JULY 13, 2026

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this 13th day of July 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 Wise County Courthouse – 3rd Floor Courtroom, 101 North Trinity, 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: None

   *** ***Burns mentions he has a constituent who is requesting to lower the speed limit on CR 1450 from 40 mph to 30 mph due to the lack of right-of-way.*** ***

   *** ***Clark assigns Commissioners' Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg to make a note of the request for the next Court and tasks County Engineer Chad Davis to discuss the issue with Burns.*** ***

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

7. Plats:

Final Plat

1. Allison Ridge Phase 1, Final plat/Maintenance Period Acceptance
   Lots 1-3, Block A
   Precinct 1 (BH)
   Kimley Horn
   (Intersection of CR 2514 and CR 2513)

2. Bennett Layne Addition, Final Plat
   Lots 1 & 2, Block 1
   Precinct 3 (DL)
   Chad Davis - Kiley Vian (Public Works - Wise County)
   FM 730 South
   (Drainage Study variance requested)
   (Groundwater availability certification waiver requested)
   Property is owned by a parent who subdivided their property and gave acreage to a child. While this was an exception to platting, they decided to be proactive and chose to plat under our current rules and regulations. Both properties have existing homes and water wells.

Re-Plat

1. Cedar Springs Estate, Re-Plat
   Lot - 5R
   Precinct 1 (BH)
   Chad Davis - Kiley Vian (Public Works – Wise County)
   Cedar Springs Drive

Preliminary Plat

1. Magnolia Estates of Springtown Addition, Preliminary Plat Review
   Lots 1-8, Block 1
   Precinct 3 (DL)
   Kimley Horn
   (NW of Springtwon near the intersection of CR 3791 and CR 3798)

****** Foster Maston with Kimley Horn states they have <u>not</u> received the final plat from Allison Ridge Phase 1 and recommends the plat be approved contingent on Kimley Horn verifying the final plat. ******

- **Motion made by Lambert, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Allison Ridge, Bennett Layne, Cedar Springs, and**

Magnolia Estates as presented, with variances requested and a contingency note that Kimley Horn engineer in attendance will verify that the hard copy of the Allison Ridge documents are the same as the ones submitted for approval prior to signing.

**** Clark jumps to Item No. 9, Receive presentation from Doni Green, Director of Aging Programs with North Central Texas Council of Governments. ****

9. Receive presentation from Doni Green, Director of Aging Programs with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) (*attachments*).

- Green thanks the County for its financial support throughout the years. She shares that North Central Texas Area Agency on Aging (NCTAAA) is one of the many groups provided by the planning program, NCTCOG.

- Green explains that the Aging program is distinct in that much of its focus is providing direct services. She adds that funding is in part provided by the Federal Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) through the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC), local grants, and the 13 counties in the service area.

- The Wise County FY 2026 matching fund request is $5,537 which supports provision of direct and pass-through services.

- Green cites the NCTAAA eligibility:

    - People who are at least 60 years old

    - Caregivers of people aged over 60 years old

    - People older than 55 years who ***live with and care for*** adults under 60 years old who have significant disabilities

    - Grandparents older than 55 years who have primary custody of minors who are not their biological children

    - People of any age who care for person of any age who has dementia

- Green clarifies that although there is no income criteria required to qualify for the Aging program, Federal regulations require they target people who have lower income with higher needs; the program's records show that 40 % of recipients live in poverty (more than 5 times than an average older central Texans living in poverty) and 40% of those who receive ongoing services live alone (much higher than the general population).

- Green mentions the dementia-specific support provided by program:
    - Resource information
    - Behavior consultation
    - Case management
    - One-one education
    - Group education
    - Professional education

- Care for people with dementia costs Medicare program 3 times as much and Medicaid program 23 times as much, compared to other beneficiaries.

- Because NCTAAA applied for and received three Federal and state grants, they have been able to hire a couple of dedicated dementia resource specialists who receive advanced training and work with caretakers whose loved ones have the disease.

- Green states that more than half of the funds is pass-through to the local nutrition and transportation subrecipients such as the Aging program, Meals-on-Wheels program and meals at senior centers.

- During the FY 2025, the program distributed $271,345 to the Wise County Committee on Aging for nutrition and transportation services and supported 438 County clients.

- NCTAAA can be reached at 800-272-3921, from Mondays – Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Green briefly discusses the services provided by the North Central Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center Services (NCTADRC):
    - Information and referral
    - Options counseling: help locating community-based services for people leaving hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and nursing facilities
    - LifeSpan respite: temporary relief from caregiving for people who can't pay privately

- Fundamental service is to connect long-time service to people with support.

- NCTADRC can be reached at 855-937-2372.

- Currently, full day training is being provided solely for all regional cadets at the Police Academy; however, Green states it can be scaled and taken on the rode.

