JANUARY 12, 2026

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this 12TH of January A.D., 2026 at 9:00 A.M. came on to be had a Regular Meeting of the Commissioners' Court of Wise County, Texas held in the Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2 Courtroom (200 Rook Ramsey Drive, Decatur, TX) of said County in the town of Decatur with the following members present and presiding:

J.D. Clark	County Judge
John "Biff" Hayes	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Kevin Burns	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Danny Lambert	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Colby Shawn	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Blanca Tuma, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court when and where the following proceedings were had, to-wit:

All attachments referred to in the minutes of the Wise County Commissioners' Court are designated original or copy and are provided at the time of action by the Court unless otherwise indicated by provider.

County Judge Clark votes aye on all agenda items unless otherwise indicated.

1. Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All court members were present.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Community Forum:

    - County resident Carlton White Archer speaks against proposed new county roads on CR 2123 to CR 3672 which crosses Salt Creek; he cites high construction costs and dangerous intersection at CR 3672 and FM 199 in Agnes.

    - Clark provides context that the area in question is part of the ongoing update to the County Master Thoroughfare plan, 20 – 40 years down the line and not an immediate construction project. Clark provides a weblink – **wisecountytx.gov** - where inquirers can find additional information about the project under the heading **News Flash**.

    - Clark assures Mr. Archer that there will be opportunities for discussion and feedback during the Public Hearing scheduled for March 9th.

5. County Correspondence: None

6. Discussion for the purpose of coordination and cooperation for efficiency between precincts: None

7. Plats:

Final Plat:

1. Worthy Edition (*attachments*)
   Lots 1 & 2, Block 1
   Precinct 2 (KB)
   Chad Davis – Kiley Vian
   CR 1770

   (GAC waiver . 17.87 – acre tract subdivided into two 8-acre lots. Pre-existing home and water well on the one lot with a shop and additional existing water well on the other).

Re-plat:

1. Grand Harbor (*attachments*)
   Lot 38R-1
   Precinct 2 (KB)
   Kimley Horn
   (Along Lake Bridgeport near the intersection of Grand Harbor Blvd. and Grand Pointe Ct.)

   A drainage plan should be included with the submittal that contains a 5-foot contour intervals shown throughout the subdivision and descriptions of contributing drainage and discharge to and from the subdivision, as prepared by a licensed engineer in the State of Texas. It is our understanding that a variance is being requested for this item (Re: Section 3.07)

2. The Ranches at Rolling Hills (*attachments*)
   Lots 48R-2A & 48R-2B. Phase 2
   (Precinct 2) (KB)
   Corner of Rolling Bend & Rolling Ranch Road
   Chad Davis-Kiley Vian

   (Drainage study variance & GAC waiver – 9 acres lot subdivided into 2-acre & 7-acre lots with existing home and well on 2-acres and barn with water well on 7-acres.)

3. Kessel Run Edition (*attachments*)
   Lots 1R-1 & 1R-2. Block 1
   Precinct 3. (DL)
   PR 4638
   Chad Davis – Kiley Vian

   (Drainage study variance, private road/access easement variance. GAC waiver – 11 acre platted lot that subdivided into 2.69 acre lot to the original 11-acres kept the 9 acre lot with the home and well then sold 2.69 -acre lot to this brother-in-law, not realizing a re-plat was required. A home was built, water well permit obtained and the well drilled on the 2.69 acres. They find out a re-plat was required upon reaching out to Environmental Services for a septic system permit and 9-1-1 address.

Final Acceptance

1. Horizon Ranch, Construction Plan, and a letter of Credit Acceptance (*attachments*)
   Lots 1-15, Phase 1
   Precinct 1. (BH)
   Kimley Horn
   (E of Decatur near the intersection of CR 2320 and CR 2510)

2. Lucky Ridge Final Acceptance (*attachments*)
   Precinct 3. (DL)
   Kimley Horn
   (Intersection of Lucky Ridge Lane and CR 4698)
   **** **pulled out per Shawn** ****

   - **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the final acceptance of Lukcy Ridge at the intersection of Lucky Ridge Lane and CR 4698. Lambert ***abstains*** from voting. *Clark votes aye.***

   - **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the remaining subdivision plats and submittals with variances as requested.**

8. Consider and act on reappointments to the Wise County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Directors (*attachment*).

