

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 12TH DAY of MARCH, 2020, 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 11:01 a.m.

2. Discuss and take all appropriate action on Health and Human Services Departmental Staffing and Resources.

Moved by Commissioner Prestage, Seconded by Commissioner DeMerchant
Duly put and unanimously carried (5-0), it is ordered to approve Health and Human Services Departmental Staffing and Resources and move \$400,000 from Contingency to the appropriate line items, with \$319,563.51 towards staffing and \$80,436.49 towards fees and services effective immediately.

Judge George	Yes
Commissioner Morales	Yes
Commissioner Prestage	Yes
Commissioner Meyers	Yes
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

Judge George made a brief statement about the current situation of the Coronavirus in Fort Bend County. This is a rapidly evolving situation and the Court is working with the Health and Human Services Director, Dr. Jacquelyn Minter and Office of Emergency Management Director, Mark Flathouse on the latest information and on the next step to take in Fort Bend County. The County is coordinating with all the jurisdictions to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents, which is the number one priority. Today, a Disaster Declaration was filed to ensure the County has access to all immediate resources needed. At this time, there are no reported cases of community spread of the virus. Fort Bend County is still at the same level with having six cases. As of last night, there is one Region case, not travel related, which helped to make this morning's decision to file the declaration. As Fort Bend County moves forward, the County is following the lead of neighboring Region Counties in taking necessary actions to ensure the safety of the residents.

Dr. Jacquelyn Minter, Director of HHS, stated events have developed rapidly since last week. Fort Bend County has the dubious distinction of being the first County, in the state of Texas, to have an active case of Coronavirus, COVID - 19. There is no evidence of having community spread in Fort Bend County. Currently, the Region is managing public panic by giving out information. The County is in a minimal situation with only six cases that are all travel related and is expected to have more cases. The ability to respond to this virus and taking care of 800,000 citizens depends on a robust Health and Human Services Administration. In the five weeks Dr. Minter has been with the County, she has made an assessment of all the departments within HHS. She believes the state of the Health Administration needs to be more robust. Dr. Minter has put together a recommendation for a 3 - 5 year plan. Her recommendation includes the addition of eight positions: Deputy Director for Operations/Chief of Staff, Health Communications Specialist, Epidemiologist Program Manager, Performance & Innovation Specialist, Administrative Assistant, Health Data Analyst, Public Health Emergency Planner and Administrative Person for Public Health Preparedness.

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investment prepared a budget for immediate staffing requests, which includes four full time positions, Epidemiologist Program Manager, Deputy Chief - Operations, Health Communications Specialist, Performance & Innovation Specialist and three temporary positions, Epidemiologist, Communications and Admin. Assistant.

Ed Sturdivant, County Auditor stated declaring an emergency and amending the budget would not be the best plan, due to Dr. Minter's sustainable request.

3. Adjournment.

Commissioners Court Special Meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2020.



I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas