**The State of Texas §**

**§**

**County of Edwards §**

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on this 14th day of August, 2018, at 9:00 o’clock a.m. there came on and was held in the City of Rocksprings, Edwards County, Texas, at the Edwards County Courthouse therein, a Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas. The Agenda for this Regular Open Meeting of the Commissioners’ Court of Edwards County, Texas was posted on August 9, 2018 at 1:15 o’clock p.m.

Present were:

Honorable William Epperson, Commissioner of Precinct One

Honorable Lee Sweeten, Commissioner of Precinct Two

Honorable Matt Fry, Commissioner of Precinct Three

Honorable Andrew Barnebey, Commissioner of Precinct Four

Honorable Souli Asa Shanklin, County Judge

Honorable Olga Lydia Reyes, County and District Clerk was absent

1. **Determination of quorum; Call to Order.** The Open Meeting was called to order at 9:00 o’clock a.m. by Judge Shanklin. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Court was led in prayer by Kenneth Reed. The roll was then called by Katie Ashmore. All Commissioners were present.

2. **Open Forum.** There were no participants in the Open Forum.

3. **Staff Reports.** There were no questions on the Staff Reports.

4. **Public Hearing for Proposed Tax Rate for FY 2018-2019.** Mary Lee Wittenburg appeared to address the Court. She inquired as to the procedure for the County to determine the ag valuation. County Judge Shanklin stated that it came from the Appraisal District. Someone told her that there are two different boards and one is responsible for coming up with the actual calculations. Commissioner Sweeten stated that there is an Appraisal Board, and an Appraisal Review Board which hears the protests, and then there is the Ag Board that comes up and looks and reviews and sets up the Ag value; it is ranchers from the area who are appointed by nomination to the Appraisal Board. Any further questions should be directed to the Appraisal office.

5. **DELIBERATE, CONSIDER and/or TAKE ACTION ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

a. **Prior Minutes.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2018; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

b. **Burn Ban.** No action taken.

c. **Discuss and Act upon Preliminary Plat for Geronimo Creek Ranch Subdivision – Gene Lehmann, Commissioner Matt Fry.** Judge Shanklin made the motion to approve the Preliminary Plat for Geronimo Creek Ranch Subdivision; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

d. **Discuss and Act upon contract with Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center. – Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin stated that our Juvenile Justice contracts are state mandated; our juvenile probation office brings these to us and they are pre-approved by our District. Epperson is concerned about the higher rate in the Taylor County Center. Judge Shanklin explained that the County has to select the center with an open bed if the need arises to house a juvenile and that we have to have several options available to call in that event.Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the contract with the Taylor County Juvenile Justice Center; Commissioner Epperson seconded. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

e. **Discuss and Act upon contract with Tom Green County Juvenile Justice Center. – Judge Shanklin.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to approve the contract with the Tom Green County Juvenile Justice Center; Commissioner Epperson seconded. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

f. **Discuss and Act upon 10 Commandments Plaque. – Judge Shanklin.** Judge Shanklin made the motion to approve a 10 Commandments Plaque; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Epperson. He stated that he made a mistake. In 2014, Commissioner Epperson made a motion to approve the phrase “In God We Trust” being posted in the Courthouse as our motto. He remembered it as the 10 Commandments plaque. The Judge reports speaking to a man from the State who informed him that the Court could place the plaque in the courthouse. He ordered a 10 Commandments Plaque; it is $820.20. Since he made this mistake, if the Commissioners Court does not want to pay for this plaque, the Judge will personally pay for this plaque. Sweeten stated that as long as it could be done without legal repercussion, he has no problem with it and he would also actually like to see us obtain the slogan “In God We Trust.” Shanklin stated that it could be posted in the County Courtroom. Barnebey stated that he had called TAC about this issue and they informed him that the County could be subject to a federal lawsuit if we do this. Barnebey stated that he would oppose it because he believes in the separation of church and state. This is a slippery slope; there are other religions that you will need to pay attention to. Epperson stated he had no problem with this; this is where our laws come from. Judge Shanklin made the motion to approve the purchase of the 10 Commandments Plaque; Commissioner Epperson seconded the motion. The Court polled the commissioners for the vote:

Epperson: Aye

Sweeten: Aye

Shanklin: Aye

Barnebey: Against

g. **Consider and Act upon Resolution Accepting Grant Award in the amount of $67,900.00 from the Office of the Governor for the National Incident Based Reporting System. – Carl Esser.** Mr. Esser appeared to address the Court. This grant is to improve the existing technology and infrastructure used to report to the TXDPS through the Unified Crime Reporting System. Judge Shanklin made the motion to approve the NIBRS Grant award of $67,900.00; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

6. **New Business.** No new business was discussed.

7. **Set time and date for next meeting.** The next meeting will be set for August 23, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

8. **Pay bills.** Commissioner Sweeten made the motion to pay the bills; Commissioner Barnebey seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0.

9. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Barnebey made the motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sweeten seconded the motion. No Commissioner noting any opposition, the motion carried 5/0. This meeting of the Edwards County Commissioners Court adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

SOULI ASA SHANKLIN

Edwards County Judge

Attest:

OLGA LYDIA REYES

Edwards County and District Clerk