

## Erath County Judge's Summary for December (01-01-2021)

The Erath County Commissioners Court met four times in December. The Court meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. If a meeting date falls on a holiday, then the Court meets on the following Tuesday. Meeting notices are posted at the Courthouse and on the County website <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/agendacenter>

### Selected Agenda items from the December 2020 Commissioner's Court meetings:

- Approved carryover of accumulated holiday and vacation time so employees may be able to take the time off in Calendar Year (CY) 2021. This is necessary to accommodate expanded employee schedules necessary for offices to stay open and provide services and to hold the many elections scheduled during CY 2020.
- Approved Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) contracts with Dublin, Huckabay, Lipan and Gordon FVDs.
- Approved a tower lease agreement for radio communications equipment with the local KSTV radio station.
- Approved the appointment of Sheriff Matt Coates to the North Central Texas 9-1-1 Board of Managers for a two-year term.
- Approved receipt of a donation of a drone for use by the Sheriff's Office.
- Approved Robin Ritchie as Erath County Historical Commission Chairperson, to replace outgoing Chair, Cathey Hartmann.
- Discussed but voted not to require direct (payroll) deposit for all county employees.
- Approved a petition for the appointment of Mr. Darrell Brown to the Board of Directors of Erath County Development District #1.
- Approved the purchase of three new 2020 Truck Tractor Cab Chassis for Precincts 1, 3, and 4 at +/- \$116k per unit.
- Approved the payment of \$1,087,355.70 in County bills and expenses.

**Senate District 30 VOTING:** 10% of registered voters turned out for the December 19 Special Election. Representative Drew Springer defeated Shelly Luther in the county, and overall in the SD 30 race. Senator Springer replaces (now) Congressman Pat Fallon.

**COVID-19 Testing and cases:** The County hosted a free testing day for COVID-19 at the Cornerstone Assembly of God Church on December 17. 113 persons tested. Below are numbers of positive cases, as tracked by local Emergency Mangers.

ERATH COUNTY	Dec. 31	Dec. 1	1-Nov	1-Oct	1-Sep	1-Aug	1-Jul	1-Jun	1-May
CASES (TOTAL)	2,445	1,681	1,109	782	583	412	188	28	13

2020 will be history soon, and I want to thank you for all you have done this year to help our Erath County communities stay safe and protected from COVID-19. Vaccinations and antibody therapeutics will be more widely available for combatting the pandemic in 2021. Below is a link to a video from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) with tips for "Fighting Covid Fatigue" into 2021:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIB5-ORNDI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcIB5-ORNDI&feature=youtu.be)

**COVID19 Vaccine.** The vaccine is still in its initial stages of delivery to providers. Below are Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) condensed guidelines and frequently asked questions regarding vaccine availability.

### **Who can get vaccinated now?**

The initial vaccine supply is limited. The first groups to be vaccinated include health care workers, residents of long-term care facilities, and people at risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. Vaccine providers are encouraged to prioritize health care workers *but can start vaccinating others if they have vaccine available.*

### **Vaccine Availability**

Vaccine supply is still limited but new shipments of vaccine will arrive in Texas each week.

### **How do I find a place to get vaccinated?**

Health care facilities and medical offices can contact their employer, others should reach out to in-county providers. Visit the [Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Locations map](#) to see which providers have received vaccine and contact them to find out if you can make an appointment to get vaccinated. People can check the map weekly to determine if there is a vaccine provider near them.

### **Vaccine Safety**

Information gathered in large-scale clinical trials and thoroughly reviewed by scientists at the Food and Drug Administration shows that the vaccines are safe and effective.

### **Vaccine Cost**

The vaccine will be provided free of charge to anyone who wants it. For people with insurance, insurance will cover any fee to administer it by the provider. People without insurance won't be charged.

### **Can the vaccine be required?**

Getting vaccinated is voluntary, and people cannot be required to get the vaccine.

### **Preventing the Spread of COVID-19**

People still need to take precautions like physical distancing and wearing a mask to help slow the spread of COVID-19 as people get vaccinated and more is learned about the immunity produced by the vaccines.

For more comprehensive information, please see the TX DSHS website:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>



Celebrate safely for New Year's Day.

- Continue Social Distancing
- Wear a Face Mask When in Public
- Wash Hands Often
- Get Tested
- See the DSHS website for updates
- <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>



Stop by and let us know how we can better serve you. Contact my office with any opinions or suggestions at (254) 965-1415 or send me an email at [countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us](mailto:countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us) We are here to serve you, until next time –

Have a Happy New Year!

Regards,

Alfonso Campos – Erath County Judge