BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 28th day of August, A.D. 2023 the Commissioner Court of Howard County met in Workshop @ 2:00 PM and Regular Session at 3:30 PM with **RANDY JOHNSON**, County Judge as the Presiding Officer. The following members were present: **EDDILISA RAY,** Commissioner Precinct No. 1, **CASH BERRY,** Commissioner Precinct No. 2, and **DOUG WAGNER,** Commissioner Precinct No. 4. **JIMMIE LONG,** Commissioner Precinct No. 3 was absent.

The Workshop was called to order @ 2:00 PM.

The Court heard from Mark Willis of the Economic Development Board. Mr. Willis discussed a Battery Storage company interested in coming to Howard County and believes they will be asking for a 381 Agreement. He also discussed the need for certain land to be designated as a Reinvestment Zone. No action needed on either item on this date.

Judge Johnson and Lindsay Wilkerson, County Attorney, briefly discussed the County Attorney assisting the 9-1-1 Board, with Mrs. Wilkerson stated there is no need for action on that issue at this point.

Jackie Olson, County Auditor, and Tiffany Sayles, County Tax Assessor-Collector, reviewed the tax rates with the Court before going into Regular Session and the Public Hearing.

Court recessed @ 3:10 PM.

Court reconvened in Regular Session @ 3:31 PM.

 A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Contracts with West Texas Centers as presented by Mr. Jones of West Texas Centers. The Contracts are as follows: Statement of Agreement between West Texas Centers and Howard County Commissioner’s Court; Non-Standard Contract September 1, 2023; Non-Standard Contract; Memorandum of Understanding; West Texas Centers Code of Conduct; West Texas Centers Agreement for Services; West Texas Centers Business Associate Agreement; West Texas Centers Code of Conduct; Non-Standard Contract September 1, 2023 #08312023-HCSD; Memorandum of Understanding between West Texas Centers and The Howard County Sheriff’s Office. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Chapter 381 Economic Development Incentive Agreement between Howard County, Texas and Crusoe Energy Systems, LLC as presented by Mark Willis of the Economic Development Board. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Personnel Considerations as presented by Sharon Adams, County Treasurer. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to accept the Treasurer’s Monthly Payroll Report for August 2023 as presented by Sharon Adams, County Treasurer. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to accept two checks from PWCP/Workers Compensation Excess Contribution Checks for a total of $15,924.65 as presented by Sharon Adams, County Treasurer. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Ray to accept the County Auditors Monthly Report for July 2023 as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

Jackie Olson, County Auditor, pointed out to the Court that a check had been received from Howard County 911 in the amount of $14,837.12. No action was needed.

Nothing for this date on appointing an outside Auditor. That will be taken care of at a later date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to accept a Donation to the Sheriff’s Office from Pioneer Natural Resources for $10,000 as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

The Court took no action on Letter “D” of the Agenda: Consider Making Changes to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget that the Commissioner’s Court Consider Warranted by the Law and Required by the Interest of the Taxpayers.

The Court moved into Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget. No one spoke from the Public and no action was taken. The Court reconvened into Regular Session.

A motion was made by Judge Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Ray to adopt the 2024 Budget as presented. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Ray to set salaries as reflected in the 2024 Budget as presented. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve signing an Order Setting the Debt Tax Rate for tax year 2023 @ .007232 as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry approve signing an Order setting the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate for tax year 2023 at .201484 as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Ray to extend Delek Contract for fuel and go out for bid for Road & Bridge Fuel (bulk fuel) as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Invoices as presented by Jackie Olson, County Auditor. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Purchase Requests, excluding Hot Spots for the Library, as presented by Jackie Olson County Auditor. The requests are as follows: Sheriff for SWAT uniform from Galls @ $2100; District Attorney’s Office for mini split system from SKC A/C LLC @ $3895; County Clerk for lektriever repair from Southwest Solutions Group @ $1000; District Attorney for office laptop for ADA from Dell @ $2813.13; District Attorney for law books from TDCAA @ $1281; Library for e-books from Overdrive @ $8000; Library for launchpads from Playaway @ $4109.75; Library for hot spots from Mobile Beacon @ $645 (not approved); hot spots from TechSoup@ $75 (not approved); hot spot replacement from Mobile Beacon @ $132 (not approved); Sheriff for printer from Dell @ $1200. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

There were no Budget Amendments on this date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve Order the November Constitutional Amendment Election as presented by Jodi Duck, Elections Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court with 3 members voting “AYES” and Commissioner Ray abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

Judge Johnson signed the Notice of Election, no action needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner approving an Order of Appointment for Election Judges and Alternates as presented by Jodi Duck, Elections Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to go with the No Change option concerning the Imposition of Optional Fees for Calendar Year 2024 as presented by Tiffany Sayles, Tax Assessor-Collector. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Garza County and Howard County regarding the housing of inmates in the Garza County Law Enforcement Center/Jail as presented by Dean Restelli, Chief Deputy Sheriff. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to approve the Sheriff and Constables Civil Fees for 2024 as presented by Dean Restelli, Chief Deputy Sheriff. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to accept the Howard County 911 Communication District Budget for 2023/2024 as presented by Dean Restelli, Chief Deputy Sheriff. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

No Employee Reimbursement Agreement on this date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Pharmaceutical Bid with IHS for the Detention Center (no paperwork presented to Clerk) as presented by JoAnn Valle Indigent Health Care/Welfare Director. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

Mrs. Valle stated no bids were received for the IHC/Welfare or Juvenile Probation Department and requested to keep using the Howard County Community Clinic.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Ray giving permission for the Indigent Health Care/Welfare and Juvenile Probation Department to continue using the Howard County Community Clinic as requested by JoAnn Valle, IHC/Welfare Director. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator, gave Roadway Updates. No paperwork and no action necessary.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve the Physicians Agreement with Rudy Haddad, MD and South Plains Rural Health (Howard County Community Health Center) as presented by JoAnn Valle, IHC/Welfare Director. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Ray to approve permission to go out on bid for RFQ 2024001 LRA Ty D+ as requested by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to approve going out on bid for RFQ 2024002 LRA Ty A+ as requested by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ray and seconded by Commissioner Berry to go out on bid for RFQ 2024003 Emulsion as requested by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner Ray to go out on bid for RFQ 2024004 Roadway Base as requested by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to approve repair of water damage to Old Airport Runway at the County’s expense as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator. A vote was taken and the members of the Court unanimously voted “AYES”. Motion carried.

Brian Klinksiek, County Road Administrator, presented the Completed Auction Summary for July 2023 with a Grand Total for $8533 for the Sheriff and $1595 for the VFD. No action needed.

Judge Johnson announced there will be a Workshop before the next Regular Meeting concerning the Employee Handbook.

Court was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HOWARD

I, Brent Zitterkopf, Howard County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court authorized proceedings for August 28, 2023.

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 Brent Zitterkopf, Howard County Clerk
 Clerk of the Commissioners Court
 Howard County, Texas