

Commissioners Court minutes posted from December 27

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in special session December 27, 2016 at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Gene Montgomery, Commissioner, Pct. #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Joe Sefcik. Clerk Mary Grim was also in attendance.

The meeting opened with prayer given by Comm. Williams and the pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum. Comm. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for December 13, 2016. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

No action was taken on the burn ban.

Constable Precinct 1 report was not available.

Comm. Williams made a motion to increase the rates on all rentals by couple. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion on rental procedure that previous years renter of the building may reserve facility for same time frame for the next year and this needs to be done prior to January 1 and as of January 1 it will be available to the public, effective today 12/27/16. No action was taken on Interlocal Project Expense Report for Coke County and City of Bronte. Comm. Williams would like to visit with the City of Bronte.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to approve the bonds for Nick Arrott, Marshall Millican and Donny Robertson. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to support the

Resolution opposing Re:Search TX. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to approve the line item transfers as presented. The motion was seconded by Comm. Pitcock. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to approve a Resolution allowing County Attorney to have a private practice in County courthouse. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to enter into letter of intent from Saguaro Rose Investment Group Ltd. Co. for the Coke County Detention Center from Coke County. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Judge Blair presented Order Appointing Official Court Reporter and an email from Diane Weishuhn stating the State has accepted paperwork according to specs on the CETRZ Project.

Comm. Williams requested verbage for road closing.

There being no private road work requests, no action was taken.

Comm. Sefcik made a motion to pay bills. The motion was seconded by Comm. Williams. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to approve the seconded set of bills. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 am.



Prison Story Continues! During the December 27, 2016, Commissioners Court, Saguaro Rose Investment Group Ltd. Co. presented a non-binding Letter of Intent to purchase the old Coke County detention facility in Bronte. Judge Blair announced at last week's Commissioners Court that the Saguaro Rose Investment Group Ltd. Co. was representing Texas Department of Corrections and that TDC had decided not to pursue the Coke County property.

Area farmers and ranchers encouraged by nomination

The nomination of Scott Pruitt as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging news for Coke County farmers and ranchers threatened by the agency's regulatory overreach, according to John Ross Copeland, the president of the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau.

President-elect Donald Trump selected Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general, to head the

federal agency. Pruitt's nomination will need to be approved by Congress.

John Ross said Pruitt has indicated he intends to run EPA in a way that fosters both responsible protection of the environment and freedom for American businesses. John Ross said he hopes Pruitt can rein in an agency that is operating, in some cases, outside of its constitutional and statutory authority.

"I think Scott Pruitt understands that common-sense policies are needed by EPA," John Ross Copeland said. "Farmers and ranchers are

confident Pruitt will steer EPA to end the aggressive and punitive approach to regulating that has unfortunately become the agency's trademark in recent years."

As Oklahoma attorney general, Pruitt has been active in legally challenging EPA's controversial Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

"WOTUS is a rule that represents a huge regulatory overreach," said John Ross. "I'm hopeful that Scott Pruitt can bring real change at an agency that has been adversarial against family farmers and ranchers for too long."

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