

Kleberg County Commissioners' Court Minutes



Regular Session On Monday, January 27, 2025, 1:30 P.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this the 27th day of January, 2025 the Commissioners' Court of Kleberg County, Texas, met in Regular Session in the Courthouse Annex, of the Law Enforcement Center, 1500 E. King, Kingsville, Texas with the following present:

Kleberg County Commissioners Court:

Hon. Rudy Madrid, Co. Judge
David Rosse, Commissioner Pct. #1
Chuck Schultz, Commissioner Pct. #2
Jerry Martinez, Commissioner Pct. #3
Marcus Salinas, Commissioner Pct. #4
Salvador "Sonny" Barrera, III, County Clerk

Also present were:

Kira Talip- Sanchez, Co. Attorney
Melissa Green, Co. Auditor
Priscilla A. Cantu, Co. Treasurer
Janie Espindola, Deputy Clerk
Delma Trevino, Chief Deputy Clerk

COURT WAS OPENED and called to order by Kleberg County Judge Rudy Madrid to consider the following agenda items, Commissioner Schultz gave the invocation and Commissioner Martinez led the Court in the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States and Texas Flag.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Adam LaRosa-268 FM 771, Riviera, Texas 78379, 702-400-7422

As a result of all that has taken place over the Fire Department in the last two (2) weeks, I figured I would address the court today so it be known to the public and on the minutes that this was addressed in November 2023. This has been an ongoing issue that we laid out for the court in November 2023 in the minutes and we have been trying to rectify it for over the course of a year now. For over a year we have been trying to come to some sort of agreement that would untangle the web that was the Volunteer Fire Department. The biggest factor being that it was illegitimate. Since 2015, it has not been a legitimate entity of the state and we all know that. Being that we are going back to 2015 which is what is making it irrelevant, it's never been recognized. And then there in the process of coming to this we find out there are donations that were made to the county on behalf of the Fire Department. It would be interesting to know how the department was receiving these donations. There are a couple of questions that need to be asked. The biggest question is, we have been through this for over a year now and in less than two (2) weeks now we are already finding a Fire Marshall. We can't resolve the issue that exists for over a year and now we are getting a Fire Marshall, where is the budgeting coming down for that, that's a six (6) figure job. How much is the public going to appreciate that your Fire Fighters are getting paid \$8.00 an hour and you are offering a six (6) figure job outside the county, really, that's where we are down. A lot of what has been said to the court, discussed behind closed doors has let us to this point, just smells of embezzlement, fraud and racketeering. I would like that to be taken into consideration before making any decisions, we move forward and pining that on someone else's back. Thank you

Elizabeth Ramos-615 Elizabeth Ave, Kingsville, Texas 78363

I just wanted to speak on Agenda 22 and 23. I tend to have an excellent memory but correct me if I am wrong, there are not any posted minutes for Commissioner's Court on line since July 2013, so not a lot of transparency and I can't count on the Kingsville Record to bring me any kind of unbiased news so I do not remember Rudy Madrid, excuse me, I do remember Rudy Mad stating

that the only authority this court has about fire is in the contract itself and the Fire Marshall. I believe you even stated you even stated that the volunteers would decide on the Fire Chief, so why is that on the agenda? To my knowledge there has not even been a meeting about the contract. There was no posting on the job either. Disregard the last if this is a vote to agree to post the job which may have been told was a volunteer responsibility. On another note about the issue with fire Ricardo, a couple of commissioners, one especially voiced their distain for community members and/or volunteers using social media to address concerns. I'm quite put off by these statements. I've heard about the back door phone calls to alleviate issues as well. There is something terribly wrong if an elected official said he didn't like our Bill of Rights and people using the First Amendment. I don't know about the rest of you but I pay roughly \$1,800.00 a year, a little more than city taxes to say whatever the heck I want, when I want to whom I want and in whatever place I want and this goes for anyone, remember that. If you don't like it, I'm sure someone's mom somewhere will allow you to use her basement to cry in, instead of your own community.

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AGENDA ITEM #1

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approving Payment Of Bills.

The above matter coming for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve bills presented, Commissioner Rosse voted against this as he had a questioned late charges on two (2) of the bills for Ray Fernandez, MD. JP# 3 Chris Lee will look into why they were not presented prior to today. Upon vote, the motion carried by a vote of 4-1, and so ordered.