- Clark suggests having the training available for County first responders and offers to host it locally. He will follow-up with EMS Chief Randall Preuninger.

8. Consider and act on County health insurance policy renewal (*attachment*).

- Clark shares that he and Treasurer Katherine Hudson have been collaborating with Brian Stephens of Stephens Bastian & Cartwright and his team regarding the County's insurance renewal.

- Stephens states that the County's loss ratio (claims paid in, versus the premium funding) is coming out to be approximately 100%, which has been the trend for the past 10 years.

- Although the County has been a member of the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) for several years, Stephens explains that they still shop outside for all available options to ensure the best rates.

- Stephens recommends a couple of key items that would **help lower the renewal rate increase from 11.5% *down* to 8.9%**:

  - Increase the individual deductible by $500

  - Increase the specialist copay to $15

- He believes that a $500 increase to the individual deductible while maintaining the current out-of-pocket maximum will affect very few employees, if any, in a given year, and will help avoid the average rate increase of 9.9%.

- Pooling with other counties with low claims help offsets cost and continues to be this year, the best option.

- The County's **current** annual cost is **$9,956.16** / employee; the **new** amount based on the 8.9% renewal rate increase is **$10,845.60** / employee which means:

  - Employee + Child – $26.40 increase / pay peiod

  - Employee + Spouse – $32.87 increase / pay period

- Employee + Family – $65.77 increase / pay period

- **No rate changes for voluntary items such as life and vision insurance**; however, there is an increase of 3.7% for dental insurance which means:
  - Employee + Child - $1.10 increase / pay period
  - Employee + Spouse - $1.18 increae / pay period
  - Employee + Family - $1.82 increase / pay period

- Stephens assures the Court that his company is keeping their eyes open for any way they can curve the cost of insurance.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the renewal with the Texas Association of Counties Employee Benefits Health insureance pool with the deductible increase of $500 with no change to the out-of-pocket maximum and a $15 increase to the specialist co-pay and health insurance renewal rate increase of 8.9%, 3.7% increase on dental insurance and no increases on life and vision.**

- The Court reiterates how thankful they are to Stephens for negotiating the renewal rate increase down from 11.5% to 8.9%.

10. Consider and act on County Indigent Health Care Program Serives FY 2026-2027. Take necessary action (*attachments*).

- Clark explains this service is mandated by the State; it was moved to County Emergency Management Services (EMS) in 2024 where Chief Randall Preuninger works with Indigent Health Progam Coordinator Barbara Thill who manages the program.

- Preuninger states that there are currently four (4) people that are enrolled.

- The program has a very stringent application process. If a person applies and gets denied, they have the right to go before the Appeals Board which is comprised of several people from within the County.

- Preuninger explains that the State has a mandated list the County must provide; he recommends adding a couple of optional services to reduce long-term costs:
  - Physician's assistant

- Diabetic supplies and/or equipment (if enrollees can manage the disease at home, it would limit hospital visits)

- Clark cites part of Chapter 61 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, "the State of Texas requires each county to provide the following basic health care services to eligible residents: physician services, immunizations, labs and x-ray services, skilled nursing facility services, rural health clinic services, outpatient hospital services, annual physical, medical screening services, family planning services, prescription drugs (limited to three per month), inpatient hospital services.

- Clark reiterates that the Court's long-standing belief is that the program should not be a broad County government program; the eligibility requirements are kept streamlined by the County.

- The Appeals Board can take cases if someone wants to appeal their eligibility or to report potential fraud in the program.

- The Board consists of Hearing Authority Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 3 Mandy Hays and Hearing Officers Melanie "Sissi" Bartlett and Luis Valdez. Alternates are Brandon Daugherty, Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 4 Willie Garrett as Hearing Authority, and Dani Davis and Charles Dillard as Hearing Officers.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the Indigent program with the new officers as presented and the two optional services.**

11. Take any necessary action on the 8:45 A.M. Public Hearing for reducing speed on various roads in Precinct No. 4.

- Clark confirms the Court held a public hearing at 8:45 AM for the proposed speed limit changes.

- Shawn explains that the school's speed zones on Old Town Road and Schoolhouse Road will be posted at locations recommended by the school's engineering firm. Additionally, Shawn states that a couple of locations will have their speed limit reduced from 40 to 30 mph:

    - Approximately near 630 CR 3355 (aka Schoolhouse Road) to 936 CR 3355 (near the intersection Spring Valley Road), due to increased subdivision where considerable road change has taken placed. The entire road section is approximately 6 miles, and about 5 miles between this location and the other section.

- Approximately near 675 Schoolhouse Road prior to the school zone.

