

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ZAPATA**

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

Be it remembered, that on this the 28th day of December, A.D., 2015, the Commissioners Court of Zapata County, Texas convened in REGULAR SESSION of said Court, at the regular meeting place thereof, in the Courthouse of Zapata, Texas, with the following members of said Court, to-wit:

PRESENT:

Hon. Joseph Rathmell	County Judge
Jose Emilio Vela	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Olga M. Elizondo	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Eddie Martinez	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Norberto Garza	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan	County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court

VISITORS: Romeo Salinas, Triunfo Gonzalez, Jr., Monica Alanis, Roger Miller, Juan J. Meza, Nellie R. Treviño, Maria I. Gutierrez, Crystal Bustamante, Xavier Villarreal, Gloria M. Thatcher, Jessica L. Vela, and Joe Peña.

WHEREUPON, the following Orders and Proceedings were had by said Court, to-wit:

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

**ROLL CALL BY MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL-BONOAN, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
INVOCATION BY PASTOR ROGER MILLER, COMMISSIONERS COURT CHAPLAIN
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

COMMUNICATIONS

J. J. Meza, Fire Chief, informed the court that Javier Gonzalez issued a check of \$15,000 donation for the purchase of equipment for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Vela asked about AirEvac Services. Applications to enroll are available at the Fire Department and also at the personnel office with Nellie R. Treviño. Enrollment cost is \$65 per household.

Triunfo Gonzalez commented on the catastrophic fund. A line item was created to keep track, however, he suggested royalty funds be used instead of the catastrophic funds.

Crystal Bustamante addressed the court regarding her concern about the clinic. She stated that the 24/7 clinic, which may be viewed as a nightly reassurance for the privileged enough to have access to other medical services, might be the only access to healthcare for others whose circumstances may not allow them to visit the clinic before 8 p.m. The lack of a physician and/or nurse practitioner after 8pm in a community of approximately 14,000 is a troubling new reality. Yet, as a result of LMC's recent decision, 24/7 healthcare for our community is now considered an "option," or "unnecessary," even though it is highly necessary in the development of a healthy and self-sustaining community. This decision was negotiated by only one side. There was no dialogue among parties. This was an exercise in power, where the people directly affected by this decision never had a voice in the matter.

Miss Bustamante suggested formulating a plan of action for the future envisioning a future where self-sustaining quality healthcare is available to all residents, and then setting into motion policies and practices that make this goal a reality. It is about being unafraid to openly

and vehemently criticize systems of inequality, as they are happening, and then coordinating strategies of communal resistance.

She also asked how we can utilize state/federal resources to benefit the community, including recruitment programs funded by the State Office of Rural Health that can attract private practices to the community, and how can we coordinate strategies with non-profit organizations like the Texas Association of Rural Health Clinics and the Texas Rural Health Association to help create self-sustaining healthcare services that have the community's best interests in mind. Right now, Zapata does not belong to either organization.

She stated that she hopes the county will keep fighting for and defending the most vulnerable people in this community.

Commissioner Vela stated that we are members of the Methodist Health Care Alliance and in 2011 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved the State of Texas Medicaid Transformation Waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Said waiver needs to be extended or renewed, if it is not, then it will be a definite problem for the clinic.

Mr. Xavier Villarreal congratulated Miss Bustamante for her interest in the clinic matter. He stated that everything is about money and not about saving lives. He related a personal experience he had at the clinic and a misdiagnosis given by one of the doctors.

Commissioner Martinez stated that the clinic would be bringing accountability in the January meeting.

Commissioner Elizondo suggested approaching the other clinics about opening at night.

Miss Bustamante asked about recruiting funding. Commissioner Martinez responded that said funding comes from someone in the medical field like LMC.

Lupita Castro, Administrator of Indigent Care and Pauper Services, addressed the court and stated that 78% of applicants are eligible for coverage. They are covered for six months with submission of proper documentation.

ORDER APPROVING INVOICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve invoices as presented by Triunfo Gonzalez. Commissioner Vela pointed out that invoices on page 2 payable to Gardenia's Nursery were already paid; said invoices were voided. He also questioned reimbursement to Rosalinda Gonzalez for tamales and holiday gifts.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

ORDER APPROVING CHECKS ISSUED

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Vela, to approve checks issued as requested by Hon. Romeo Salinas, County Treasurer.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

ORDER APPOINTING A MEMBER OF ZAPATA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT TO SERVE AS BOARD MEMBER OF THE APPRAISAL BOARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Vela, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to appoint Commissioner Vela, to serve as board member of the Zapata County Appraisal Board as requested by Honorable Joseph Rathmell, County Judge.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

ORDER APPROVING USE OF THE ZAPATA COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE ZAPATA COUNTY FAIR JUNIOR ROYALTY PAGEANT PRACTICE

Motion was made by Commissioner Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Garza, to approve the use of the Zapata Community Center for the Zapata County Fair Junior Royalty Pageant practice on January 21, 2016, January 26, 2016, January, 28, 2016, February 2, 2016, dates are available, as requested by Laura Moncivais, Zapata County Fair Queens Committee.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

ORDER APPROVING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, to approve the following line item transfer:

	DEPARTMENT	LINE-ITEM	FUND	AMOUNT
FROM:	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-336	SUPPLIES/GENERAL	\$5,500.00
TO:	NON-DEPARTMENT	10-409-335	COMPUTER/HARDWARE	\$5,500.00

as requested by Triunfo Gonzalez, County Auditor.

The above motion, being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garza, seconded by Commissioner Martinez, and being put to a vote, was approved by the affirmative vote of all members of the Court.

There being no further business for disposition at this term, the Court adjourned.

JOSEPH RATHMELL, COUNTY JUDGE
OF ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:

MARY JAYNE VILLARREAL, COUNTY
CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF
THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF
ZAPATA COUNTY, TEXAS