COUNTY OF FREESTONE

Commissioners Court
Linda K. Grant, County Judge
Andy Bonner, Precinct No. 1
Will McSwane, Precinct No. 2
Lloyd Lane, Precinct No. 3
Clyde Ridge Jr., Precinct No. 4

County Courthouse
Commissioners Courtroom
118 E. Commerce, Rm. 203
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903/389-3335 Phone
903/389-3839 Fax

FREESTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

FILED FOR RECORD
At 1:41, o'clock P M
DEC 01 2023
RENEE REYNOLDS
Clerk County Court-Freestone County, Texas
By Jamie Myers

Notice of Open Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: December 6, 2023
LOCATION: 118 E. COMMERCE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM, FAIRFIELD, TEXAS
Pledge of Allegiance, Pledge to the Texas Flag
Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Posting in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Members of the Public who wish to speak shall each have 3 minutes to address the Court regarding matters not appearing on the agenda or on an item on the agenda.
The Commissioners Court may not deliberate or take action on any item that is not posted. Any discussion of the subject must be limited to providing specific factual information.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of November 15, 2023 regular meeting and November 16 & 22, 2023 special meetings.
2. Budget transfers and amendments.
3. Approve and pay bills.
4. Approve payroll.
5. Reports: Senior Services, Justices of the Peace, County Clerk, District Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff, Road Reports, Tax Assessor/Collector, Constables, Veterans Service Officer, Extension Agents, Health, Environmental, and OSSF, Miscellaneous Reports.
6. Burn Ban.
7. Special Road Use Agreements, Contracts, Permits and Bonds and consider Notifications of Telephone Construction.
8. Approve bonds and education certificates of County Officials and Employees.
9. [In accordance with the 30 day notice of meeting] hold public hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Amerada Solar, LLC relating to solar energy generation, storage and transmission equipment.
10. [In accordance with the 30 day notice of meeting] discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Amerada Solar, LLC.
11. McCreary Law Firm, presentation Robert Myers.
12. Resolution for Votes Cast for Board of Director Members of the Freestone Central Appraisal District.
13. Consider Order Prohibiting Certain Fireworks in Unincorporated Areas of Freestone County.
14. Accept a donation to Senior Center from Virginia Richards in the amount of $1,000.00 and a donation for $100 from Butch and Jackie Hansel in memory of Gladys Underwood.
15. Freestone County Soil and Water Conservation District #424 Contract for Services.
16. Consider appointment/reappointment of Health Authority.
17. Emergency Management Vehicle.
18. Take action for a sound system for the District Courtroom- Clyde Ridge.
19. Amendment to Windstream Agreement- Dane McBroom.
20. Agreement between Freestone County and Limestone County for Medical Services Provided to Freestone County Inmates.
21. Resolution for Freestone County Courthouse Preservation and Restoration.
22. Accept Regional Sexual Assault Response Team's Biennial Report.
23. Discuss/Consider awarding bids for the sale of a 2001 Dodge 1 Tone single cab flatbed diesel, Pct. 3.
24. Dispatch Building and generator.

Comments from Commissioners Court members.
Adjournment.
Posted on bulletin board second floor at the Courthouse and on Freestone County website on December 1, 2023.

COUNTY OF FREESTONE

Commissioners Court
Linda K. Grant, County Judge
Andy Bonner, Precinct No. 1
Will McSwane, Precinct No. 2
Lloyd Lane, Precinct No. 3
Clyde Ridge Jr., Precinct No. 4

County Courthouse
Commissioners Courtroom
118 E. Commerce, Rm 203
Fairfield, Texas 75840
903/389-3335 Phone
903/389-3839 Fax

FREESTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

DATE OF MEETING: DECEMBER 6, 2023
STREET LOCATION: 118 E. COMMERCE, COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
CITY LOCATION: FAIRFIELD, TEXAS

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM:

25. Purchase of laptops & mounts for Sheriff's vehicles.

Posted on bulletin board second floor at the Courthouse and on the Freestone County website on December 1, 2023.

FILED FOR RECORD
At 3, o'clock P M

DEC 0 1 2023

RENEE REYNOLDS
Clerk, County Court, Freestone County, Texas
By Renee Reynolds

FREESTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

VIDEO OF THIS MEETING MAY BE VIEWED AT:
http://www.co.freestone.tx.us/default.aspx?Freestone_County/Commissioners.Court.Recordings

A regular meeting of the Freestone County Commissioners Court was held on December 6, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in the Courtroom of the Freestone County Courthouse, 118 E. Commerce Street in Fairfield, Texas.

Linda Grant	**County Judge**	**Present**
Andy Bonner	**Commissioner, Precinct 1**	**Present**
Will McSwane	**Commissioner, Precinct 2**	**Present**
Lloyd Lane	**Commissioner, Precinct 3**	**Present**
Clyde Ridge	**Commissioner, Precinct 4**	**Present**

1. Approve minutes of November 15, 2023 regular meeting and November 16 & 22, 2023 special meeting.
Comm. Ridge MOVED to approve minutes of November 15, 2023 regular meeting and November 16 & 22, 2023 special meeting. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

2. Budget transfers and amendments.
NO ACTION

3. Approve and pay bills.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve and pay bills. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

4. Approve payroll.
Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve payroll. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

5. Reports: Senior Services, Justices of the Peace, County Clerk, District Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Sheriff, Road Reports, Tax Assessor/Collector, Constables, Veterans Service Officer, Extension Agents, Health, Environmental and OSSF, Miscellaneous Reports.
Comm. Bonner MOVED to accept reports for September from the Auditor and Treasurer based on the Auditor's Report, October from JP #2, IT Report dated December 6, 2023, November Report from Tax Office and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

