

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS COURT
FORT BEND COUNTY

I, Laura Richard, duly elected County Clerk and Clerk of Court, Fort Bend County, Texas do hereby submit the Official Minutes of Commissioners Court held on the 19th day of June, 2019. (Special Mtg. – 6-19-2019)



LAURA RICHARD, COUNTY CLERK

Now, therefore, be it resolved upon the motion of Commissioner Meyers seconded by Commissioner Morales, duly put and carried, it is ordered to accept as presented for record the attached minutes approved on this the 25th day of June, 2019.



KP GEORGE, COUNTY JUDGE

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 19TH DAY of JUNE, 2019, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a special meeting with the following present:

KP GEORGE	COUNTY JUDGE
VINCENT MORALES	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
KEN R. DEMERCHANT	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
LAURA RICHARD	COUNTY CLERK

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

1. Call to Order.

Call to Order by Judge KP George at 10:00 a.m.

2. Receive information and discuss potential facilities bond election.

Members of the Facilities Committee include: Jamie Knight, Facilities Director, Commissioner Vincent Morales, Precinct 1 and Commissioner Ken DeMerchant, Precinct 4.

Commissioner Morales requested the County Auditor and Budget Officer disclose and state the financial status of the County.

Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor, stated what is being considered today will have a fiscal impact on the County. Mr. Sturdivant and Ms. Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investments, embarked on a campaign to determine how the court will be able to take care of the decisions with the current financial position and future financial position. He proposed the County begin funding the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability which is currently \$422,000,000. This is the Retiree Healthcare Liability, currently on the books. Mr. Sturdivant explained how the County has the ability to fund \$450,000,000 in debt over the next six years. He stated the Court can consider doing everything being presented today, without fiscal hardship. The County is not in crisis and is fiscally strong.

Item 2 continued - Potential Facilities Bond Election:

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investments, projected the trend of the net assessed values by using a three year moving average and looked at the new values and stated approximately 60% of the County's increase every year comes from new values. When calculating the effective Tax Rate and the Roll Back Rate (as of January 1, it will be called No New Revenue Rate and the Voter Approved Rate.) The Effective Tax Rate is whatever the rate is for No New Revenue and the Voter Approved Rate will be a rate, 3½ % over the Effective Tax Rate, plus the Tax Rate that is calculated for the debt. The debt is on top of the Effective Tax Rate. When the projects are moved from the Operating to the debt it will not be included in the 3½% revenue cap that will become effective January 1, 2020. This Fiscal year, what is currently being worked on, is at the 8%.

Commissioner Meyers stated the facilities are nice to have, but from his standpoint he needs roads, because Precinct 3 continues to lead the County in growth and may need a Mobility Bond.

Commissioner Morales would potentially like to see a \$200 million Mobility Bond next year.

Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor stated there are no courtrooms listed on this Bond Referendum list.

Commissioner Morales spoke on an important item, the Federal Disaster Recovery Match in the amount of \$100,000,000, which is needed to leverage federal dollars that will become available. This will be preapproval and will not be spent. It will be used only to leverage dollars that could create as much as \$500,000,000. The County would be able to use the funds for flood control mitigation projects and such things that come out of the overall Countywide study being done now and will be completed, hopefully, by the end of next year. Commissioner Morales stated, for the record, this money will not be spent; but will be leveraged and may become available to get projects done for flood mitigation and the County would have the ability to step up if the funds are available.

Jamie Knight, Facilities Management/Planning Director spoke on 2019 Bond Referendum Projects.

1. Juvenile Detention Expansion – 28,000 square feet renovation, 101,000 square feet of new space. Plan - 12 years – Cost - \$30,400,000.
2. Elections Administration Building – 25,000 square feet new space, 35% would house Office Administration and 65% warehouse. Cost - \$6,300,000.
3. Precinct 4 Annex – New space - Cost, not including land - \$7,200,000
4. EMS - New Medic 2 Station in Rosenberg and New Squad Station possibly near Brazos State Park, enclose a Pavilion for Emergency Response vehicles – Cost - \$3,200,000.
5. Multi-Purpose Facility – 102,000 square feet new space – Cost - \$27,300,000.
6. Fairground's Offices - New Central Entrance Point for the Fairgrounds – Cost - \$2,200,000.
7. **Precinct 2 – Six Potential Projects:** FBC Youth Sports Activity Center – Cost - \$16,000,000, South Post Oak Football Complex – Cost - \$3,000,000, Missouri City Gym – Cost - \$2,500,000, Kitty Hollow Expansion/Upgrades – Cost - \$2,000,000, Mission Bend Passive Park – Cost - \$1,000,000, Blue Ridge Park Renovation – Cost – \$1,000,000
8. Parks Repairs & Upgrades – Miscellaneous Park Improvements – Cost - \$8 million.
9. Pet Adoption Resource Center - Animal Services Campus – Improvements to the current facility for \$70,000 - \$95,000. The pet adoption resource center – new satellite adoption centers – Cost - \$1,000,000.
10. Nature Park (Prison Cemetery) Build out a park, use for Education and build a Memorial – Cost – 3,000,000.
11. Emergency Management Center – New Space - Cost between \$18,000,000 – \$20,000,000 and is being looked at for the next 20 – 40 years. The general space could be used for various purposes such as University of Houston to hold classes. The Fire Marshal and EOC Staff could be placed in the same building.

