

**COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026
10:00 A.M. REGULAR SESSION**

A regular meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Upshur County, Texas was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., with the following members of the Court being present,
to-wit:

Present: Todd Tefteller – Upshur 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 Tefteller called the regular meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

1. Invocation and Pledges

Prayer was led by Commissioner Dolle.

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

2. Citizen comments. Judge Tefteller announced that he would allow those to speak on Agenda item 12) at the time it will be discussed.

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 report; Treasurer report; Bonds; Oaths; Deputations; Certificates; State and County Taxes Summary; refund of overpayment or erroneous tax payments in excess of \$2500.00; copy of invoice from Petty Flying Service Inc. for land improvements-pear cactus spraying 2026 on Upshur County School Land; copy of invoice from John's Heavy Equipment for land improvements-blading roads on Upshur County School Land; and, applications for use of Upshur County roads and rights-of way and permit requests.

Commissioner Nicholson made a motion with a second by Commissioner Dolle to approve items 3A-F. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.
(SEE ATTACHED)

10. Discuss and possibly take further action on departmental requests presented at the 05/28/2026

Budget Workshop or any subsequent additional requests for the FY27 Budget.

Auditor Connie Williams informed the Court that there were three additional requests to consider for the FY27 Budget. Billy Byrd, the District Judge elect, was present and requested the Court to consider an increase to the Court Coordinator position in the amount of \$2,200.00 which would increase the annual salary to \$53,000.00. The Court was in consensus to approve that increase.

Auditor Williams presented a request from the Constable 4 budget due to Constable Lagrone taking office. She asked the Court to consider an increase of \$350.00 for office supplies from \$350.00 to \$700.00; an increase of \$250.00 for uniforms and accessories from \$450.00 to \$700.00; an increase of \$1,530.00 for gasoline to \$4,000.00; an increase for vehicle repairs from \$1,800.00 to \$3,000.00. The Court was in consensus to approve these increases to the Constable 4 budget.

Auditor Williams presented a request from JP #1 Wyonne Manes for the County to fund a part-time person in that office. Commissioner Dolle asked that this request be tabled at this time.

- 9. Discuss and take action to set salaries of all elected County and Precinct Officers to reflect a \$1,200/year increase over current base salary level, and provide the 115th District Judge a \$5,200 annual County supplement.**

Commissioner Dolle made a motion with a second by Commissioner Ashley to set the salaries of all elected County and Precinct Officers to reflect a \$1,200/year increase over current base salary level, and provide the 115th District Judge a \$5,200 annual County supplement. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 7. Hear an update from Kevin Crutsinger concerning the maintenance department shop to be constructed at the Rock Building. Discuss and take necessary action.**

Kevin Crutsinger was present and informed the Court that he and the Auditor had looked at his budget and feel that he will be able to fund this building within his budget. Auditor Williams informed the Court that he could use \$12,000.00 from his existing budget for the concrete pad and then she will be able to move \$30,000.00 from the electricity budget to his facilities maintenance which will cover the cost of the building, at about \$15,300.00, the A/C unit, and the insulation. Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to allow Mr. Crutsinger to construct a maintenance department shop at the Rock Building and approve the transfer of the funds within his line items not to exceed \$42,000.000. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

- 11. Accept for recording the FY 2025 Upshur County Independent Audit and Single Audit for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025 prepared by Patillo, Brown and Hill.**

Auditor Williams presented the audit prepared by Patillo, Brown and Hill to the Court. She highlighted points of the audit and announced that the County received an unqualified opinion,

which is the best you can get. She also announced that the audit will be available online for review. Motion by Commissioner Dolle with a second by Commissioner Ashley to accept for recording the FY 2025 Upshur County Independent Audit and Single Audit for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025 prepared by Patillo, Brown and Hill. Commissioner Dolle praised Auditor Connie Williams and her staff for the excellent work that they do. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. Hear any updates and discuss and take necessary action concerning the Round XII Courthouse Grant Renovation.

Judge LeFleur was present to update the Court on the status of the Courthouse renovation. He announced that things are going well and that the windows are all in. Bo Akins, the site superintendent, was also present and announced that things were going great. Judge LeFleur informed the Court that we are still on cue for September.

