JULY 27, 2026

WISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

On this 27th 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 9:13 a.m. All court members were present.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Community Forum:

   - The following people express their support for Sheriff Mellema and how he handles immigration enforcement:

     Dan Jackson — Graydon Phillips
     Darlene Hilton — Carrie Baran
     Randy Jordan

****** Clark announces that the Court will allow for additional public input regarding this item throughout the meeting. ******

****** Clark jumps to Item No. 11 b, Consent Agenda Items, Department Head Reports. ******

- Sheriff Mellema provides an update on the 287G cooperative agreement for immigration enforcement. He reports about recent arrests involving cartel members, human traffickers, and unauthorized individuals driving commercial vehicles on US Highway 287. He emphasizes that deputies do not conduct door-to-door immigration enforcement or check status for 9-1-1 emergency medical calls. He adds that approximately 95% of related arrests occur on Highway 287 involve individuals who do not reside in Wise County.

5. County Correspondence:

- Clark shares that Alvord Emergency Services District (ESD) No. 4 will hold an Open House on Saturday, August 1st from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

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

7. Plats:

Re-plat

1. Cozy Cove Estate, Re-plat (*attachments*)
   Lot 27R & 28 R
   Chad Davis, Kiley Vian
   Precinct 2. (KB)

**** Kiley Vian of County Engineer's Office states that there are a couple of variances: drainage study and a building line requirement. ****

Preliminary Plat

1. White Creeks Addition
   Near Intersection of FM 51, CR 2830, and County Line Rd
   Kimley Horn
   Precinct 1 (BH)

Construction Plans Acceptance

1. Hodges Heights, Construction Acceptance (*attachments*)
   Lots 1-30, Block 1
   Precinct 2 (KB)
   (Intersection of CR 2474 and CR 2475)
   Kimley Horn

**** Has a road frontage variance and a mistake on the cheque. ****

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the plat, replat, and construction plan acceptance; this would be the re-plat of Cozy Cove Estate with the variances as requested, Whites Creek Addition with the preliminary plat review, and the Hodges Heights construction acceptance with the variance as requested and contingent on them making the correction to their cheque that was submitted.**

  ****** Clark will sign and approve contingent on the correction of a submitted cheque. ******

8. Consider executing "Order of Special Election" for voting on the creation of Wise County Emergency Services District No. 5 in the November 3, 2026 General and Special Election.

   - Clark reminds everyone that the Public Hearing held at 8:30 AM was regarding this item; however, until the City of Fort Worth decides whether to include its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) portion in the district, this will be ***TABLED***.

   - The target for the ballot proposal shifts to May 2027.

   - Clark tasks Fire Chief Jerry Taylor to provide maps to the Commissioners prior to the meeting.

   - **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to *table and postpone* the proposed the order of special election until after a court in the City of Fort Worth takes actions to include its ETJ in the ESD.**

9. Donations:

   - Treasurer Katherine Hudson states that the County animal shelter received a $250 donation from Gary and Loriann Mellema.

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

10. Bids: None

11. Consent Agenda Items:

    a. Minutes: None

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

   - Auditor Ann McCuiston submits her report for June (*attachments*).

c. Budget Amendments:

   - McCuiston states amendment is on line **26-16,** various line items.

d. Capital Expenditure: None

e. Claims & Payroll:

   - McCuiston presents Claims and Payroll (*attachments*) and Walk to Court.

f. Utility Permits/Right of Way:

   - Clark mentions a request from Oncor for CR 4481 (*attachments*).

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

   - Texas DPS Class C Texas Conviction Reporting for all courts (verbal)

   - The County Corridor Agreement with TXDOT (*attachments*)

****** Approved by the State Legislators in 2023 – "Commissioners' Court of a county may not refuse to refuse a plat application or refuse to approve a plat for recordation for failure to identity corridor, <u>unless</u> that corridor is part of an agreement between the TXDOT and the county under that section." ******

This agreement allows the County to preserve a right-of-way for future corridors when developers create a new subdivision.

   - Reworld (*attachment*)

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

     - School Resource Officer Renewals (*no attachments*)-Chico, Slidell, Paradise
     - Cottondale Dumpsite Lease Renewal (*no attachment*)
     - Cellebrite Renewal (*attachment*)

- Hart Verity and Pollpad Renewals (*attachments*)
- Stenograph CCL1 Software Renewal (*attachment*)
- Denton County Inmate Housing Renewal (*no attachment*)
- LeadsOnline Renewal (*attachment*)
- Property Room (*no attachment*)
- Police Protection Renewals (*no attachments*)-Alvord, Newark, Chico
- Alvord ISD Police Department MOU (*no attachment*)
- Computer Information Services Amendment 1 (*no attachment*)
- Zimmerer Kubota Precinct 3 Tractor Extended Warranty Amendment (*no attachment*)
- First Due Amendment (*no attachment*)

