

MINUTES – JULY 2, 1998

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

FY 1999 PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

On Thursday, the 2nd day of July 1998, the Commissioners' Court convened the FY 1999 Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 1:44 PM in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, Austin, Texas. Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Anna M. Valdez.

The Commissioners' Court adjourned the FY 1999 Planning and Budget Process Voting Session at 4:38 PM.

The Commissioners' Court record notes that Precinct One Commissioner Darwin McKee was not present during this Voting Session.

1. CONSIDER AND ACT ON PLANNING ISSUES AS PART OF THE FY 1999 PLANNING & BUDGET PROCESS. (1:44 PM)

A. EMERGENCY SERVICES

SESSION OVERVIEW (1:47 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, Justice and Public Safety (JPS).

Discussion Only.

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED

OPTIONS IN PLAN (1:52 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS.

Discussion Only.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) VS ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) (1:59 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dr. Ed Racht, Austin-Travis County EMS Medical Director.

Discussion Only.

PLANNING OPTIONS (2:01 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; and Dr. Ed Racht, Austin-Travis County EMS Medical Director.

Discussion Only.

TRAINING (2:10 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS.

Discussion Only.

RESPONSE TIME (2:12 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; Dr. Donald Patrick, Chairman, EMS Quality Assurance, City of Austin; Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Dr. Ed Racht, Austin-Travis County EMS Medical Director; Don Smith, Chief, Emergency Services District (ESD) #14; Terry Pickering, Major, Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO); and Teresa Reel, Manager of Emergency and Wireless Communications (JPS).

Discussion Only.

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED**GROUND TRANSPORT SYSTEM OPTIONS (2:40 PM)**

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; Bob Dickson, Private Citizen and Resident of Western Travis County; Ray Litton, City Administrator, City of Jonestown; Dean Armstrong, President, ESD #7; Jan Yenawine, Fire Commissioner, Volente; Ron Mullenberg, Chairman, Travis County Chiefs, and Fire Chief, ESD #2; Bruce Watson, Fire Chief, ESD #6; S. J. Fowler, President, ESD #12; Mike McKenzie, Chief, Manchaca EMS; Kevin McDonald, Commissioner, ESD #4; Dr. Ed Racht, Austin-Travis County EMS Medical Director; and Dr. Donald Patrick, Chairman, EMS Quality Assurance, City of Austin.

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to authorize, as to the next level of applying budget numbers, the upgrading of the Commissioners' support for the First Responders as has been outlined in (back-up material) Planning Question #1. Regarding the other planning questions in the back-up material, the Commissioners' Court instructs the Planning and Budget Office, the Department of Emergency Services, and the Justice and Public Safety Department to work on a Travis County funded and operated Ground Transport System for the area outside the city limits of Austin. The issues as to the level of response that will be funded should be left open until the Court sees those numbers (all levels should be looked at). Also, as part of the exercise of putting this into a budget configuration, Travis County should:

- 1) assume that they remain in an agreement for the Medical Director with the City of Austin;
- 2) continue the clinical practice arrangement and the EMS training that is currently in place;
- 3) be establishing and looking at the configuration of a stakeholder oversight board for advice (not only on the system when it is in place, but on the formulation of that system and the current budget), or some committee that involves medical oversight and those standards;
- 4) involve the County Attorney's Office so they would formulate, for the Court, potential agreements that the cities could look at so the Court can get an indication from each city outside of Austin as to which ones would be interested in entering into an agreement with Travis County to use this system;
- 5) ask that the County Attorney's Office also work on the agreements that would be needed to enter into with the Emergency Services Districts for the sharing of resources; and
- 6) also ask that the County Attorney's Office work on the agreement that Travis County would need, with the City of Austin, to continue the arrangements, and that the Court would like to continue and see what negotiating points would have to be raised with them as to the present agreement.

The Court asks that the most aggressive implementation of this system be looked at in terms of time limits, and what budget implications are attendant to that. Defining "most aggressive," staff should show what it would look like to get it done the quickest way possible, how to finance the system, and how to implement it.

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED

Maker and Second accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that staff at least meet the current service level.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Sonleitner.

Maker and Second accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that staff should assume that as soon as the Court gets to the budget discussion about how many ambulances to initially purchase, it should be assumed that the method by which Travis County will be paying for those will be in the Bond Issue coming up in the fall.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Sonleitner.

