


**SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS COURT/  
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP  
July 27, 2017  
10:00A.M.  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COURTROOM  
BROOKS COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this day, the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Brooks County, Texas met in a Special Commissioners Court/Special Budget Workshop therein the City of Falfurrias in the 2nd floor Courtroom of the Brooks County Courthouse:

**OPEN MEETING**-Judge Imelda Barrera called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM 

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGANCE** -was led by County Judge Imelda Barrera

**ROLL CALL** – Judge Imelda Barrera called for roll call:

**Present:** Imelda Barrera, County Judge,  
Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1,  
Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2,  
Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3,  
Jose Antonio “Tony” Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4,  
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk (Not voting).

**Staff Present:**

Chaya Garza, Administrative Assistant  
Missy A. Saavedra, Deputy Clerk

**Others Present:**


August Patroelj, County Auditor  
Rodney Belasquez-Internal Auditor  
Angie Saenz-1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Auditor

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**1. PUBLIC COMMENT** 

Rudy Madrial- Kleberg County Judge addressed the Court on health care/life insurance due to an item that the court has on the agenda.

Linda Walker-Walker & Associates on a possibility that the County might be going self-funded on health insurance and was offering their services.

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**AGENDA**

**6. Discuss, Consider, and Approve New York Life Insurance Company, Insurance and Retirement. (R.J. Loera)** 

R.J. Loera addressed the Court on the above matter.

**Motion:** to offer a guaranteed whole life insurance to county employees, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, **Seconded by** Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yay = 5).

**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Imelda Barrera, County Judge, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.


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**2. Discuss and Approve line item transfer of \$ 500.00 from 013-05-0667-9088 Tire Disposal and \$ 500.00 from 013-05-0667-5865 Equip. Rental to 13-05-0667-5000 Office Supplies.**

**(Alan Hernandez)** 

**Motion:** to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3. Motion passed unanimously. (**On file**)

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yay = 5).

**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Imelda Barrera, County Judge, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.

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**3. Discuss and Approve line item transfer of \$ 10.00 from 012-05-0497-5000 Office Supplies to 12-05-0497-5550 Out of Co Travel. (Horacio Villarreal)** 

**Motion:** to approve line item transfer, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, **Seconded by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3. Motion passed unanimously. (**On file**)

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yay = 5).


**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Imelda Barrera, County Judge, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.

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**4. Discuss and Approve the 2018 Sheriffs' and Constables' Fees. (Elvaray B. Silvas)** 

**Motion:** to approve same as last year, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yay = 5).

**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Imelda Barrera, County Judge, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.

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**5. Discuss, Consider, and Approve Brooks County Medical Group Insurance Renewal Rates for October 2017-September 2018. (Katy Salinas)** 

Horacio Villarreal, County Treasurer addressed the Court on the above matter.


**Motion:** to go with option 1, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2, **Seconded by** Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4. Motion passed unanimously. (**On file**)

**Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yay = 4, Ney = 1, Abstain = 0).

**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.


**Ney:** Imelda Barrera, County Judge.

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At this time 10:56 AM the Court took a 15 minute break, court came back into session at 11:15 AM  
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**7. Discussion of the Brooks County Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, and other related budgetary items.** 

The Court discussed the following items:

- County Auditor August Patroelj went over Brooks County Revenues as of June 2017 **(On File)**
- Kenny Ponce and David De Los Santos-AirMed -Discussed ambulance service, don't see a need for increase on the renewal part of contract
- Discussed insurance and retirement savings for the budget 2016-2017 **(On file)**
- Discussed debts the County owes with a remaining balance of \$4,196,986.69 **(On file)**

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At this time 12:00 PM the court broke for lunch and to return back at 1:30 PM. The Court resumed at 1:30 PM and continues to discuss line item #7. Present same as before 

- Discussed the Road & Bridge Fund and removing the Landfill from the budget and creating its own budget; went over the increases and decreases to the budget due to the road and bridge strictly working on roads only; discussed a \$1,500.00 increase per employee and increasing the salary for the foreman to \$36,500.00; \$10.00 an hour for part time help; discussed in making Mr. Jose Azocar as the Assistant Foreman
- Discussed the Landfill department; trash pickup in the rural areas which will not be doing any more; has talked with Waste Connections in collecting the rural area trash and would charge the residents \$17-\$20.00 a month for trash pickup once a week, maybe doing collections with CourtView to collect payments to be set up at the landfill with the clerk; adding \$6,000.00 to line item 4864; clarifying the policies in throwing trash at the landfill; adding \$25,000.00 to line item 4348
- Discussed the General Fund; 5% increase to all employees excluding elected officials who lost 10% totaling \$71,927.00 and at 10% totaling \$144,000.00. Went over a handout in changes made from the current budget to the proposed budget; discussed one full timer and part timer for all JP's;


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At this time 2:57 PM the court took a break, the Court resumed at 3:15 PM, the court continued to discuss increase and decreases to the budget. 