5. Hear progress update on the creation of the proposed Northeast Texas Regional Groundwater Conservation District.

Brandon Dodd was present to update the Court regarding the creation of the proposed Northeast Texas Regional Groundwater Conservation District. He informed the Court that there were now 11 counties including Upshur County who are on board with joining the District. He announced that we should have a good reporting at where we are at by January. Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to authorize Judge Tefteller to sign the agreement to join the Northeast Texas Regional Groundwater Conservation District. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

6. Discuss and take action to enter into an agreement for a parking lot to be built and shared or to sell the County's portion of the grassy lot between the strip center (fronting on Hwy 271 at the NW corner of Cass St.) and the former bank parking lot.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Dolle to not enter into an agreement for a parking lot to be built and shared or to sell the County's portion of the grassy lot between the strip center (fronting on Hwy 271 at the NW corner of Cass St) and the former bank parking lot. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Miller against.

8. Discuss and take action to approve the Certification of Additional Revenue-Texas Book Festival Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Nicholson with a second by Commissioner Ashley to approve the Certification of Additional Revenue-Texas Book Festival Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

12. Consider complaints, concerns, and requests from citizens on the commercial use of Bamboo Road by Sanderson Farms Company, a/k/a Wayne-Sanderson Farms, a/k/a Covington Farms,

a/k/a Sanderson Farms LLC, a/k/a Wayne Farms LLC.

Judge Tefteller recognized those present to speak on behalf of this item. Those present were Jeremy Kilburn, Chief Legal Officer with Sanderson Farms; Chris Batte representing Sanderson Farms; Mr. Ho and Mr. Vo, landowners of the new farms; and several members of the Pleasant Grove Community including Jamie Osborn, Mandi Mischnick, and Bo Akins. Jamie Osborn voiced her concerns to the Court and to the representatives of Sanderson Farms regarding the construction of the chicken farms on Bamboo Road. Mandi Mischnick also voiced her concerns with the main problems being the truck traffic and the issues related thereto on Bamboo Road and bridge. She continued to say that she felt that Sanderson Farms should be held financially responsible for the damage to the road and bridge and not the property owners. She went on to say that she had asked the Court for the weight rating for the road and bridge. She suggested that a new County ordinance be put in place where these commercial operations are not allowed to be constructed if the infrastructure for them is not already in place. She indicated that she had tried to contact Sanderson Farms and never got a response. Bo Akins spoke in regards to his issues with the construction of this facility in the Pleasant Grove community. His main issues were the neglect of notification of the construction of the facility; water and contamination of Big Sandy Creek; and air quality and the decrease in property values. He asked the Court if they could request the operator to provide the plans, engineering specs, water and environmental studies, etc. Judge Tefteller announced that they could set a weight limit on the road but it would have to be approved by the area engineer of TXDOT. Phil Stegall, Road and Bridge Administrator, advised the Court that the width of Bamboo road varied from 20 feet in places to 10.6 feet. He went on to say that it was extremely too narrow for these trucks. He also informed the Court that the road has deep ditches on the side. He too has tried to contact Sanderson Farms. Jeremy Kilburn, Chief Legal Officer with Sanderson Farms introduced himself to the Court. He explained that this operation is going to be a breeder farm. He announced that there will be two farms. There will be 4 houses on each farm. He went on to say that after construction, there will be roughly 8 trucks a week on the road. He advised that they are going through the permitting process with the Texas Soil and Water Commission through their site approval process. He explained that they have entered into a 15 year contract with Mr. Ho and Mr. Vo to buy the eggs from the farm and take to a hatchery in Tyler to hatch. Judge Tefteller asked for a meeting with Sanderson Farms, residents of the community, Judge Tefteller, Commissioner Ashley, Brandon Dodd, and County Road and Bridge employees. Commissioner Nicholson asked for a contact number for the citizens to contact Sanderson Farms directly with questions and concerns. Mr. Kilburn provided his cell number to the Judge and the residents.

Ms. Karen Bartell was also present to present her concerns of the condition of her road where she lives on Foxtail Lane. Commissioner Nicholson addressed her concerns and informed her that he would look into this issue.

- 13. 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);

 C 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. Consider Departmental requests, if any, that include personnel assignments or any contracts under negotiation.**

The Court went into CLOSED SESSION at 11:30 a.m.

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

The Court re-convened into OPEN SESSION at 11:50 a.m.

Judge Tefteller announced that he has a consensus of the Court to approve an additional \$6,500.00 to the County Auditor budget for the upcoming budget for structural changes. No formal action taken.

- 15. Adjourn.**

Motion by Commissioner Ashley with a second by Commissioner Dolle to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Unanimous vote in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

 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.