

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION**

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., with the following members of the Court being present, to-wit:

Present: Todd Tefteller – County Judge, presiding
 Gene Dolle – Commissioner Pct. #1
 Dustin Nicholson – Commissioner Pct. #2
 Mike Ashley – Commissioner Pct. #3

Jay W. Miller, Commissioner Pct. #4, was absent.
Judge Todd Tefteller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer was led by Gene Dolle.

Pledges to the U.S. & Texas flags led by Dustin Nicholson.

2. Citizens Comments.

None

3. Consider and take action on approval of:

A. The minutes of previous meetings;

B. Payroll changes;

C. Payroll;

D. Budget amendments;

E. Accounts Payable;

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; Certificate of Liability Insurance for Becket Oil & Fuel, LP dba Eagle Fuel & Oil LP; KEEFE Commissary Network, LLC Commissary Services Agreement; and, applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit requests.

Motion by Dustin Nicholson with a second by Gene Dolle to approve items A-F.

Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

(SEE ATTACHED)

4. Hear from Tina Rosenbalm concerning 4-H and Ag Committee activities.

Tina Rosenbalm, Ag and Natural Resource Agent, introduced 3 of the youth members representing the 4H judging teams. Each youth spoke to the Court and informed them of what they are currently doing in regards to their involvement with the 4H. Tina Rosenbalm informed the Court that there are currently four clubs in our County and they are in the process of chartering another one at Lighthouse Academy. She said that they have 112 active 4H members with 23 adult volunteer leaders. She also introduced 2 members of the Ag Committee and gave a brief introduction as to what they do in collaboration with her department. They provide resources to the ranchers such as soil testing and pond testing. Tina Rosenbalm also discussed the programs and projects that she has done and is doing for Upshur County residents.

5. Discuss and take action to approve Maintenance department installing a drop-box/pickup box in the ground outside the Rock Building.

Julie York, Upshur County Ag Extension Agent, informed the Court of the need for this drop-box/pickup box to be installed at the Rock Building. Motion by Gene Dolle with a second by Dustin Nicholson to approve the Maintenance department to install a drop-box/pickup box in the ground outside the Rock Building. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

6. Discuss and take action to purchase new and matching chairs for the Commissioners Court.

Mike Ashley provided the Court with a picture and quote for chairs he had found at Sam's Club for \$369.00 each. Mike Ashley made a motion with a second by Gene Dolle to purchase 5 chairs for the Commissioners Court at \$369.00 each. Motion carried 3-1 with Dustin Nicholson voting against.

7. (No item #7 on Agenda)

8. Discuss and take action to approve a new IT position for the Sheriff's Office using funds from the SB22 State grant.

Sheriff Larry Webb spoke to the Court regarding the necessity of having an IT position in the Sheriff's Office and explained that the SB22 State grant could fund said position. Connie Williams, Upshur County Auditor, spoke in regards to the need for this position as well. Dustin Nicholson voiced his concerns with the Sheriff on the problem to fund this position should the State stop funding for this grant. Motion by Gene Dolle with a second by Mike Ashley to approve a new IT position for the Sheriff's Office using funds from the SB22 State grant. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 9. Discuss and take action to accept for recording the signed SRO contract with New Diana ISD, Union Grove ISD, Gilmer ISD, Ore City ISD, Union Hill ISD and Harmony ISD.**

Motion by Mike Ashley with a second by Gene Dolle to accept for recording the signed SRO (School Resource Officer) contract with New Diana ISD, Union Grove ISD, Gilmer ISD, Ore City ISD, Union Hill ISD and Harmony ISD. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 10. Discuss and take action to allocate \$1,000 from the Sheriff's Federal Forfeiture account for the purpose of investigative drug interdiction "buys".**

Motion by Gene Dolle with a second by Mike Ashley to allocate \$1,000.00 from the Sheriff's Federal Forfeiture account for the purpose of investigative drug interdiction "buys". Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 11. Discuss and take action to adopt the Upshur County Court Confidentiality Policy, as authorized by Tex. Govt Code sec. 21.013 and mandated by Rule 7.1 of the Texas Rules of Judicial Administration.**

Motion by Mike Ashley with a second by Dustin Nicholson to adopt the Upshur County Court Confidentiality Policy as presented and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 21.013 and mandated by Rule 7.1 of the Texas Rules of Judicial Administration. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 12. Discuss and take action to appoint two (2) members of the Board of Directors of the East Texas Housing Finance Corporation.**

No action.

- 13. Hear any updates and discuss and take necessary action concerning the Round XII Courthouse Grant Renovation and/or the Courthouse employee relocation during the renovation.**

Judge Leward LeFleur was present to address the Court regarding the progress of the renovation of the Upshur County Courthouse. He informed the Court that currently they are working on fall protection for each floor. They are taking the elevator out and moving the shaft a few inches. They are still looking at plaster finishes for approval and 70% of the demolition is finished. They are also working on a few lead paint issues. Projected target date is December 25, 2025.

- 14. The Court will/may go into CLOSED SESSION under Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 as indicated:**

- _____ Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney(s));
- A,B, Section 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property);
- A,B, Section 551.0725 (deliberation and discussion of contracts being negotiated);
- _____ Section 551.073 (deliberation about gifts and donations);
- _____ Section 551.074 and 551.0745 (personnel matters);
- _____ Section 551.076 (deliberation about security audits or security devices).

TO WIT:

- A. Consideration of the Round XII Project administration in reference to the Courthouse Renovation.**
- B. Consideration of Round XII Renovation funding and ARPA Grant requirements consistent therewith.**

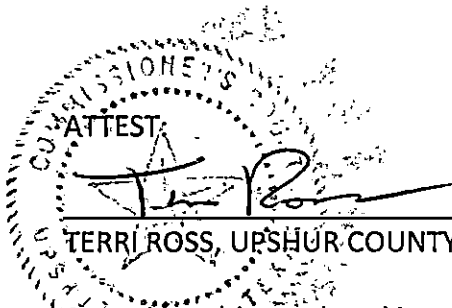
Court went into CLOSED SESSION at 10:55 a.m.

- 15. The Court will re-convene into open session and take any action necessary as a result of Executive Session.**

Court re-convened into OPEN SESSION at 11:32 a.m. No action to be had as a result of Executive Session.

- 16. Adjourn.**

Motion by Dustin Nicholson with a second by Gene Dolle to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.



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.