Maker accept the Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Sonleitner that staff should begin immediate discussions with the Travis County Purchasing Department regarding the development of any RFPs or Professional Services Agreements having to do with the procurement of a billing component or anything related to the procurement of any equipment and supplies that might be needed.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore.

Maker accept the Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Sonleitner to give a heads up to the Human Resources Management Department (HRMD) regarding the potential need to recruit, hire, train, orient, or do anything that needs to be done relating to the hiring of any and all EMS personnel. The Market Match that should be used for equitable salaries (in Travis County) is the salary that the City of Austin is currently offering their EMS personnel.

A Clarification was made of the previous Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that Travis County will be compensating at least at the level that the City of Austin is.

A Clarification was made of the previous Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Moore that HRMD needs to be alerted to develop the job descriptions, classifications, etc., that will be necessary to staff this system.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore.

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED

Maker accept the Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Sonleitner to give a heads up to the Travis County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO) and any other law enforcement personnel regarding anything that may need to be brought forward related to the CAD and anything further that would need to be done relating to communications.

A Clarification was made of the previous Friendly Amendment by Commissioner Moore that the intent is for TCSO is to be looked at to be the dispatcher for this system.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore.

Maker and Second accept the Friendly Amendment by Judge Aleshire that it be clear that these would be ALS units and that Travis County would continue to follow and enforce the Standard of Care document that has been used in Emergency Medical Services.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
 Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - absent
 Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
 Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - yes
 Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

HELICOPTER – STARFLIGHT (3:45 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; John Brindley, President/Chief Executive Officer of Austin Hospitals, Seton Healthcare Network; Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; and Ed Berger, Assistant to the President for Government Affairs, Seton Healthcare Network.

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to instruct, for planning purposes, to proceed on the assumption that Travis County will only have two helicopters and will not be buying the third helicopter.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
 Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - absent
 Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
 Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - yes
 Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

ITEM 1.A CONTINUED

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM (3:59 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; Eric Carter, Emergency Planner, JPS; and Pete Baldwin, Emergency Management Coordinator, JPS.

Motion by Judge Aleshire and seconded by Commissioner Moore to proceed with the go-forward motion for the planning issue to be considered in the budget process, as to what resources Travis County might devote to try and begin addressing with a multi-year strategy, (cooperative with all the other entities in the region), to be better prepared to respond to hazardous materials incidents. The Court wants to see this in the budget proposal.

Motion carried:

County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	absent

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COUNCIL (LEPC) (4:04 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Pete Baldwin, Emergency Management Coordinator, JPS; Chris Callsen, Director of Emergency Services, JPS; Dinah Dinwiddie, Executive Manager, JPS; and Terry Pickering, Major, TCSO.

Discussion Only.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

B. JUVENILE COURT (4:08 PM)

SESSION OVERVIEW (4:08 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, Planning and Budget Office (PBO).

Discussion Only.

EXPANDED PACKAGE (4:11 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: The Honorable W. Jeanne Muerer, Judge, 98th District; The Honorable John Dietz, Judge, 250th District; Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only.

CURRENT LEVEL FUNDING AND AN ADDITIONAL FTE (4:23 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: The Honorable W. Jeanne Muerer, Judge, 98th District; The Honorable John Dietz, Judge, 250th District; and Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, PBO.

Motion by Commissioner Moore **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to approve that the current level funding and the addition of a Court Master move forward to the budget process.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire	-	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee	-	absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	-	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore	-	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	-	absent

ITEM 1.B CONTINUED

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Commissioner Moore to instruct the PBO staff to give the Commissioners' Court a better look ahead to fiscal year 2000. PBO staff should offer any "relief valves" that they would like to suggest at this time.

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC UNIT (4:31 PM)

Members of the Court heard from: The Honorable John Dietz, Judge, 250th District; The Honorable W. Jeanne Muerer, Judge, 98th District; Estela Medina, Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Court; and Barbara Swift, Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Court.

Discussion Only.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Commissioner Moore to adjourn the FY 1999 Planning and Budget Process Voting Session. (4:38 PM)

Motion carried: County Judge Bill Aleshire - yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Darwin McKee - absent
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner - yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Margaret Moore - yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez - absent

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Date of Approval

Bill Aleshire, Travis County Judge