, Amy Schuknecht, presented the Finance Report for March 2024. Commissioner Hawthorne made the motion with Commissioner Woodley seconding the motion to accept March 2024 Finance Report. All voted in favor, motion carried.

9. Approve Bonds

County Clerk, Karen Strickland, stated the following bonds were needing approval:

Courtney Odom, District Clerk

John Hawthorne, Commissioner for Precinct 2

Karen Strickland, County Clerk

Carson Lehmann, Deputy County Clerk

Sophia Aguayo, Chief Deputy District Clerk

Mandi Stone, Chief Deputy Justice of the Peace Precinct 1.

Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Blair seconding the motion to approve the bonds. All voted in favor, motion carried.

10. Sheriff's Office to give report

Sheriff Mason gave the jail count, as follows:

1 – Lubbock County

18 – Lynn County

1 - Floyd

21 – Total including the 1 for 1 with Lubbock County

11. Discuss and Act upon Take Home Vehicle Program for Deputy Justin Kulka

Sheriff Mason presented the Program to the court for Deputy Justin Kulka. Stated Deputy Kulka would have been there this morning but he is in a training all week. She stated he lives 7.52 miles from the county line and just bought this house so he will not be moving to the county for a while. He lives in a subdivision on 105th Street. Sheriff Mason is asking for the Commissioner to let Deputy Kulka take his

deputy vehicle back and forth to and from work. Sheriff also stated that she still has 2 in the county, herself and the K-9 Unit, Deputy Huse. Stated there is a couple of her deputies that are looking to move into the county but can not find housing with their salary that will be adequate to make a living in our county. Stated until prices go down, it will not happen for them to move within the county. Commissioner Durham made the motion with Commissioner Hawthorne seconding the motion to accept the Deputy Take Home Vehicle Program for Deputy Kulka. All voted in favor, motion carried.

12. Discuss and Act upon using CARMA Health Telepsychiatry for Lynn County Jail inmates in need for psychiatric services

Sheriff Mason and Jail Administrator, Rebeca McKibben, spoke to the court about CARMA. Sheriff mentioned the Jail was using Marion Williams for psychiatric telehealth, but Marion is not able to communicate by email, or fax due to the fact she is in an assisted living type situation. They could not get any order from Marion to treat these inmates, and the Jail has to have those orders to follow to get these inmates the help they need. Meaning, if it is ordered blood pressure is to be taken twice a day, there has to be an order from the doctor stating that. JA McKibben stated it was going to be just a little bit more than what the jail was paying for Marion. They paid Marion about \$300 a week and with CARMA they are going to be paying them \$310 a week. JA McKibben also stated they changed to the Fast Track Clinic after having a meeting with Melanie Richburg, CEO for LCHD. CARMA will send the orders to the Fast Track Clinic, and if medicine is being prescribed, then the doctors at the Fast Track will then send in the prescription to the pharmacy. Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Durham seconding the motion to accept the use of CARMA Health Telepsychiatry. All voted in favor, motion carried.

13. Approve and pay claims and payroll against the county

County Treasurer, Amy Schuknecht, presented the bills to the court. Commissioner Blair made the motion and Commissioner Hawthorne seconded the motion to approve and pay claims and payroll against the county. All voted in favor, motion carried.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Hawthorne with Commissioner Durham seconding that motion to enter into executive session under 551.074 at 10:17 AM. All voted in favor, motion carried.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Woodley and seconded by Commissioner Hawthorne to adjourn executive session and enter back into regular session at 11:24 am. All voted in favor, motion carried.

Addition 1. Discuss and receive updates on Lynn County Tax-Accessor's Office from Byron Norwood

Byron started off his discussion with thanking the court for giving him the opportunity to work at this office and for having faith in him to keep stuff going. He greatly appreciates the opportunity. Also, he thanked the Lubbock Tax Office for helping him and showing him how to do everything that needs to be done. The Lubbock County Tax Office has helped him catch up from November 2023 to March 2024. Byron also stated the office has been staying very busy.

14. Discuss and possible take action upon appointing an individual to fill the vacancy of the office of Lynn County Tax Assessor

Commissioner Durham made the motion with Commissioner Woodley seconding the motion to table the decision to fill the vacancy of the office of Lynn County Tax Assessor. All voted in favor, motion carried.

15. Discuss any other items pertaining to County Business for informational purposes only, no action may be taken on these items except to schedule them for future agenda

Lynn County Treasurer, Amy Schuknecht, presented a handout with the longevity the county pays to its employees after 3 years of service. She is wanting to update this due to the fact that it is not easy to figure it every year on each employee. She is just wanting to round up the amounts to just be more even numbers. For example, if they have been here 3 years, their monthly longevity pay is \$9, rounding it up to \$10 and then going up by \$5 every year, until you get to \$45. On the 11th year, it has always been \$55. From 11 years all the way until 24 years it increases by \$5. The change that will be made is from the 3rd year through the 10th year.

Amy also stated she was going to look into our Policy and Procedure Manual about quitting without giving your two weeks' notice or if you get terminated with cause, and you getting paid out your vacation pay. Right now, as it stands, regardless, you get your 80 hours vacation pay, no matter what. She wants to update it to where if you quit without two weeks' notice or are terminated with cause, you are done and don't get that vacation pay. She also stated this is the way most counties have it set up.

Courtney Odom, District Clerk, let the court know that the percentage with CJS is now at 85%.

Kaci Scott with the Extension Office gave an update on all that they have been doing this year, as follows:

73 animals show this year under Lynn County 4-H

43 made the sale and placed

Race trial is planned that last week of May

32 livestock judges

32 livestock judges compete at district, with the junior team placing the highest over all

They are getting ready for state round up, with 21 kids going

Brazos Beck from New Home got awarded a \$20,000 scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show

Lynn County is the 3rd largest enrollment for District 2

3 senior 4-H members that will represent Lynn County at Texas 4-H Congress

40 kids going to JR Leader Lab

Reserve Grand Senior Robotics Team in Austin

3rd Place Senior Robotics teams and Houston Stock Shows

2 Robotics Teams advance to the Regional Gear Competition. Where the Elementary team won.

Kids compete in food challenge at San Antonio and Houston Stock Shows

5 4-H kids lead School Tours at San Antonio

2 4-H members have been selected for Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors (Statewide leadership)

1 4-H member has been selected as Water Ambassador.

20 kids compete in speaking events

30 kids competed in Archery, waiting on results.

Kaci does twice a month monthly programs at the library

Kaci also is finishing up a Walk Across Texas program with 29 signed up and have walked 3,439.6 miles in the last 8 weeks.

16. Adjourn or recess meeting

Commissioner Woodley made the motion with Commissioner Hawthorne seconding the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 AM. All voted in favor, motion carried.