

COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021
10:00AM REGULAR SESSION

Commissioners met in regular session with all members present.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer said by Gene Dolle

Pledges said by Dustin Nicholson

2. Consider and take action on approval of:

A. The minutes of the previous meeting:

B. Payroll changes:

C. Payroll:

D. Budget amendments:

E. Accounts Payable:

Expense Approval Report:

F. Accept for recording: Auditor reports; Treasurer reports; Bonds; Oaths; Deputations; Certificates; State and County Taxes Summary; refund of overpayment or erroneous tax payments in excess of \$2500.00; NCIC Inmate Communications Addendum Agreement; and, applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit request.

Motion to approve and record items A-F made by Gene Dolle

Second by Jay W. Miller

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

Copies attached.

3. **Present a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to the Upshur County Historical Commission from the Texas Historical Commission for the 2020 year of service.**

Judge Tefteller presented the Distinguished Service Award, which is an award to recognize above average performance, to Gwen Jewett the president of the Upshur County Historical Commission. Ms. Jewett then recognized the board members who went above and beyond to make this award possible.

No action was needed.

4. **Discuss and take action to have a cleaning company clean and polish the floors to the Courthouse bi-weekly.**

Motion to allow the Judge to seek bids for a cleaning company to clean all the county buildings made by Mike Ashley

Second by Gene Dolle

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

5. **Discuss and take action to approve the purchase of a hydraulic tamper for Road & Bridge.**

Motion to table this item to a later time made by Mike Ashley

Second by Gene Dolle

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

6. **Discuss and take action to approve a TAC representative completing an assessment on all County facilities.**

Motion to ask TAC to come and do a free risk assessment of all county buildings made by Mike Ashley

Second by Gene Dolle

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

7. Discuss and take action to accept for recording the Wade Willoughby Subdivision plat.

Motion to accept for recording the Wade Willoughby Subdivision plat with the understanding to the developer that it doesn't include any roads put in at a later day and that the roads would be subject to meet the county specifications and the appropriate wait time to be included into the county inventory made by Mike Ashley

Second by Jay W. Miller

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

Copy attached.

8. Discuss and take action to approve the appointment of members to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant Planning Committee.

Motion to appoint the following 12 people as listed below to the ARP Grant Planning Committee made by Dustin Nicholson

Second by Gene Dolle

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

The list includes: Trace Hudgins, Ron Cook, Jimmy Coulter, Alesia Jones, Eddie Turner, Curtis Hollis, Bart Austin, John Ussery, Mark Skinner, Ashley Moore, Yolanda Barron and Jay W. Miller.

- 8-2. Discuss and take action to have the administration of the ARP Grant completed by the County or approve posting of a Request for Proposal for a consultant Grant Administrator.**

Motion to appoint the County Auditor's Office to act as the county's administrator of the ARP Grant and that the people of that office will be paid for the extra work they perform made by Dustin Nicholson

Second by Jay W. Miller

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

- 9. Hear a presentation from Union Pacific Railroad representatives concerning the construction of the new East Road at Big Sandy. Discuss and take necessary action.**

Motion to approve Union Pacific Railroads plan pursuant to the blue print that has been provided to give the county a new road of approximately 2 miles adjacent to the railroad track in the Big Sandy area made by Dustin Nicholson

Second by Mike Ashley

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

- 10. Hear a presentation from representatives of ETCOG on opportunities to seek grants to finance the expansion of broadband infrastructure and/or high speed internet service to under-served areas of Upshur County.**

The Court heard a presentation from David Cleveland from ETCOG. He said that if you talk to any community in Upshur County, especially the businesses, they will tell you the importance of Broadband and how critical it is to their business and the success of that business. ETCOG was able to submit a grant application for \$375,000 in Federal Funds, to the US Department of Commerce, with a \$161,000 in local matching funds. That means that each county in the region is each kicking in about \$3,500 over a three year period. With that they are able to go to each county and work with the business community, economic development corporations, city leaders and county leaders to identify the 3-5 most critical projects in need of broadband. Mr. Cleveland said what they are asking is that Commissioner's Court will appoint someone to work directly with them to pull together a virtual official meeting to get this process rolling for Upshur County.

No action was taken at this time.

- 11. Discuss and take action to approve entering into a written letter of intent to partner with EAST TEXAS TELEPHONE COOP (ETEX) to seek a grant or grants to expend broadband infrastructure and/or high speed internet service to under-served areas of Upshur County, pursuant to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).**

Motion to enter into a letter of commitment with ETEX to seek a grant to extend fiber optic cable in under-served areas of Upshur County made by Gene Dolle

Second by Mike Ashley

Gene Dolle, Dustin Nicholson, Mike Ashley, Jay W. Miller and Judge Tefteller voted for.

Motion approved.

Copy attached.

12. Discuss and take action on the FY 21-22 Proposed Budget.

No action taken at this time.

13. Adjourn.



Attest: Terri Ross, Upshur County Clerk

Attendance sheet placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Bills previously approved placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

Jury payroll placed into minutes for recording purposes only.

