

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS**  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION**

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Friday, June 28, 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

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.

Matthew Patton was present to read the Declaration of Independence as a representative of the Local Bar Association.

**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 Gab's Tree Service; Certificate of Liability Insurance for Fikes Wholesale, Inc.; 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 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

(SEE ATTACHED)

- 4. 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 Tefteller informed the Court that the drilling for the HVAC should be complete in a couple of weeks. He further advised the Court that he had signed a renewal of the lease agreement for the building that housed JP#4, Indigent Health, Commissioners Nicholson and Miller, and Emergency Services Coordinators at \$1,500.00 a month until vacated (January of 2026).

- 5. Hear a report from the Upshur County Historical Commission. Discuss and take necessary action.**

Gwen Jewett gave a brief update regarding cemetery designation requests, historical marker dedication, and historical marker process. She informed the Court that she had met with Shirley Jackson and Thomas Crump at the Zion Hill/Lone Pine cemetery concerning the cemetery property lines. She requests to meet with the Commissioner to help to resolve that matter. She also announced that Lake Providence Church and Pine Grove want to dedicate their cemeteries. She also wants to follow up with a Commissioner on a slave cemetery at the Brumley area that was identified by Virginia Carroll. She announced that there were 7 dedicated cemeteries in Upshur County. She also spoke in regards to the area leading up to the Dixon Colored Orphanage which is overgrown. She has asked Mr. Eddie Turner to meet with Mr. Davidson to get something arranged. St. James Baptist Church has received their historical marker. She will get that dedication date to the Commissioners. She also informed the Court that she needs assistance in locating the old Bruce School records. She also advised that she is working with Mr. Steve Dean on a memorial park on Machen Lane. She also spoke in regards to the museum which works closely with the Historical Commission. They encourage members and have membership drives in order to sustain. She asked the Board to consider increasing their budget.

- 6. Discuss and take action to approve moving \$5,139.79 from Contingency and \$24,860.21 from Contingency Courthouse Renovation (for a total of \$30,000.00) to County Jail Inmate Medical.**

Chief Grunden spoke in regards to the number of inmates that have required hospitalization which has used up the inmate medical fund. Dustin Nicholson made a motion with a second by Gene Dolle to approve moving \$5,139.79 from Contingency and \$24,860.21 from Contingency Courthouse Renovation (for a total of \$30,000.00) to County Jail Inmate Medical Fund. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 7. Discuss and take action to publish notice of any proposed salary increases for elected officials and precinct officers.**

Motion by Gene Dolle with a second by Mike Ashley to publish notice of any proposed

salary increases for elected officials and precinct officers with the exception of those who received a raise under the SB22 funding. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 8. Discuss and take action to appoint the Upshur County Tax Assessor to calculate the No-New Revenue Tax rate (NNR) and Voter Approval Tax Rate (VAT) and to submit the tax calculation to the Upshur County Appraisal District and post on the Upshur County website, as required by Tax Code 26.04.**

Dustin Nicholson made a motion with a second by Gene Dolle to appoint the Upshur County Tax Assessor to calculate the No-New Revenue Tax rate (NNR) and Voter Approval Rate (VAT) and to submit the tax calculation to the Upshur County Appraisal District and post on the Upshur County website, as required by Tax Code 26.04. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 9. Discuss and take action on the FY25 Proposed Budget.**

Connie Williams presented the Court with items still yet to be determined:

Emergency Management had requested an additional \$2,000.00 for vehicle repair. After discussion, it was determined to keep his budget the same without an increase in that line item.

Library requested additional funding for moving a part time employee to full time as well as additional funding for library materials. Connie Williams announced that the Librarian does not need an additional employee at this time. She also advised that Court that she was requesting additional funding for library materials of \$5,000.00. Connie Williams informed the Court that there is currently \$45,000.00 in that line item. After discussion, it was determined to no increase in that line item.

Extension Office is requesting a part time employee plus additional funding in travel expense. Connie Williams announced that if the Court desired to fund this position, it would have to come out of the Courthouse Contingency fund. After discussion, it was determined to no increase in the Extension Office budget.

- 10. Hear from the Road & Bridge Administrator with an update of the County roads in each precinct.**

No report from the Road & Bridge Administrator.

- 11. 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.
- C. Discuss personnel appointments.

No need to go into closed session.

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

Motion by Mike Ashley with a second by Gene Dolle to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.



*T. Ross*

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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.