Commissioner Morales stated the Facilities Committee has an alternate plan to cut the proposed price for the EOC building in half and not have the Fire Marshal included in the building, due to the public going into the building to get permits on a daily basis. The EOC building will be a building that can hold up to any kind of disaster and could be a target for terrorism. A 23,000 square foot building is being proposed for the EOC building and would allow for several years of growth.

Commissioner Meyers indicated he will let his constituents know what the County is planning to do and will get feedback through a similar listening tour Judge George provided recently.

Recess: 12:01 p.m.

Reconvene: 1:00 p.m.

Judge George announced today is Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.

3. Demonstration and discussion on electronic voting process for Commissioners Court meetings.

Judge George commented that in the 21st century he believes there is technology that can help to increase the County's level of transparency in a digital and easily observable manner.

A demonstration and discussion on Electronic Voting Process for Commissioners Court meetings was presented by Donna Ospina, Court Services Manager and Richard Oberholz, Intent Digital on a product called VoteLynx. Donna showed the court the operating panel for the County Clerk. Ms. Ospina stated the current Agenda Management System will be used, which eliminates new training and there is no change in the way of publishing the Agenda. Data from the Agenda will be moved over into the VoteLynx site before the meeting begins. When an item is to be voted on, the County Clerk will open the option for voting and a court member will press a button to motion and another court member will second the vote. The County Clerk will press another button to open the vote, and wait until all have voted to close the vote. The County Clerk will move to the next item and the result can be announced. Currently, a few items are being worked on for the Public Comments Item. There is a timing component that would display on the screen for public view to show when time is up. When an item is pulled from Consent, it is moved down to Discussion and tabled and may take some time to manipulate. VoteLynx was chosen because it makes use of the software currently being used and automatically records the votes for the County Clerk's office. This product is also compatible with the video system currently being used. The product does not necessarily save a lot of time for the County Clerk's office to produce the minutes due to the current system in place that already saves time with a template. VoteLynx has an alternative option which can strictly display the vote and not integrate into the Agenda Management System.

4. Retiree Health Care Liability and other post employment benefits funding plan.

Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor spoke on the Retiree Health Care Liability and other post employment benefits funding plan. Mr. Sturdivant stated, currently, the County funded over the last four years almost \$1.3 million per year and is not placed in a Trust. In order to get aggressive about attacking the County's liability, he proposes setting a goal to establish a Trust in 2019 before the fiscal year is finished. The actuary will be looking at 2019 and prior years to determine the County's discount rate, which is at 4%. The rate may move up to 7 or 8%, depending on what the market will bear. This will help fund the future Retirement healthcare.

Wyatt Scott, Director of Risk Management, spoke about the OPEB. In 2010, there was a change in eligibility for Retirees to qualify for benefits at the subsidized rate moving the qualifications from eight service years to sixteen continuous years. This year, service years were changed to 20 continuous service years with 60 years of age. Mr. Scott spoke on ways to reduce Health Care Cost.

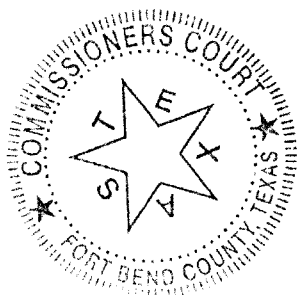
- York services the bulk of employees in this area and would like to expand services for satellite services.
- One third of the pharmaceutical cost is retiree group. Risk Management is engaging in discussions with the Texas Association of Counties, which has a Medicare Part E program and may relieve the self-funded plan of the liability.
- Free market plan, may expand their services nearby.
- The County will continue to promote wellness.

Ed Sturdivant will convey to the Rating Agency the Court is favorably looking at funding strategies. Mr. Sturdivant will come to the court with a formal action.

5. Adjournment.

The Commissioners Court Special Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Moved by Judge George, Seconded by Commissioner Meyers
to adjourn.



I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

Laura Richard

Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas