

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session October 14, 2014, at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Gene Montgomery, Commissioner Pct. #2 Wendell Lee, Commissioner, Pct. #3 Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner, Pct. #4 Bobby Blaylock. Deputy Clerk Martha Ratliff was also in attendance.

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

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Lee made a motion to approve the minutes for September 22, 2014. The motion was seconded by Comm. Blaylock. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Hal Spain. Comm. Montgomery made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Comm. Lee. Motion carried.

County Extension Agent Morgan Runyon presented her extension report.

Judge Roy Blair presented the Sheriff's report.

The Tax Collector's report was presented by Tax A/C Josie Dean.

Martha Ratliff Deputy Clerk presented the District/Clerk's Report.

Constable Pct. 1 report was presented by Constable Marshall Millican.

Constable Pct. 2 report was presented by Constable Marty Boyd.

J.P. Pct. 1 report was given by Judge Jackie Walker.

J.P. Pct. 2 report was given by J.P. Coulter.

D.R. Report was presented by Judge Blair.

Trapper's Report was presented by Judge Blair.

No action was taken on the Burn Ban.

Comm. Lee made a motion seconded by Comm. Pitcock to approve bond for Grady Coulter. Motion carried.

No action was taken on discussion on bids for air conditioner and heating unit for Bronte Senior Center.

Comm. Lee made a motion seconded by Comm. Pitcock to list Coke County Detention Center with an MLS Realtor. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion seconded by Comm. Lee to list the Coke County Detention Center with Pitcock Properties. Comm. Pitcock abstained. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery reported he attended a conference in Abilene. Judge Blair presented an order by Judge Barbara Walther setting salary of 51st District Court Reporter for fiscal year 2014 to 2015. Judge Blair also reported that the Texas Ranger investigation found no laws were broken by the Coke County Commissioners Court.

No private road work requests.

Comm. Lee made a motion seconded by Comm. Blaylock to pay bills. Motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:35.

"Made in Rural America" Report for Texas released

USDA Rural Development State Director for Texas, Paco Valentin, announced new data highlighting USDA investments in rural Texas.

This data summarizes specific USDA investments in rural Texas's businesses, manufacturing, energy, water and other infrastructure development. It also outlines how USDA is helping rural Texas attract businesses and families by investing in housing and broadband. This information is part of USDA's national "Made in Rural America" report illustrating the impact of USDA investments in



Grand Opening! Members of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose helped celebrate the grand opening of KC's Closet recently. The new business is located at 801 1/2 Houston in Robert Lee. They offer new, barely used and different items.

rural America.

"Supporting our rural communities benefits all Texans," said Valentin. "USDA has made dedicated investments in manufacturing, energy and small businesses in rural Texas. At the same time, we are bringing reliable services like water, housing and broadband to make these same communities attract and retain a talented workforce. This data shows that the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in rural Texas."

In Texas, USDA has made investments to help 256 rural businesses thrive and grow, including \$78.5 million investment in rural manufacturing alone. Rural manufacturing supports 116,613 jobs in Texas. In addition, USDA has helped 47,742 Texas families purchase or repair homes and has invested \$395.8 million to support efficient water support, treatment and storage facilities,

and wastewater treatment systems. This investment has improved the health of thousands of rural Texans who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.

More information is available at www.usda.gov/opportunity.

The "Made in Rural America" report reflects USDA's efforts to strengthen the "four pillars" of a new economy in rural America by developing a

robust bio-based economy; promoting exports and production agriculture fueled by increased productivity and research; encouraging conservation including land management, stewardship and outdoor recreational opportunities; and building a strong local and regional food system to harness entrepreneurial innovation and help small and medium-sized family farms succeed in rural America.

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