Bills

A C Lawn and Garden--\$372.76
 AV Air Solutions--\$1,250.00
 AMG Printing & Mailing--\$1,117.19
 Birdwell Computer Services--\$494.89
 Birdwell Computer Services--\$674.85
 Birdwell Computer Services--\$1,285.64
 Christus Spohn Health System--\$891.09
 Christus Spohn Health System--\$1,246.00
 Companion Life Ins. Co.--\$4,773.91
 Culligan Of Corpus Christi--\$8,881.65
 F&D Floor Covering Janitorial--\$505.75
 F&D Floor Covering Janitorial--\$674.40
 F&D Floor Covering Janitorial--\$1,361.98
 Ray Fernandez, MD--\$4,300.00
 G&S Property Services--\$2,880.00
 Galls LLC--\$348.98
 Galls LLC--\$417.67
 Rebecca Grimaldo--\$552.10
 Harrel-Kingsville Pharmacy--\$5,914.04
 Raul Hernandez & Company P.C.--\$12,500.00
 Santos McBain Management--\$500.00
 Mutual of Omaha--\$8,350.76
 Ponderosa HVAC & Construction--\$750.00
 Quill Corporation C66766058--\$941.65
 Quill Corporation C6268513--\$1,126.78
 Ramos Refrigeration & A C--\$1,101.10
 Rodriguez & Sons Plumbing Co--\$924.29
 Rodriguez & Sons Plumbing Co--\$462.26
 Rodriguez & Sons Plumbing Co--\$410.00
 Rodriguez & Sons Plumbing Co--\$428.17
 South Texas Clinical Lab--\$376.63
 South Texas Restaurant Equipment DBA--\$366.25
 South Texas Laundry--\$366.25
 Sur Tec Incorporated--\$2,963.00
 TDCAA--\$670.00
 Texas Association of Communities--\$750.00
 Texas Library Association--\$398.00
 US Foodservice Inc--\$4,260.25

US Foodservice Inc--\$1,491.04
 US Foodservice Inc--\$2,672.15
 US Foodservice Inc--\$6,653.20
 US Foodservice Inc--\$2,760.38
 US Foodservice Inc--\$2,761.24
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$425.25
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$1,722.25
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$733.75
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$697.00
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$1,645.25
 United States Prisoner Trans--\$1,800.00
 United States Prisoner--\$1,669.75
 Orpha P. Weber--\$533.20

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AGENDA ITEM #2

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Budget Line Item Transfers.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the budget line-item transfers as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

Budget Line-Item Transfers

District Attorney's Office

010-47-107 to 010-476-135--\$10,000.00
 010-476-497 to 010-476-343--\$7,000.00
 010-476-580 to 010-476-499--\$2,000.00
 010-476-497 to 010-476-498--\$600.00

Juvenile Probation

012-571-102 to 012-571-490--\$397.76
 012-571-105 to 012-571-490--\$1,049.76
 012-571-145 to 012-571-490--\$1,022.60
 012-571-201 to 012-571-490--\$222.45
 012-571-202 to 012-571-490--\$3,725.42
 012-571-204 to 012-571-490--\$390.92
 012-571-204 to 012-571-490--\$155.87
 012-571-311 to 012-571-490--\$97.09
 012-571-330 to 012-571-490--\$113.96
 017-570-102 to 017-570-490--\$720.81
 017-570-114 to 017-570-490--\$60.93
 017-570-140 to 017-570-490--\$661.00
 017-570-204 to 017-570-490--\$1,092.67
 017-570-206 to 017-570-490--\$470.03
 017-570-314 to 017-570-490--\$238.62
 017-570-397 to 017-570-490--\$103.80
 017-570-420 to 017-570-490--\$45.93
 017-570-405 to 017-570-490--\$145.00
 017-570-424 to 017-570-490--\$879.15
 017-570-444 to 017-570-490--\$47.00
 017-570-446 to 017-570-490--\$250.00
 017-570-462 to 017-570-490--\$271.15
 017-570-498 to 017-570-490--\$239.98

AGENDA ITEM #3

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approving Budget Amendments.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the budget amendments as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously and so ordered. If needed monies can be used from reserves.

