APRIL 13, 2026

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this 13th day of April 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: None
5. County Correspondence:
    - Amy Wagner with Wise County AgriLife Extension Service along with Program Assistant Jaky Gonzalez and Christina Cantu with Cooks Children's Center for Community Health present healthy initiative which encourages kids to have a healthy lifestyle through exercise, healthy eating, and random acts of kindness. They will be working with Bridgeport ISD PreK where children will complete bingo cards for incentive items like family games and conversation starters.
    - Clark issues a proclamation declaring April 20th – 24th as Every Kid Healthy Week, encouraging citizens, families, and schools to participate.

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

7. Plats:

Final Plat

1. Hawkins Oak Estates. Final Plat (*attachments*)
   Lots 1-16. Block 1
   Precinct 2. (KB)
   Chad Davis-Kiley Vian
   CR 1346 & CR 1340
   (20' Road frontage variance for 5 lots with one lot being 19.79')

Re-Plat

1. Circle N Oaks Estates (*attachments*)
   Tract 1 1R
   Precinct 1. (BH)
   Chad Davis – Kiley Vian
   Julies Road
   (Variances – drainage study, building over building line, lot size 1.35 – Subdivision platted in 1985 with home and well established in 1986).

2. Wild Oak Hills ---------- ***TABLED*** ----------
   Lots 21R1 thru 21R3, Phase 2
   Precinct 4 (CS)
   Chad Davis – Kiley Vian
   Wild Oak Hill Drive
   (No variances)

- **Motion made by Hayes, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the two plats submitted, the final plat Hawkins Oak Estates with the variances requested and the replat Circle N Oaks Estates, with variances as requested.**

8. Consider and act on appointing Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Judge-Elect Bill Hogg to the unexpired JP1 term through December 31, 2026:

- Clark explains that he will swear-in Judge-Elect Bill Hogg at noon today to serve the unexpired JP1term, following Judge Jan Morrow's retirement, through the end of the year and will repeat the process again on January 1, 2027 for Hogg's full elected term.

- Clark expresses appreciation to Commissioners' Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg for serving as temporary justice to keep the office running until the primary election.

- Clark notes Aaberg's previous role as temporary County Attorney and his efforts to standardize fees across precincts.

- Aaberg expresses appreciation to the other justices.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to appoint Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1 Judge-Elect Bill Hogg to the unexpired JP1 term through December 31, 2026.**

- Mr. Hogg expresses gratitude for the voters' confidence and the assistance from County officials, including Aaberg, Justice of the Peace No. 2 Judge Kim Redman, and Justice of the Peace No. 4 Judge Willie Garrett.

9. Consider and act on Resolution Supporting Legislation to Improve County Road Infrastructure and Safety (*attachments*):

    - Clark explains that his friend County Judge Travis Ransom of Cass County championed a legislation to update the formula for the state's motor fuel's tax. The formula was established in 1923 and updated it in 1954 which allocated a flat $7.3 million to 254 Texas counties, which is less than two-tenths of 1% of the $3.8 billion collected in state motor fuels tax. Wise County currently receives $61,000 from this tax.

    - The proposed "penny for county roads" initiative would allocate 5% of the state motor fuels tax to counties, increasing the total to $190 million statewide.

    - For Wise County, this would mean an increase from $61,000 to $1.6 million annually for county roads.

    - The State Republican Executive Committee has passed a resolution of support for this initiative.

    - **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the resolution supporting legislation to improve county road infrastructure and safety.**

****** Clark jumps to Item No. 18, Receive and discuss completed outside audit for FY25. ******

18. Receive and discuss completed outside audit for FY25 (*attachments*)

- Clark reminds the Court that a third party, an external auditing firm conducts an audit the County annually for compliance and financial health by working with the Auditor's Office over a course of several months.

- Snow Garrett and Williams Certified Public Accountant Senior Audit Manager Rick Kline appeared before the Court to present the annual outside audit for FY 2025.

- Page 1: Independent Auditor's Report for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 and statement showing **unmodified opinion**, which is ***the highest assurance the firm can give***.

- Page 10: Kline reviewed the management's discussion and analysis under Capital Assets and Debt Administration and noted the total **Capital Assets** ***increased to $81 million, an increase of $13.2 million*** due to the courthouse renovations, several equipment purchases, and jail safety equipment. Kline noted the **total debt** ***decreased by $8.3 million to $36.4 million***, primarily due to regular scheduled payments and a decrease in net pension liability.

- Page 15: Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds: Kline noted the Total **Assets** of ***$59 million***; Total **Liabilities**: ***$10.6 million***; **Deferred Inflows** is ***$16.4 million***. **Fund Balances**: ***$31.9 million***.

- Page 17: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance: Total **Revenues**: ***$74.8 million***; Total **Expenditures**: ***$80.6 million*** with **Public Safety** accounting for the largest portion at ***$27 million*** (34% of total expenditures); **Net change** in fund balance is ***$5.4 million*** decrease, primarily due to capital projects fund spending.

- Clark flags Page 8: Revenues by Source: ***56%*** from property taxes, ***14%*** charges for services, ***11%*** sales and other taxes, ***12%*** grants and contributions, ***2%*** royalties and leases, and ***5%*** from other. Public safety represented 44% of total expenses which is an increase of ***$3.3 million*** from the previous year.

- Page 53: The lateral roads fund, broken down by precincts, had **total assets** of ***$5.6 million***, **total liabilities** of ***$682,000,*** **deferred inflows** of ***$241,000***, and an **ending fund balance** of ***$4.7 million***.

- Lateral roads fund **revenues and expenditures** were both approximately ***$8.7 million***, resulting in a net change of ***$22,000***.