6. Burn Ban.
NO ACTION

7. Special Road Use Agreements, Contracts, Permits and Bonds and consider Notifications of Telephone Construction.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve the release in full to Oncor Electric Delivery Company, LLC, for all damages that have occurred on County Road 691 and County Road 784 through October 31, 2023. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

8. Approve bonds and education certificates of County Officials and Employees.
Comm. McSwane MOVED to approve the Official Bond and Oath for Jeannie Keeney in the amount of $10,000.00 and the educational training for Will McSwane and Clyde Ridge for completing 7.25 hours each during the District-8 County Judges and Commissioners Conference. Dan Ralstin, Tax Assessor-Collector has completed 40 hours of training for the year of 2023. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.
ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

9. [In accordance with the 30-day notice of meeting] hold public hearing on Freestone County's intent to enter into a Tax Abatement Agreement with Amerada Solar, LLC relating to solar energy storage, generation, and transmission equipment.
Court entered into Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m.
No comment from the Public.
Court came out of Public Hearing at 9:40 a.m.

10. [In accordance with the 30-day notice of meeting] discussion and possible action on approval of Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Amerada Solar, LLC.

Comm. Bonner MOVED to approve the Tax Abatement Agreement between Freestone County, Texas and Amerada Solar, LLC. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

11. McCreary Law Firm, presentation Robert Myers.

Robert Myers with McCreary Law Firm discussed Property Tax Collection process for the past four years. He also discussed the collections of tax levy, collection status of delinquent taxes, the process of how to collect delinquent taxes, Law Suits involving collection of taxes, recovering properties and foreclosures. The Firm also collect on Fines and Fees for the County.

12. Resolution for Votes Cast for Board of Director Members of the Freestone Central Appraisal District.

Comm. Bonner MOVED to cast their votes in the election of the Board of Directors of the Freestone Central Appraisal District for the 2024-2025 term with Sid Fryer having 834 votes and Stanton Brown having 442 votes. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

13. Consider Order Prohibiting Certain Fireworks in Unincorporated Areas of Freestone County.

NO ACTION

14. Accept a donation to Senior Center from Virginia Richards in the amount of $1,000.00 and a donation for $100.00 from Butch and Jackie Hansel in memory of Gladys Underwood.

Comm. Ridge MOVED to accept a donation to the Senior Center from Virginia Richards in the amount of $1,000.00 and a donation for $100.00 from Butch and Jackie Hansel in memory of Gladys Underwood. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

15. Freestone County Soil and Water Conservation District #424 Contract for Services.

Comm. Lane MOVED to enter into Contract for Services with Freestone County Soil and Water Conservation District #424 for the sum of $2,000.00. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

16. Consider appointment/reappointment of Health Authority.

Comm. Bonner MOVED to reappoint Dr. Berger as the Health Authority for Freestone County. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

17. Emergency Management Vehicle.

Comm. Lane MOVED to find and negotiate to purchase a vehicle for the Emergency Management Coordinator under $50,000.00. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

18. Take action for a sound system for the District Courtroom-Clyde Ridge.

In regards to a new sound system for the District Courtroom, Brian Evans has spoken with the Historical Commission concerning this matter. He was informed that it could cost up to $300,000.00. Dane McBroom, IT feels that in his research he estimates the cost to be between $50,000.00 and $75,000.00. It is possible that if a grant is approved for restoration of the Courthouse that a portion of the grant can be allocated to a sound system for the District Courtroom. Further investigation will be needed for this project.

19. Amendment to Windstream Agreement.

Comm. Lane MOVED to enter into an amended agreement with Windstream to install the fiber cable into Dispatch. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

20. Agreement between Freestone County and Limestone County for Medical Services Provided to Freestone County Inmates.

Comm. Bonner MOVED to enter into a Contract for Medical Services provided to Freestone County Inmates with Limestone Medical Center. Comm. Lane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

21. Resolution for Freestone County Courthouse Preservation and Restoration.

Comm. Ridge MOVED to ***TABLE*** the Resolution for Freestone County Courthouse Preservation and Restoration. Comm. McSwane SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

22. Accept Regional Sexual Assault Response Team's Biennial Report.

Comm. Lane MOVED to accept the Regional Sexual Assault Response Team's Biennial Report. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

23. Discuss/Consider awarding bids for the sale of a 2001 Dodge 1-ton single cab flatbed diesel, Pct. 3.

Comm. Lane MOVED to accept the bid from Don Kent for $4,005.00 for the sale of a 2001 Dodge 1-ton single cab flatbed diesel truck. Comm. Ridge SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

24. Dispatch Building and Generator.

Leonard Smith states that the 100-foot Tower that will be located behind the new Dispatch building has been ordered. It will cost approximately $43,000.00. HOTCOG has put out a bid of $102,078.40 that they can spend on two consoles for the Dispatch Building. We will be responsible for any cost over that amount. The bid from Huffman Communications for two consoles is $140,382.00. To purchase a third console will cost $33,194.00. Everyone has agreed that there is a need for a third console. We have two quotes on the purchase of a diesel 60 KW generator. One quote is for $42,438.00, being the generator only and the other quote is $67,000.00 for generator and installation. Karen Craddock stated that two separate quotes are needed for the purchase of a generator. One quote for the generator and another quote for the installation.

25. Purchase of laptops & mounts for Sheriff's vehicles.

Comm. Lane MOVED to ***TABLE*** the purchase of laptops & mounts for Sheriff's vehicles. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

Comm. Lane MOVED to adjourn. Comm. Bonner SECONDED the motion.

ALL AYE ***MOTION CARRIED***

I, Renee Reynolds, County Clerk of Freestone County, Texas, do hereby certify that the above Commissioner Court Minutes are true and correct record of the proceedings from the Commissioners Court Meeting.

ATTEST:

Renee Reynolds, County Clerk