Budget Amendments

Human Services CEAP

053-367-055--(\$280.67)
053-633-449--(\$280.67)
053-652-440--\$15,000.00
053-330-650--\$15,000.00
053-631-449--(\$10,000.00)
053-367-053--(\$10,000.00)

Human Services

059-367-104--\$1,000.00
059-643-497--\$1,000.00

JP3-Tech Fund

032-453-343--\$2,975.00

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AGENDA ITEM #4

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of Monthly Reports.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve adopting the order receiving these reports and filing them as part of public record. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

Kleberg County Clerk Bank Statement-Monthly Report-Amended July 2024
Kleberg County Clerk Bank Statement-Monthly Report-August 2024
Kleberg County Clerk Statutory Monthly Report-December 2024
Kleberg County District Clerk Court Cost AG-Monthly Report-December 2024
Kleberg County District Clerk Cost-Monthly Report-December 2024
Kleberg County District Clerk Fee Account-Monthly Report-December 2024
Kleberg County JP#2-Monthly Report-December 2024
Kleberg County BP Deepwater Horizon-Monthly Report-January 2025

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AGENDA ITEM #5

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Previous Meetings.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to table this until the next meeting as Commissioner Rosse was unable to go over all of them.

MOTION TABLED

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AGENDA ITEM #6*

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of Proclamation For Sheriff William Thomas Moseley.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve the Proclamation for Sheriff Williams Thomas Moseley. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #7

Presentation Regarding Tax Reinvestment Zone Number One, Kingsville, Texas.

*****NO ACTION*****

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AGENDA ITEM #8

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Jim Hogg County And Kleberg County Regarding The Housing Of Prisoners In Jim Hogg County Detention Facility.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Jim Hogg County and Kleberg County regarding the housing of prisoners in Jim Hogg County Detention Facility. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #9

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of Resolution For Submission Of Region 3-Border Prosecution Grant, For Kleberg County District Attorney's Office (Grant# 2536512)

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve Resolution for submission of Region 3-Border Prosecution Grant for Kleberg County District Attorney's Office (Grant# 2536512). Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #10

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of A Resolution For Submission Of General Victim Assistant Direct Services Grant Application, For Kleberg County District Attorney's Office (Grant# 2899709).

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve Resolution for Submission of General Victim Assistant Direct Services Grant Application for Kleberg County District Attorney's Office (Grant# 2899709). Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #11

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Burn Ban

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to table this at this time. Commissioner Rosse stated that we have not had sufficient rain to lift this ban. Patrick Guzman with the Ricardo Volunteer Fire Department came up to podium and states he goes along with this as conditions are too favorable for lifting this ban at this time. Tabled motion at this time.

MOTION TABLED

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AGENDA ITEM #12

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approving CEAP Contract #58950004426 For Kleberg County Human Services

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve CEAP Contract# 58950004426 for Kleberg County Human Health Services. Commissioner Rosse asked if this was additional money to which David Garcia, Director of Human Services replied, yes. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #13

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Accepting And Approving The Replacement Of The Current Postage Machine For The County Clerk's Office.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve replacing the current Postage Machine for the County Clerk's Office. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #14

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of Payment To G&S Property Services. In The Amount Of \$55,220.00, For Hauling Services.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve payment to G&S Property Services in the amount of \$55,220.00 for hauling services. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #15

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of Payment To Neesen Chevrolet, In The Amount Of \$766.00, And Juan's Wrecker Service, In The Amount Of \$225.00, For Hauling Services.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve payment to Neesen Chevrolet in the amount of \$766.00 and Juan's Wrecker Service in the amount of \$225.00 for hauling services. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #16

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Authorizing The County Judge To Advertise For A Request For Proposals (RFP) For Development, Grant Writing And Administration Services related to Public Safety, Law Enforcement And Emergency Response Border Security Projects And Efforts.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve authorizing the County Judge to advertise for a request for Proposals (RFP) For Development, Grant Writing and Administration Services related to Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Emergency Response Border Security Projects and Efforts. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #17

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Authorizing The County Judge To Advertise For Qualifications (RFQ) For Engineering Services Related To Public Safety, Law Enforcement And Emergency Response Border Security Projects and Efforts.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve authorizing the County Judge to advertise for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services related to Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Emergency Response Border Security Projects and efforts. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #18

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Approval Of 2025 Board Membership Designation Form For The Coastal Bend Council Of Governments.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Rosse to approve 2025 Board Membership Designation Form for the Coastal Bend Council of Governments. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #19

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Authorizing The County Judge To Advertise For A Pneumatic Roller For Commissioner Pct. 1.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Rosse to approve authorizing the County Judge to advertise for a Pneumatic Roller for Commissioner Pct. 1. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #20

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Allowing Commissioner Pct. 4 To Apply And Open Lowe's Credit Card Account For Pct. 4.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Rosse and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve allowing Commissioner Pct. 4 to apply and open a Lowe's Credit Card Account for Pct. 4. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously and so ordered.