   - Clark re-appoints Tom Spencer, Christopher Steele, and Ken Murray to two-year terms ending January 2028.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the reappointments of Tom Spencer, Christopher Steele, and Ken Murray to the Wise County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Directors for a two-year term ending January 2028.**

9. Consider and act on board appointments for the Wise County Emergency Services District No. 4 (*attachment*).

- Clark explains that this brand new ESD comprises of Alvord, Chico, Crafton, and Sand Flat fire departments and includes the incorporated cities of Alvord and Chico.

- Clark reminds the Court that the Nominating Committee, who was tasked with screening, interviewing, and recommending five (5) qualified individuals to serve on the initial Board of Commissioners comprised of: County Judge J.D. **Clark**, Commissioner Kevin **Burns**, EMS Administrator Randall **Preuninger**, Alvord mayor Caleb **Caviness**, Chico Mayor Pro Tem Josh **McDaniel**, Alvord Fire Chielf Heather **Redder**, Chico Assistant Fire Chief Kim **Adams**, Crafton Fire Chief Craig **Cowley**, and Sand Flat Fire President John **Farris**.

- After starting with 24 applicants and interviewing the top 10, the Committee recommends one (1) resident from each fire districts and a member at-large from anywhere within the ESD.

- The Committee recommends the following people and staggered terms:
  - John **Yovonovich** (Alvord), **two-year term**, expires January 1, 2028
  - Jimmy **Counts** (Chico), **one-year term**, expires January 1, 2027
  - Tim **Raley** (Crafton), **two-year term**, expires January 1, 2028
  - Michelle **Craighead** (Sand Flat), **two-year term**, expires January 1, 2028
  - Monty **Nivens** (At-large), **one-year term**, expires January 1, 2027

- Redder thanks Clark, Burns, and Preuninger for putting together the team.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to appoint the following for our initial ESD Board of Commissioners: John Yovonovich to a two-year term, expiring January 1, 2028; Jimmy Counts to a one-year term, expiring January 1, 2027; Tim Raley to a two-year term, expiring January 1, 2028; Michelle Craighead to a two-year term, expiring January 1, 2028; and Monty Nivens to a one-year term, expiring January 1, 2027.**

10. Consider and discuss FY 2025/26 Wise County Investment Policy (*attachments*).

- Treasurer Katherine Hudson states there are no changes to the policy; just renewal.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to renew and adopt the FY 2025/26 Wise County Investment Policy with no changes.**

11. Consider appointing Sabra Srader, Elections Administrator, as the Early Voting Clerk for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.

    - Clark mentions that Chief Deputy Amanda Knox is in attendance on behalf of the Elections Office.

    - **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to appoint Sabra Srader as the Elections Administrator for the Early Voting Clerk for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.**

12. Consider the Decatur Conference Center, 2010 US 380, Decatur, Texas (Eaton Board Room, East Entrance), to serve as the main early voting polling place for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election (*attachments*).

    - Clark reminds everone that although voters may vote at any polling sites during early voting; one site must be designated at the main early voting location. This year, it is the Decatur Conference Center at the Eaton Board Room.

    - **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Decatur Conference Center, specifically the Eaton Board Room east entrance to serve as the main voting polling place for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.**

13. Consider dates/ times/ locations for the early voting period for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election (*attachments*).

    - Clark states the following early voting days and hours are decided by the State:

        - **First week**:
            - Tuesday, **Feb. 17th** - Friday, **Feb. 20th**, 8A – 5P
            - Saturday, **Feb. 21st**, 7A – 7P
            - Sunday, **Feb. 22nd**, 12P – 6P

        - **Second week:**
            - Monday, **Feb. 23rd** - Friday, **Feb. 27th**, 7A – 7P

    - Clark adds that the early voting locations are Decatur Conference Center (main location), Boyd Community Center, Alvord City Hall, and Bridgeport ISD Alternative Learning Center.

