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County Commissioners face questions at Monday's meeting

A group of several Coke County citizens from both the East and West sides of the county attended Commissioners Court Monday morning, April 23, 2013. Concerned about the commissioners' budgets, their questions involved road work in the county and the possible implementation of a unit road system and administrative commissioners.

The group pointed out that salaries and related expenses for each precinct's commissioner and road hands, approximately 65% of the total budget for each precinct, left little money to do the work needed in each precinct.

When asked how much it cost per mile to maintain our county roads, the commissioners did not provide an answer.

Gaylon Pitcock, Commissioner Precinct 3, advised the roads were in poor shape because of dry conditions. Bobby Blaylock, Commissioner Precinct 4, reported that he had increased his caliche budget and was trying to patch roads as he could. The Commissioners were

then asked if they had considered going to a unit road system. Commissioner Blaylock said it had been discussed, but if a 2" rain came to Coke County they wouldn't be able to get to all the roads.

Gene Montgomery, Commissioner Precinct 1, said that it had been proposed a long time ago and that the Bronte precincts had voted it down. It was then pointed out that the economy was much worse now and that the most cost effective way to spend our county's tax dollars was to change the system.

A member of the group asked the commissioners how they felt about being paid on a per meeting basis instead of as a salaried employee. Because the commissioners now are considered "road bosses", Commissioner Blaylock said that they each had to drive the roads in their precincts once a month and that he alone has put over 10,000 miles on his personal vehicle.

Commissioner Pitcock stated that if the commissioners were strictly administrative, it wouldn't

Early Voting Begins Monday!

Important School Board Election Dates

Monday • April 29, 2013

First Day to Vote Early

Tuesday • May 7, 2013

Last Day to Vote Early

Saturday • May 11, 2013

General Election

Please Exercise Your Right to Vote!

be long before no qualified people would run. This remark was countered by pointing out that the school district boards are unpaid positions and that each handles multi-million dollar budgets.

The commissioners were questioned about road work done for the cities of Bronte and Robert Lee. Judge Roy Blair advised that there was an interlocal agreement covering that. The commissioners were then asked about road work done for private citizens. Although the court said they tried to stay away from private road work, a later item on the agenda was for a private road work job and it was approved.

Bronte Chamber slates annual banquet for April 30

The annual Bronte Chamber of Commerce Banquet is set for Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at the Bronte Community Center. The Fish Fry, prepared by Paul and Sid Burns, will begin at 6:30 pm.

Advance tickets for the event may be obtained at Glenn-Bivins Insurance, Bronte's General Store, Shalon's Floral, Main Street Market, Shirley's Place, Shear Heaven Salon and Bronte Hometown

Hardware between April 15 and April 24.

Please consider becoming a member of the Chamber. Your membership helps put on special events in Bronte. The Chamber is also looking for board members and people to help with these events.

Early voting begins Monday in School Board elections

Both the Bronte and Robert Lee Independent School Districts will elect two trustees for their Boards on May 11, 2013. Early voting in these elections begins Monday, April 29, 2013, and will continue through Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

Voters in the Bronte ISD election may vote in the Superintendent's office at the school Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

Voters in the Robert Lee ISD election may vote in the Coke County Clerk's office in the Coke County Courthouse Mondays through Thursdays 8 am to 5 pm and 8 am to 1 pm on Fridays.

On the ballot for Robert Lee ISD are incumbents Beverly Sinclair and Tracy Allen. They are joined on the ballot by Erin Oleksiuk and Crystal Stanford.

On the ballot for Bronte ISD are incumbents Kay

Styles and Shane Kelton. They are joined on the ballot by Jeanna Lee.

Vision with a Purpose to meet

The monthly meeting of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose will be held on the first Thursday, May 2, at 6 pm. The location is generously provided by Victory Assembly at its Family Center on 6th Street in Robert Lee.

Work continues on several projects. Have you noticed our decorative flower pots on Robert Lee's main street? Join this group and support the improvement of the community.

Bronte City-Wide Garage Sale set

It's time again for the annual City-Wide Garage Sale. Mark your calendars for May 4th at 8:00 a.m.

If you would like to participate, please call City Hall at 473-3501 by May 1st. Your location will be added to the city maps that will be given away the day of the garage sales. This is a great opportunity to recycle, reuse and reduce unwanted items in your closets and storage items.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Pat or Tammy at 473-3501.



Pretty Streets! Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose is responsible for all the pretty pots of flowers dotting Austin Street in Robert Lee.