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AGENDA ITEM #24

**Adjourn Into Executive Session Under Texas Govt. Code 551.074
Regarding Personnel Matters. We will return to discuss the following Agenda
Items once we return. The time is 2:01 P.M.**

**Adjourned from Executive Session and return to our Regular Session.
Time is now 2:39 PM.**

AGENDA ITEM #25

**Return To Open Session And Act On Appropriate Action As Deemed
Necessary.**

AGENDA ITEM #21

In The Matter Of Discussing And Acting On Constable Pct. 1.

*****NO ACTION*****

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AGENDA ITEM #22

**Discuss And Act On Establishing The Office Of Fire Marshall / Fire Chief
For Kleberg County.**

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by
Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Commissioner Martinez to approve
establishing the Office of Fire Marshall / Fire Chief for Kleberg County. Judge asked for
a roll call vote:

Commissioner Salinas—Aye
Commissioner Martinez—Aye
Commissioner Schultz—Aye
Commissioner Rosse—Nay. Commissioner Rosse is not comfortable until
we have that workshop.
Judge Madrid---Aye

Again, I am going to say I made it very clear at our last meeting. I made it very to
reiterate what Elizabeth Ramos said on the stand, we did state we would not have any
say so in any of the volunteers, and I made it very clear that we were going to hire a
Fire Marshall for Kleberg County. A Fire Marshall who represents Kleberg County, who
is employed by Kleberg County. This Fire Marshall under Texas Government Code can
be chosen by a Commissioner's Court in any process we see fit, we do not have to go
up for advertisements or interviews. However, we knew the importance of this job so
we reached out to the best of the best and we asked around Texas and we asked for
recommendations. For being a Fire Marshall takes more than just being an average fire
fighter, there are multiple certifications that go into this. We got someone who has
operated at a state level, represented at a state level, instructor, paramedic, multiple,
multiple qualifications. I already talked to our local Fire Chief, I reached out to ESD 3
Fire Chief, we had a great meeting with the City Fire Chief, Chief Adame, who I respect
dearly, to our local Fire Marshall, Mr. Palacios, who I respect dearly and all fingers were
pointed at Ron Pray, who is a Kingsville native, who has given his entire life to public
safety. I have received a lot of phone calls from different firefighters just thanking us for
going in that direction, they have worked side by side with him before, they respect him,
I think it's very important that this position is created in Kleberg County, this is a person
who will ensure that we will stay within local, state and federal guidelines. This is a
person who will ensure we maintain physical responsibility within the department, is a
person that is an active trainer, he has trained TEEKS Texas A&M College Station and
we have a new Regional Law and Fire Training Facility, he is going to be the man