Shawn plans to speak to the resident who has concerns about enforcement signage.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve reducing the speed as described on three areas on various roads in Precinct No. 4.**

- Per Shawn, the changes will be effective tomorrow, July 14th.

12. Donations:

- Treasurer Katherine Hudson reads the list of people who donated to the animal shelter (*attachment*) :
  - Funds from three individuals:
    - Victor Morton ($20), Gayle Gouyton ($50), and Franas Polsrev ($10)
  - Dog food:
    - Bruce Outland

- TARGA donated to Emergency Management Services along with a letter stating that the donation can be used however EMS would like to use it.

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

13. Bids:

- Asset Manager Diana Allen shares that a couple of the bids for the used excavator **(26-BID-024)** for Precinct No. 4 were disqualified since the requirements were not met (*attachments*).

- Allen and Shawn recommend awarding the bid to Sterling Masonry of Weatherford.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to award the Precinct No. 4 bid used excavator to Sterling Masonry of Weatherford for the John Deere in the amount of $125k, as a capital purchase.**

- Allen explains that the EMS Billing RFP Committee consisting of herself, EMS Chief Preuninger, Coordinator Thill, and Fire Marshal Jeff Doughty,

unanimously agree to award the the EMS Billing RFP (**26-RFP-022**) to the current vendor, EMS MC; however, if final negotiations are not reached, Allen recommends proceeding with the second vendor, Digitech Computer (*attachments*).

- Clark clarifies that EMS *does not* have any issues with their current billing vendor; EMS simply likes the opportunity to go out for bid occasionally.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Hayes, and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize staff to negotiate contract with EMS MC, following the RFP process.**

14. Consent Agenda Items:

    a. Minutes: June 22nd, Regular Meeting

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

        - Hudson presents Treasurer's Monthly Report for May (*attachments*).

        - Allen presents Wise County Asset Control Report for April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 (*attachments*).

    c. Budget Amendments:

        - Auditor Ann McCuiston mentions amendments on 26-15, various line items.

    d. Capital Expenditure: None

    e. Claims & Payroll:

        - Shawn requests to add Coppell Construction on the Claim for Precinct No. 4.

    f. Utility Permits/Right of Way: None

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

        - Clark ratifies an agreement with SET Environmental for the specialized disposal of an object found in Precinct No. 4.

- **Renewals and Amendments** (LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)
    - Granicus EASE Annual Subscription Renewal (*attachment*)
    - Granicus Avior Annual Subscription Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - USDA Structure 26 Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - JE Sullivan Aggregate Storage Lease Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - Cindy Foster Aggregate Storage Lease Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - Ad Valorem Tax Renewals-Alvord ISD, Aurora, Boyd ISD, Boyd, Decatur ISD, Paradise, Slidell ISD, Wise County MUD 4, Boyd PID 1, Jacksboro ISD, New Fairview MUD 1, Paradise ISD, Rolling V Ranch WCID 1, Rolling V Ranch WCID 2, Rolling V Ranch WCID 4, Runaway Bay, Hillcrest North MUD, Lake Bridgeport, Rhome, Bridgeport ISD, Bridgeport, Chico, Decatur, Newark, Vista Park PID 1, Boyd PID 1 Area 2, Wise County ESD 3, Paloma Trails PID 1, Paloma Trails PID Major, Boyd PID 1 Area 3, Chico ISD
    - Target Solutions Renewal (*attachment*)
    - Denton County Landfill Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - Axon Education Renewal (*no attachment*)
    - West Publishing for County Attorney and CCL1 Renewals (*attachments*)
    - Children's Advocacy Center Lease Renewal (*no attachment*)

- **Fully Executed** ((LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*): None

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all other items introduced under Item # 14, as presented.**

15. Joint Venture Project Agreement: None

16. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects:

    - Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Cody Powell updates the Court about vegetation reduction project that is scheduled to begin on July 23rd.

17. Right-of-Way Improvements:

    - Shawn brings up a couple requests on CR 3225 which involves repairing severe

- erosion and removing debris to protect the bridge structure over Trinity River. The project involves installing gates, building ramps, and also cutting trees wrapped around the bridge. The properties that will be affected are owned by Gaylord Kennedy and Doug Hudson.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to allow access on private property as named for public purposes as described.**

18. Burn Ban: None

19. County Committee Reports: None

20. **Clark announces the next Public Hearing regarding Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 5 for Monday, July 27th at 8:30 AM, and Regular meeting as being Monday, July 27, 2026 at 9:00 AM.**

**** Shawn revisits Item No. 11, Take any necessary action on the 8:45 A.M. Public Hearing for reducing speed on various roads in Precinct No. 4, and clarifies that the signage project for the school would be effective in the fall. ****

21. Clark adjourned the meeting at **10:05 AM**, there being no further business to be had by the Court.

Minutes approved this 24 day of August, 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.