- David T. Garcia, County Attorney addressed the Court on the health insurance issue and a possibility of going self-funded and if the court decides not to, he strongly

recommends for the Court to look into for the following year and creating a trust fund just for health insurance

- Discussed in having the maintenance crew –Beto Muniz in being responsible for cutting the grass at the cemetery, show barn, and hospital; Mr. Muniz asked the court to allow him to borrow the equipment from the road and bridge and he will do the work, and a possible raise for himself and Dante
- Discussed in raising the taxes by 2 cents, cutting employees from the elected officials that have more than one employee: County Clerk, County Treasurer; District Clerk and Tax Office ; and not giving the 5% increase

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The court recessed at 4:15 PM and is to reconvene tomorrow Friday July 28, 2017 at 10:30 AM  
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The Court reconvened on July 28, 2017 at 10:37 AM.   
Honorable Judge Imelda Barrera called for roll call:

**Roll Call.**

**Present:** Imelda Barrera, County Judge,  
Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1,  
Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2,  
Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3,  
Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4,  
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk (Not voting).

**Staff Present:**

Chaya Garza, Administrative Assistant  
Missy A. Saavedra, Deputy Clerk


**Others Present:**

August Patroelj, County Auditor  
Rodney Belasquez-Internal Auditor  
Angie Saenz-1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Auditor

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The court continued to discuss line item #7 on increases and decreases of the 2018 Fiscal Year:

- Discussed the adding of charging of trash pickup for the rural areas consisting of 560 residence and charging a \$20.00 fee a month, which would generate \$135,00.00 of revenue
- To increase \$50,000.00 to the beginning balance of the general fund
- The updates presented today include all employees, took off the 5% and are still short \$124,662.13, Mr. Patroelj stated that to take care of the deficient, is to raise taxes
- Terri Silvas stated that she spoke with August Patroelj and Sheriff Martinez are recommending in raising taxes, since this year the tax value has decreased 10 cents and in raising the taxes it will not affect the tax payers; Commissioner Garza recommended to increase the taxes by 4 cents.

- The Court then went over the expenditures of the General Fund, starting with the County Judges Office. Commissioner Vargas mentioned to make the Judges secretary a part time position.

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At this time the Court to a break at 11:20 AM, the court resumed at 11:33 AM 

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The Court continued to discuss increases and decreases:

- The County Judges budget was left as is, cut \$200.00 from the County Clerk's Office supplies; discussed giving a full timer to JP#1 at entry level with fridges; discussed increasing part timers to 28 hours at \$10.00( would have to change the policy to reflect change); add \$16,000.00 to JP#3 to have two full timers; discussed transferring Romeo Perez, Luis Solis, Tomas Garza to the Maintenance; Just for the record one of the employees that we are transferring makes \$31,000.00 will be making more than the maintenance supervisor; to increase to Beto Muniz salary to \$35,000.00 and to increase Dante Huerta to \$32,000.00 ; increase janitorial supplies \$2000.00-5120; 5830-increase \$10,000.00; increase \$2000.00 for trailer; it was decided to leave all the landfill people alone and to hire three employees – or move three employees from the road and bridge to be paid out of the general fund; discussed stipend for Maintenance supervisor; to move Edwin Montiel, Pedro Cantu, and Rudy Martinez from the Road and Bridge to Maintenance (to be cleared with David Guerra first); increase gas by \$1000.00 each for all 4 constables; discussed having Beto doing oil changes and repairs for the County; Radio Maintenance and Repairs to increase by \$500.00 for all 4 constables; \$200.00 for 5000 for DPS-Patrol; looking into getting a loan for repairs for the southbound weight scale; increase office supplies for library by \$500, magazines plus \$500.00;

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**8. ADJOURN**

**Motion:** to adjourn 1:23 PM, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, **Seconded by** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yay = 5).

**Yay:** Armando Olivarez, Commissioner Precinct 3, Gloria Garza, Commissioner Precinct 1, Imelda Barrera, County Judge, Jose Antonio "Tony" Martinez, Commissioner Precinct 4, Vincent Vargas, Commissioner Precinct 2.

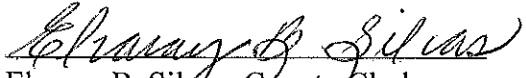
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The preceding minutes beginning on page \_\_\_\_\_ and ending on page \_\_\_\_\_, of the Commissioners' Court Minutes Volume \_\_\_\_\_, read and approved in the Honorable Commissioners' Court this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017, A.D.

**APPROVED:**



Imelda Barrera, County Judge

**ATTESTED:**

  
Elvaray B. Silvas, County Clerk