running that facility there. Ok? We got three (3) beautiful fire stations that we are about to build, unlike this Jon Ballard, who is all over Kooky Kingsville who is all over Kingsville telling people we appropriated money and that there is no grant money, I can assure you that is a false accusation that he has made and I shame him for even saying such a thing on public media. I'm going to give you an update to let you know where we are at with those fire station, because we work tirelessly every day on preparing for them. I stood toe to toe with the best of the best competing in Washington D.C. for that money to build those fire stations. We were the only people to build those fire stations and we were the only people in the Coastal Bend to get that Award. I'm very proud of my team who stood side by side with me to help us acquire that money. Upon acquiring those monies, who by the way those monies don't come to Kleberg County, it's in a line of credit, they didn't give up a big \$5 million dollar check, that money stays with the GLO, we have responsibilities we have to get done before we start building. We went out for procurements, we found an architect engineer, ICE Engineers, we hired them. We hired Environmentalists, we are working together with Ricardo School District as we speak because we felt like the fire station that we currently have in Ricardo, should be built brand new. In speaking to Ms. Garza with the Ricardo School District and to their School Board who we went multiple times in front of. We thought it was in our best interest to give them that old fire department because they have future plans on expanding their school, it only makes sense. They want a high school someday, they want to expand, it only makes sense. There is some farm land they own across the street, our lawyers are working up a deal on that farmland, the environmentalist have already done their studies, we are just waiting for the paperwork to get finalized and they will have a new fire station. In Riviera, we went and looked at it, the engineer did an assessment, they felt it was in pretty good structure, it was pretty sound, structurally and they said they will do a complete remodel of the Riviera Fire Department. And, for the first time in the history of Kleberg County we are going to build a fire station in Baffin Bay. I will invite you all to the ground breaking, I will invite this Jon Ballard who is out there saying all these lies to this ground breaking so he can eat all his words, cause I can tell you I do take it very personal when you accuse me or anyone of my team members of misappropriation of funds cause it never happened. And, to clear the record what was said about the donations that were given to Kleberg County, show me the damn donations that were given to them, to the Fire Departments cause them were not given to us. We just received a donation that I applied through Oxy, a grant for \$20K, another deal that I negotiated on behalf of Kleberg County. We have \$20K, guess what, our Fire Marshall will meet with the two (2) Fire Chief's, the Fire Chief from Riviera, the Fire Chief from Ricardo, whoever they wind up being, he is going to meet with them to see how we can best spend that money on equipment that they can use. He is also going to be applying for grants through the Texas Forestry and other entities to ensure we get brand new equipment to outfit these new fire stations. I also want to clear something else up that was said on the "Kooky Kingsville" site, 19 personnel were relieved, that is another boldfaced lie, the county did not relieve any volunteers, that is another lie. I applaud Mr. Guzman, it takes a man to correct himself and I applaud him. He put out a public apology stating that he received the wrong information when he put that on social media, he removed it and that takes a certain kind of guy to do that and I applaud him for doing that, but you have this guy, Jon Ballard who continues to carry that story out there, "oh, he was coerced, Mr. Guzman was coerced, we flooded him with lawyers to make him take it off face book. Mr. Guzman did myself, any lawyer or anybody else contact you about that on social media? Mr. Guzman, replied "no sir." The answer was no to "Kooky Kingsville's" group. The answer is no as we do not engage in social media and that kind of nonsense. We know what's true, we get up every morning trying to make a positive difference for our community, that was a boldfaced lie and it was not his fault, he was given false information and he took it off, but this Mr. Ballard wants to continue to say these lies, oh we coerced him, we forced him, we haven't even touched base with him. And I want to thank Sister Elizabeth, because of her I'm going to forgive this Mr. Ballard because he did touch a nerve with the County Judge when he decided to get online and tell the world "oh, don't worry about" the County Judge won't be here much longer he's dying of liver disease, ok. My kids see the damn post on there and you should be ashamed of yourself, but I'm going to forgive you. Sister Elizabeth reminded me, to be a leader you are going to take criticism, they criticized Jesus when he was here, so I want to thank her because I do forgive the guy. I hope he feels good and I hope he got out of that comment what he

was trying to get, I hope he got that satisfaction, he needs to go to church for it. With that said, Mr. Patrick Guzman asked if judge minded if he said something.

So for the record my name is Patrick Guzman, Kleberg County Fire & Rescue, Station #1. Just shy of 21 years, so in about 21 days I will be in the same department 21 years. I grew up in the department, I have been trained in this department, I have seen things in this department that no one should see in their lives, I have worked with great commissioners along the line, past and present commissioners. I did make that post and it was taken down and it turned out to be a personal attack toward you Judge and I do apologize and I want everyone to know it was not right, it was never meant to lead to an attack on Judge Rudy Madrid. The information I was given was false, I was not cohered, no lawyers, or anyone contacted me on this, so once I got all the information, my post was deleted and made a formal apology toward the attack on Judge Rudy Madrid. Now going back it seems I am reliving this 16 years ago, cause 16 years ago, Ron Pray was the County Fire Marshall / Fire Chief over both stations and he did a great wonderful job. You all have already made that decision, I'm not here to fight that, I'm here to say we have firemen all across the back wall who are going to be in support of this decision and work with Ron Pray. I worked with him in the past, I know what he can do, I know what he can bring to Kleberg County, I know for all the years Ron that we kept in contact from day one to now, we have kept in contact all these years so by bringing him in to this position, I think it will be great for Kleberg County for Emergency Response, bring in new equipment. So I just want to say on my behalf and I believe the guys on the back wall we do support the decision of bringing in a Fire Marshall. Now the clarification would be for Fire Marshall only or Kleberg County Fire Chief / Fire Marshall?