- Page 76: Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs: Kline notes that there was no material weakness(es) identified, no significant deficiencies that are not considered to be material weaknesses, and no noncompliance material noted with the financial statements, all the grant funding, weather state or federal.

- Kline thanks the County Auditor's Office for assisting in the outside audit process and Clark thanks Kline in return.

- Clark adds that Kroll Bond Rating Agency (KBRA) gave Weatherford College in Wise County an "A" rating based on the County's finances.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to accept the outside audit as prepared and presented by Snow Garrett Williams.**

10. Donations (*attachments*):

- Hudson states the Wise County Animal Shelter received $430 cash, food, and medical supplies from several individuals: Lauren **Morton**, Sandra **Dixon**, Ronald **Ellis**, Jim **Seals**, Linda **Raymon**, Summer **Wheeler**, and Bruce **Outland**.

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

11. Bids:

- Emergency Management Services Chief Randall Preuninger requests $325k out of capital funds to order another ambulance (a remount).

- The Alvord unit ordered in January of 2025 has an estimated delivery timeline of May 20th of this year.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the capital request to order another ambulance for Wise County EMS.**

- Rex Hoskins, Special Services Captain with the Sheriff's Office requests to purchase a vehicle for the traffic division to replace a 2007 car with 170,000 miles.

- The replacement vehicle, a Ford Mustang, would cost $74,788 including equipment. Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Eric Debus explains that the decision to purchase a Mustang was justified by its speed for traffic enforcement, reduced

repair costs compared to other models (like a Dodge Charger) and the Mustang's ability to maneuver quickly on County roads. Debus adds that many agencies have adopted Mustangs for traffic enforcement.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the traffic enforcement vehicle request from the Sheriff's Office out of SB22 Fund.**

- The new vehicle will be for Sergeant Riggs, and the additional traffic deputy will initially use a Tahoe. The long-term goal is to standardize traffic units.

- Burns requests to purchase a replacement diesel truck in addition to last Court's request. The truck is 20+ year old gas and he is willing to trade it with a vehicle with high mileage or with a welding truck.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the purchase of a replacement diesel truck.**

12. Consent Agenda Items:

- Clark states two (2) invoices from Ink & Stitch for signage and banners ($225 and $150) were considered separately.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve paying Ink & Stick $225 for the signage and $150 for the banners. Shawn *abstains* from voting. Clark votes aye.**

a. Minutes:
   - March 9th, Regular Meeting
   - March 23rd, Regular Meeting

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

   - County Treasurer Katherine Hudson presents monthly report for the month **ended February 28, 2026** (*attachments*).

   - County Asset Control Manager Diana Allen presents Asset Control Quarterly Audit Report (*attachments*).

   - Auditor Ann McCuiston presents Auditor's Report for the month of March FY 2026 (*attachments*).

c. Budget Amendments:

- McCuiston states there are various amendments on line items **26-09** and mentions the Constables Budget Restructure as well.

d. Capital Expenditure:

- ***On behalf of the Facilities Department,*** Clark requests to purchase a new zero-turn mower from Wise Honda for $8,999 to be purchased from buildings and grounds capital funds.

e. Claims & Payroll:

- McCuiston presents Claims and Payroll (*attachments*)

f. Utility Permits/Right of Way:

- Davis mentions a couple of requests from Atmos:
  1.) CR 1475 (*attachments*)
  2.) CR 3355 on Schoolhouse Road (*attachments*)

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

- ICE 287 (g) Task Force Model M.O.A. (*no attachment*)

  ******Clark explains that this agreement unlocks funding opportunities; he authorizes staff to pursue State grant fundings, $80k is initially available******

- RDO Data Agreement for Precinct 3 (*attachment*)

- R&B Lease Mobile Home Agreement (*attachment*)

- Wise County Interlocal Agreement Wilson Park Addition (*no attachment*)

- Comdata Master Agreement (*attachment*)

- BoostLingo – ***pending Aaberg's review, per Allen***

- **Renewals and Amendments** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)

  - Defense Logistic Agency LESO 1033 Program (*no attachment*)

- Decatur Conference Center Disaster Relief Rental Agreement (*no attachment*)

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all other items introduced under Item # 12, as presented.**

13. Joint Venture Project Agreements:

- Shawn requests an interlocal project agreement with Paradise ISD to pave two new public roadways. The County will provide labor and equipment to lay asphalt, while the school will purchase the materials.

- **Motion made by Shawn seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to enter into project agreement with Paradise ISD for the public purposes as stated.**

14. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects:

- Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Cody Powell states as of last week, there have been 42 installations and inspections of the Safe Room program, with residents receiving reimbursements within five weeks. This is significantly faster than FEMA's estimated six weeks for application processing.

- The first round of FEMA reimbursement to the County is in its final step and is expected next week.

15. Right-of-Way Improvements: None

16. Burn Ban: None

17. County Committee Reports:

- Burns recommends naming Wacy Beck of Environmental Services as a steering committee member of the Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors, serving as the County representative.

- **Motion made by Burns seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the appointment of Wacy Beck as a steering committee member of the Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors.**

****** Item No. 18, Receive and discuss completed outside audit for FY25 was considered out of order, after Item No. 9. ******

19. **Clark announced next regular meeting date** as being **Monday, April 27, 2026.**

20. Clark adjourned the meeting at **9:50 AM**, there being no further business to be had by the Court.

****** Clark extends an invitation to anyone who would like to attend Mr. Hogg's swearing-in at noon at the Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 1 Courtroom. ******

Minutes approved this 11th day of May, 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

Absent
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.