**** **Registered voters can vote at any of the locations during the early voting period.** ****

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the early voting dates, times, and locations for the Joint Primary Election as presented with early polling locations in Decatur Conference Center, Boyd Community Center, Alvord City Hall, and Bridgeport ISD Alternative Learning Center.**

14. Consider election day polling locations, and the consolidation or combining of certain voting precincts as allowed under the Election Code, for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election. Take necessary action (*attachments*).

    - The consolidated polling locations on Joint Primary Election Day, March 3, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. are designated as follows:

    - Knox states there are 20 election locations, but points out that Precincts **1, 2, and 22** will be at **Decatur City Hall,** while Precinct **18** will be at **Bridgeport ISD Alternative Learning Center.**

    - **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the election day polling locations and the consolidation or combinging of certain voting precincts as allowed under the Election code, for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.**

15. Consider authorizing Sabra Srader, Elections Administrator, to enter into a Joint Contract for Elections Services with the Wise County Democratic and Republican Party Chairs for conduct of the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.

    - The Republican and Democratic Party Chair agreed to a joint primary contract with the County.

    - **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court authorizing Sabra Srader to enter into a Joint Contract for Elections Services with the Wise County Democratic and Republican Party Chairs to conduct the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election.**

    - Clark instructs anyone who is interested in doing some election work to contact Knox or Dan Jackson.

16. Donations:

    - Treasurer Katherine Hudson shares with the Court that iCOPY donated the courthouse ceremony program printing costs by sending the County's payment back.

    - Hudson also shares that the animal shelter received donations in the forms of food, bowls, blankets, toys, treats from Judie Lindstrom, Malaina Adams,

Charles Birkenkamper, Judi Miller, Kristin Luniday, Kate Franklin, Rylyn Aiken, Bruce Outland, and Jan Cosgrove (*attachment*).

- Asset Control Manager Diana Allen mentions that Sheriff Cary Mellema donated an elliptical machine to the Sheriff's Office.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to accept the donation with the Court's thanks.**

17. Bids:

- Allen states that the Sheriff's Office would like to trade-in rifles and scopes for some new rifles.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the trade-in as reported.**

- Allen provides an updated quote for the Dispatch "remodel" furniture - $11,624.40, which is an addition to the previously approved amount.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the request.**

18. Consent Agenda Items:

    a. Minutes:

        - September 22, 2025, Public Hearing (County Clerk Archive Fund)

    b. Department Head Reports (items submitted in Dropbox but not provided for Court Record):

        - Asset Control Quarterly Audit Report (*attachment*)

        - Treasurer Katherine Hudson presents Treasurer's Report for October FY25 *(attachments)*.

        - County Auditor Ann McCuiston states there is a Federal mileage rate increase to $0.725/mile.

    c. Budget Amendments:

        - McCuiston states there are various amendments on line items 26-04, with grant adjustments.

d. Capital Expenditure:

- McCuiston states "just what is on walk to Court"
- Ink & Stitch invoices ($140 and $30) ***to be approved separately***

e. Claims & Payroll:

- McCuiston presents Auditor's Report for FY 2026 for the months of October – December (*attachments*).

f. Utility Permits/Right of Way:

- County Engineer Chad Davis presents permit for Bright Speed on CR 3212.

g. Interlocal Agreements/Contracts (original contracts and interlocal agreements are filed in the Asset Control Office by Diana Allen):

- Allen mentions some **verbal** items:
  - Closing out Municipal Services Bureau, ***previously approved as not being completed***
  - Removing Silver Line as a recommended vendor for auction purposes
  - EMS pipeline contract, ***pending additional documentation***
  - Lease of SO Deputy's private motorcycle ($1/day) for traffic enforcement, covered under TAC insurance while on duty.
  - Renew Helen Ferbee MOA, awating signatures

**** Chief Deputy Eric Debus explains that one of Sheriff's Mellema's goals is to bring down the number of fatalities in the County; the first step of this process is to move towards a traffic unit (including motorcycles) as part of traffic enforcement. The County has a reserve officer who has been through motor-operated training and has been certified through a 2-week school to operate. The officer is willing to utilize his personal motorcycle while working in a part-time capacity for the County. ****

- U.S. Postal Inspection Service MOU
- **Fully Executed** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)
  - Texas, State of Parks and Wildlife Boat Agent Agreement (*attachment*)
  - Fire Department – Decatur (*attachment*)

