

Commissioners Court minutes posted

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in special session August 29, 2016 at the courthouse in Robert Lee. Members of the court present included County Judge, Roy Blair, Commissioner, Pct. #1 Troy Montgomery, Commissioner Pct, #2 Paul Williams, Commissioner, Pct #3 and Commissioner Pct. #4 Joe Sefcik.

The meeting opened with prayer given Judge Blair and pledge to the flag was recited.

Judge Blair announced the presence of a quorum.

Comm. Pitcock made a motion to approve the line item transfers for Precinct # 1. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to adopt the 2016-2017 proposed tax rate of 0.490972 for General. The motion was seconded by Comm. Montgomery. Motion carried.

Comm. Sefcik made a motion to adopt the 2016-2017 proposed tax rate of 0.149865 for Road & Bridge. The motion was seconded by Comm. Pitcock. Motion carried.

Comm. Montgomery made a motion to adopt the proposed tax rate of 0.640837 for 2016-2017. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

Comm. Williams made a motion to adopt the salaries of Elected Officials. The motion was seconded by Comm. Sefcik. Motion carried.

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

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

Texas farmers to vote on self-funded protection program

Grain farmers in Coke County and across the state will vote on a self-funded protection program to help mitigate risk after harvest.

“The Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund can be protection for Texas farmers who suffered significant financial losses when an elevator in the area went out of business,” County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland said. “Some have been left with a significant loss for the grain they stored.”

John Ross said this year’s referendum is improved over previous efforts, featuring a more economical plan for

covering the farmer and is designed to make payments in a more timely manner.

During last year’s legislative session, the Texas Senate passed SB 1099, which amended the Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Fund originally passed in 2011 (HB 1840). If approved through the referendum process, Texas farmers of corn, sorghum, soybeans and wheat will be eligible to participate in the fund.

“This fund would serve as a risk protection for Texas grain farmers,” John Ross said. “If they encounter a similar situation, a portion of their losses would be paid.”

Farmers would pay into the fund through a small fee—two-tenths percent of the gross sales price—assessed on grain at the first point of sale.

In the event of a claim, the Texas Grain Producer Indemnity Board would review the claim, identify the value of the grain lost and indemnify up to 85 percent of the value.

“This fund gives grain farmers peace of mind,” John Ross said. “With commodity prices falling and input costs rising, it’s important to mitigate any risk factors we can.”

The referendum is Dec. 5-9. Eligible voters can vote at their county Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office or request a ballot from the Texas Department of Agriculture.

For more information on the fund, visit www.texasgrainindemnity.org.

Small Town Christmas coming soon

It’s almost time for Vision With A Purpose’s Small Town Christmas Celebration. This annual event will be held Saturday, December 3, 2016, in downtown Robert Lee.

Hay rides for all ages (with a minimum charge) are planned. Santa Claus will be giving out presents to the children through age 9 and listening to Christmas wishes. Food will be available to purchase that includes stew, chili, cornbread, crackers and drinks. Special gingerbread men made by our own Bev Broughton can also be purchased.

The lights in Memorial Park will be turned on at dusk after the children meet and greet Santa Claus.

Don’t forget to enter your home in the Christmas Outdoor Decorating Contest. Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded along with a new category this year, “The

Griswald Award” (remember “Christmas Story” with Chevy Chase?). A special plaque will be presented. Applications will soon be available along with information flyers. Watch for more info.

Coke County Farm Bureau members discuss important rural issues

Families from across Coke County recently met to help shape policy for the state’s largest farm organization.

“Each year, we invite Coke

County Farm Bureau members to our county convention so we can discuss issues important to agriculture and rural Texas,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “It’s a true grassroots effort that enables each one of us to have a stronger voice through Texas Farm Bureau.”

The issues discussed at county meetings are later shared on a statewide level. Those issues drive Texas Farm Bureau’s activism in the courts, in Austin and in Washington, D.C.

Issues discussed locally include: private and navigable water rights and Eminent Domain.

Coke County Farm Bureau will send six delegates from the area to represent the county at the TFB Annual Meeting in San Antonio December 3-5.

To join the Coke County Farm Bureau and let your voice be heard in Austin and Washington, D.C., visit the County Farm Bureau office at 611 Austin St Robert Lee, Texas or call 325-453-4505.

2016 Property Tax Rates in WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

This notice concerns the 2016 property tax rates for WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year’s tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year’s *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year’s *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year’s tax rate:

Last year’s operating taxes	\$ 848,897
Last year’s debt taxes	\$0
Last year’s total taxes	\$ 848,897
Last year’s tax base	\$339,663,416
Last year’s total tax rate	\$0.249923/\$100

This year’s effective tax rate:

Last year’s adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 848,720
÷ This year’s adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$261,299,690
= This year’s effective tax rate	\$0.324807/\$100

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year’s rollback tax rate:

Last year’s adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for an transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$ 848,720
÷ This year’s adjusted tax base	\$261,299,690
= This year’s effective operating rate	\$0.324807/\$100
x 1.08 = this year’s maximum operating rate	\$0.350791/\$100
+ This year’s debt rate	\$0/\$100
= This year’s total rollback rate	\$0.350791/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If WEST COKE COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT adopts a 2016 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.324807 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2015 taxes by \$6,884.

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
UNENCUMBERED FUNDS	0

Schedule B - 2016 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Interest to be Paid			Total Payment
	Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	
	0	0	0	0
Total required for 2015 debt service				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2015				\$0
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 0% of its taxes in 2015				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$0

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 13 E. 7TH STREET, ROBERT LEE, TEXAS.

Name of person preparing this notice: JOSIE DEAN, PCC
 Title: TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
 Date Prepared: 08/15/2016

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 PO BOX 184 • 715 AUSTIN 5002 KNICKERBOCKER
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floyd@floydpetittinsurance.com