HAND DELIVERED

ROBERT P. SHARPE
131 County Road 933 • Teague, Texas 75860
[redacted] • 713-485-9006

August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
118 East Commerce Street
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court

Dear Judge Lane and Members of the Commissioners Court:

I respectfully request that the following item be placed on a future Commissioners Court agenda for discussion and possible action:

"Citizen request for free online public access to Commissioners Court minutes and for posting of missing financial reports on the County website."

I have prepared a short written letter on this subject and request the opportunity to present it and answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Sharpe

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(Submitted solely as a private citizen; not in any official party capacity)

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August 17, 2026

Honorable Lloyd L. Lane
Freestone County Judge
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Honorable Clyde Ridge
Freestone County Commissioner, Precinct 4
Freestone County Courthouse
Fairfield, Texas 75840

Members of the Freestone County Commissioners Court
Via Copy: Renee Gregory, County Clerk; Kelsey Atkinson, County Auditor; Mandy Chavers, County Treasurer

Dear Judge Lane, Commissioner Ridge, and Members of the Commissioners Court:

I write as a private citizen and taxpayer to request that Freestone County provide free online public access to Commissioners Court minutes and post missing financial reports on the County website.

Current situation. Freestone currently relies on a commercial document system that charges the public $1.00 per page for minutes. Other County documents (agendas and various reports) are available free. The 2025 Annual Financial / Auditor's Report and Treasurer's monthly reports from June 2024 forward have not been readily available on the website.

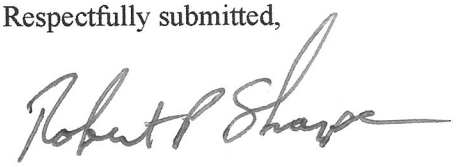
Peer practice. A sampling of surrounding and comparable East and Central Texas counties shows that free online minutes are already common. Navarro County provides free, date-listed, downloadable PDFs. Ellis County maintains a free public archive by date. Hays County posts monthly links and full-year PDF compilations. Hood, Galveston, Denton, Fort Bend, Grayson, and Travis Counties likewise make agendas and minutes freely available. Freestone does not need a new invention. The County Clerk already scans documents for archival purposes. The remaining step is posting those PDFs the same way peers do.

Simple additional step. Because the County already posts meeting videos on YouTube, a link to the approved written minutes can be placed in each video description.

Request. I ask the Court to direct the County Clerk and IT staff to review Navarro County's (or Ellis County's) method and report what is required for Freestone to offer comparable free access, and to ask the Auditor and Treasurer to post the missing financial reports in the same free format used for other public documents.

Thank you for your service and for considering this practical improvement.

Respectfully submitted,



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