- **Renewals and Amendments** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)
    - Rapiscan SN; 7211701Renewal (*attachment*)
    - Flock Safety Renewal (***no** attachment*)

- ***As part of Item No. 18d, Capital Expenditure of Walk to Court,*** Clark revisits the two Ink & Stitch invoices ($140 and $30)

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve those two Ink & Stitch invoices, one in the amount of $140 and one for $30, one for signage and one for vinyl. Shawn *abstains.* Clark votes aye.**

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all other items under Item # 18, as presented.**

19. Joint Venture Project Agreements:

- Shawn states he has cost-sharing agreements with City of Paradise: Sunflower, Schoolhouse Road, Tulip Street, and Old Town Roads.

- Similarly, Hayes states he has agreements with City of Decatur: Country Club Road and Old Denton Highway extension to glass factory addition

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the joint venture project agreement for various roads, as presented with the City of Paradise and City of Decatur.**

20. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects: None

21. Right-of-Way Improvements:

- Lambert states he needs to get on CR 4877 for brush/tree removal at an unsafe intersection at a stop sign.

- Burns states he needs to get on Prescott Road (Haines' property) for tree removal & drainage improvement.

- **Motion made by Lambert, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Commissioners' requests to enter onto private property to clean or clear certain named County road right-of-way areas on CR 4877 and Haines' property on Preskitt Road for improved public safety**

and public transportation safety purposes as allowed under Transporation Code Chapter 251.

22. Burn Ban Update

- ***On behalf of Fire Marshal Jeff Doughty***, Clark states weather-based daily burn ban remains in effect under National Weather Service criteria.

23. County Committee Reports: None

24. **Executive Session** with Legal Counsel, for private consultation allowed under **Texas Government Code Sec. 551.071**: discussion and legal updates of pending litigation, and deliberate a personnel matter under **Texas Government Code Section 551.074.**

- **Motion made by Lambert, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to enter in to Executive Session 1t 9:39 AM.**

25. **Reconvenes from Executive Session at 11:00 AM**

- Clark announces the need to maintain operations in Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1 while voters select a new JP in the spring primary, pending a runoff in March or May.

- He explains that Under Texas Local Government Code § 27.055(b), the County Judge may appoint a temporary justice, for a finite period of time, when a precinct's JP office is vacant.

- Clark will issue and file an order appointing Commissioners Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg as temporary JP for Precinct No. 1, effective immediately and continuing until the new JP-elect is appointed after the spring primary.

- Aaberg's qualifications cited include service in Wise County since 2001, prior interim County Attorney duties, and current roles as Municipal Judge for Alvord and Chico.

- No formal action by Commissioners Court is required today; Clark requests the Clerk attest the order and enter into the record.

26. **Clark Clark announced** next Holiday as being **Monday, January 19, 2026 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day).**

27. **Clark announced next regular meeting date** as being **Monday, January 26, 2026.**

- Clark adds that following the regular meeting on Monday, February 9th, the County's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse annual luncheon will be held. Time and location to be announced.

- Clark announces that the February 23rd meeting will be canceled due to lack of quorum since several members of the Court are attending National Association of Counties (NACO) Legislative Conference.

- Freese & Nichols' presentation will be moved to the February 9th meeting in advance of the March 9th Public Hearing on the Steering Committee's plan.

- Clark recaps that future meetings are scheduled for February 9th and March 9th; special meetings may be called if emergent issues arise.

28. Clark adjourned the meeting at **11:07AM**, there being no further business to be had by the Court.

Minutes approved this 9th day of March, 2026, as printed.

J.D. Clark, County Judge, Wise County

John "Biff" Hayes, Commr. Pct. No. 1

Kevin Burns, Commr. Pct. No. 2

Danny Lambert, Commr. Pct. No. 3

Colby Shawn, Commr. Pct. No. 4

ATTEST:

Blanca Tuma, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners' Court, Wise County, Texas.

COMMISSIONERS COURT
COUNTY OF WISE, TX

The Wise County Commissioners' Court adopted revised Rules ***of Procedures, Conduct & Decorum at Meetings of Wise County Commissioners' Court*** on March 25, 2019.