Judge Madrid replied that he would hold two (2) titles as employed by the county, he will be a Fire Chief / Fire Marshall but the departments will still have their departmental Chiefs. Mr. Guzman asked "so he will just oversee." To which Judge Madrid replied, "correct." Mr. Guzman said he just wanted clarification. Judge Madrid said that there would still be a workshop, nothing has changed, we are just following through with everything we said we were going to do this last week. We got the Fire Marshall knocked out, now we are going toward the workshop and I'm excited about this, I think we have a great thing going right now, I know you guys have outstanding volunteers out there that work their butts off and when I heard 19 people leaving, I said what? I said we need more people we know what they put into this every day. We know they have jobs and can't always be at the fire calls, so we want to help with recruitment efforts so as to get you guys more volunteers, the last thing in the world anybody would want to do is get rid of fire fighters, we're here to help you.

Mr. Guzman said that information was falsified too, a phone call that was made I believe with the information passed to us was false and that's why we were upset. Those are department words but it was my post.

Judge Madrid said he understood, and accepted your apology and as I said it takes a man to do that and just for the record, the Kingsville Record is here, I'm not dying of liver cancer, I hope not. I have some illnesses and it's nobody's business but I'm going to put it out there just because it was all over social media. I spent some time at a place called Afghanistan and I got exposed to some stuff but I work hard every day for my health for me, my family, for my community. This hurt one of my kids pretty bad, he is deployed overseas, he saw that, there's going to be a day when I see Mr. Ballard and we are going to have a good talk about that and that's all I'm going to say about that.

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AGENDA ITEM #23

Discuss and Act On Appointment Of A Fire Marshall / Fire Chief For Kleberg County.

The above matter coming on for consideration, a motion was made by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Martinez approved the appointment of Ron Pray for Fire Marshall / Fire Chief for Kleberg County. Upon vote, Commissioner Rosse abstained from voting as he did not want to vote against Ron Pray, I just think we put the cart before the horse. It's nothing against you Ron, you know that. Ron Pray (who was in the audience replied, he knew that. Vote was 4-1. Judge Madrid stated, Ron it's going to be a pleasure working side by side with you, I'm excited. We had a good interview on Friday, we've got this new Emergency Operation Center, you're the man, you're going to be holding the keys to that training facility. I do have a neat deal that I have to talk to the Sheriff about and to the Police Chief about and to the Task Force Director. I had an idea and I sat with Mr. Pray this week, you know EMS has been a big concern of mine also, as a matter of fact I will be speaking at the capitol next month on EMS Services, not only for Kleberg County but also for the surrounding areas. All the counties are going through the same thing and I told Ron what if we offered EMT training for our Police Officers and our County Officers as they are usually the first ones on the scene and we could put Emergency Packs in their vehicles and we could increase the response time they could help the fire fighters and Ron says, I can train them. Just another blessing, another idea, just anything we can do to promote public safety in our community is welcomed, not only here but in the entire Coastal Bend I think you will be the lead instructor, so I am looking forward to it. Looking forward to the workshop, we will announce the date here pretty soon and it will be productive. We are going to get things done.

Commissioner Schultz states that one thing people are forgetting is Oxy 1.5, the Fire Marshall is going to be playing a big roll in that, cause that's on Kleberg County property. So we are setting up the ducks for you

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Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chapter 551, the Commissioner's Court may convene a closed session to discuss any of the above agenda items. Immediately before any closed session, the specific sections of Government Code, Chapter 551 that provide statutory authority will be announced.

• Conduct Any Other Business Necessary For The Proper Functioning Of County Business

- Judge would like to set up a campaign meeting, I spoke to Commissioner Martinez and he is good on this as well and I have also talked to one of the family members of the King Ranch, we have a local General, General Cavazos who was awarded the highest medal that anyone could be awarded, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. I would like to plan something here in Kleberg County, this is his hometown, he is from the King Ranch, I think we should honor him and give him due justice and so we will start planning that, and more to come on that.
- Commissioner Salinas thanked the Ricardo and Riviera Volunteer Fire Departments for everything that you continue to do for our county and community, you do an awesome job. Commissioner Martinez seconded that. Judge told them he appreciated them and would be seeing them soon.

With No Further Business At Hand To Be Considered By The Court At This Time,
Adjournment Was Had. Court adjourned at 2:57 PM.



Rudy Madrid, County Judge

ATTEST:



Salvador "Sonny" Barrera, III
County Clerk
Kleberg County, Texas