- **Fully Executed** ((LIST - *for informational purposes only, approval not required, see attachment*)

  - Children's Advocacy Lease (*attachments*)

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve all other items introduced under Item # 11, as presented.**

**** Clark jumps back to Item No. 11 d, Consent Agenda Item, Capital Expenditure. ****

- Office of Emergency Management Office Management Coordinator Cody Powell requests up to $25,000 to purchase and install a couple of power dock system for the Emergency Operations Center. He explains that the system will provide backup power and protect equipment from power surges during storms. The system is a "client-side" install and does not require the power company. However, Powell has yet to determine if the installation location will influence the price of the system. The system can run between 8 – 12 hours of backup without the solar or the generator running.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Shawn, and unanimously adopted by the Court to approve the capital request as made by Office of Emergency Management.**

12. Joint Venture Project Agreement: None

13. Hazard Mitigation Plan and related grant projects: None

14. Right-of-Way Improvements: None

15. Burn Ban: None

**** Shawn jumps back to Item No. 11 b, Consent Agenda Item, Department Head Reports.*
***

- Shawn shares that he formally requested TXDOT to conduct a traffic light study which will evaluate the intersection of Highway 114 and Old Town Road in Paradise. He adds that the request stems from safety concerns regarding increased traffic near the new high school.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize sending communications to TXDOT formally requesting they do a traffic light study at 114 and Old Town Road.**

- Shawn proposes to create a "Adopt A County Road" program which would allow businesses and families to maintain specific sections of county roads. He believes the proposal must include policies regarding signage and equipment such as vests and garbage bags. Clark tasks Shawn to develop a proposal and look into how other counties handle the legal (waiver) liability portion as well.

- **Motion made by Burns, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to authorize Shawn to put together a proposal for "Adopt A County Road" program.**

**** Clark suggests consulting with Commissioners' Court Attorney Thomas Aaberg regarding any legal ramifications. ****

16. County Committee Reports (*attachments*):

- Doug Shaw of the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (UTGCD) proposes rule changes to acreage requirements in order to ensure a sustainable supply of groundwater for the short and long term:

    - 250,000 gallon per acre annual cap for non-exempt commercial permits.

    - Increase the minimum tract size for new water wells to five acres in western Wise County effective January 1, 2027 (platted tracts already grandfathered in).

- Shaw states that UTGCD will create an interactive map that will import data from all appraisal districts which will show the property lines.

- The board's decision will have an impact on the County's permitting office.

- Shaw's Office will send a notice this week about an upcoming hearing in Springtown on Thursday, August 27th. If there is a great deal of feedback after the hearing, Shaw states additional discussion might be in order.

- Shaw explains that any data center that is being built in the groundwater district will have to apply for a "non-exempt" wells and go through a rigorous process that involves several drillings and testings. The application will then be scheduled for a public hearing before the Board. Members of the public may request a contested case hearing. If the request is granted, the matter will be referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for consideration. SOAH will issue a recommendation to the Board, which will then take final action on the permit in accordance with applicable law.

- Shaw invites the public to contact UTGCD to inspect their wells; this will also allow his office to collect data that will support their case.

17. **Executive Session** with Legal Counsel, for private consultation allowed under **Texas Government Code Sec. 551.071:** discussion and legal updates of pending litigation matter and contract negotiation.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to enter in to Executive Session at 10:26 AM.**

18. **Reconvene from Executive Session.**

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to close the Executive Session and reopen the public session at 11:08 AM.**

19. **Announce next regular meeting as being Monday, August 10, 2026**

- Clark explains that the statutory requirement to file the budget with the County Clerk is by August 15th; however, he plans to present his proposed fiscal budget for FY 2027 on the 10th. He shares that his goal it to adopt the budget in September.

****** Clark revisits Item No. 11 b, Department Head Reports. ******

- McCuiston suggests maintaining the comprehensive fund balance policy goal at 20%; the current reserves stand at 19.5%.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Burns, and unanimously adopted by the Court to keep our reserve fund policy at 20%.**

- McCuiston recommends maintaining the current 50/50 formula for the Road and Bridge budget division between precincts for FY27.

- **Motion made by Shawn, seconded by Lambert, and unanimously adopted by the Court to keep the formula the same.**

- Burns requests for comparative information (by precinct and by mileage) on alternative funding scenarios for review on August 10th Court.

- McCuiston will prepare data regarding potential losses under different funding models.

- Clark shares that the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) mileage reimbursement rate increases from $0.75 to $0.76.

20. Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:12 **AM**, there being no further business to be had by the Court (***numbered as Item No. 19 on the agenda: should have been numbered as Item No. 20.***)

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.

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