

MARCH 2022 Erath County Judge's Summary

The Erath County Commissioner's Court meets in regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Meeting notices (including special meetings), Agendas and Minutes are posted on the County website <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/agendacenter> at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Selected Agenda items from the MARCH 2022 meetings include:

- The Court held a workshop and discussions on approving a grant application to the Homeland Security Grants Division for funding to support State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI). The funds would be used to enhance current capabilities or address interoperability gaps with our communications systems. Emergency Management Coordinator Cyndy Smith will be applying for the funding.
- The Court accepted the resignation Erath County Historical Commission Chair Robin Ritchie and member Stephanie Winnett.
- The Court approved an order for a Special Election to be held on May, 2022. Early Voting will be April 25-29 and May 2-May 3 at the Erath County Courthouse and the Patrick Street Church of Christ in Dublin. Election Day May 7 will also include Texas Bank and Texas AgriLife as polling places.
- The Court approved price increases for services provided by the Funeral Homes for transport to and from Medical Examiner's Offices for autopsies and for Indigent burials. The County pays the following fees:
 - Transportation *to* Medical Examiner for Autopsy \$1,011
 - Transportation *from* Medical Examiner to Erath County \$640
 - Indigent resident cremation service \$1,166

In addition to any of the applicable fees from above, the County also pays about \$3,000 for the actual autopsy. This price increase is due because the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office informed us they will no longer accept our requests, so we had to begin using the facility at Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for our autopsies. The Court budgeted \$163,000 for the above services for this fiscal year.

- A contract for the construction of Annex 2 was approved. The guaranteed maximum price (cost) of the new 24,000 sq. ft. building is \$7,188,608. Architect Brian Gaffin made a presentation on the construction of the project.
- The Court approved for Pct. 1 to enter into agreements with two landowners to grind caliche on their property. This saves on the cost for acquisition of caliche road materials because of the close proximity to the projects.
- The Court received the annual Jail Commissary Audit. The audit verified the correctness of the accounts. The Jail has a commissary service agreement with Sterling Commissary. A Commissary is necessary because inmates are not allowed to possess money inside the jail. The inmates may earn money by working in the jail, or if their family sends them money, it goes into their personal inmate account. The inmate may then

use their fund money to purchase commissary items (not provided to them by the jail) from the “store” or the commissary. From the commissary, the inmate may be able to purchase things like coffee, instant soup, chips, cookies, canned foods, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, writing paper, and stamps just to name a few items.

- The Court approved the payment of expenses totaling \$ 439,425.20 and \$720,185.13; employee salaries totaling \$512,202.81 and 526,525.25; and employee overtime totaling \$11,961.12 and \$14,006.81. The second total of expenses is much higher because it included our debt payment (the Jail) for \$503,805.50.
- The Court agreed to extend the Erath County Disaster Declaration that was filed by Judge Campos seven days earlier. The declaration was related to the damages incurred by the Big L Fire on the Erath and Hood county line. It allows the County to request and use state resources during the response and recovery process. The disaster has generated an incredible response to donations that will assist those who incurred losses, but also to the volunteer fire departments and to respond to the needs of the many livestock that were displaced or need feed and forage that may have been destroyed by the fires.
- The Court approved to continue having Dr. Jeffrey Moore as the Erath County Health Authority.

Monthly Summary Reports can be accessed at <https://www.co.erath.tx.us/403/Monthly-Summary-Reports>
On our website.



The Burn Ban is currently in effect. Watch the county website for updates.

www.co.erath.tx.us Keep up with Erath County alerts thru the “Alert Center”

Get instant notification of alerts and emergencies in the area by subscribing at

<https://www.co.erath.tx.us/AlertCenter.aspx>



Citizens are invited to attend and are welcome to address the Commissioner’s Court by signing up to speak. Signing up to speak can be done on site just prior to the meeting being called to order. Arrive a few minutes early.

Please call me with any questions. Let me know how we can better serve you.

You may contact my office with any opinions or suggestions at (254) 965-1415, or send me an email at countyjudge@co.erath.tx.us We are here to serve you.

Until next time –

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfonso Campos".

Alfonso Campos – Erath County Judge

