

**COMMISSIONERS COURT
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ROCKWALL**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THERE WAS HELD A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT ON THE ABOVE DATE WITH THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE COURT PRESENT:**

CHRIS FLORANCE	COUNTY JUDGE
JERRY WIMPEE	COMMISSIONER PCT #1
LORIE GRINNAN	COMMISSIONER PCT #2
BRUCE BEATY	COMMISSIONER PCT #3
DAVID MAGNESS	COMMISSIONER PCT #4
LISA CONSTANT	COUNTY CLERK

JUDGE FLORANCE CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER AND
RECESSED MEETING FOR 15 MINUTES. *SHORT RECESS* JUDGE
FLORANCE RE-OPENED THE SPECIAL MEETING.

ITEM #1

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS THAT ROCKWALL COUNTY WILL
SUPPORT AND SUBMIT AS A ROCKWALL COUNTY LEGISLATIVE
PACKAGE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE 2009 TEXAS LEGISLATURE:
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CREATION OF
A NEW DISTRICT COURT AND INDIGENT HEALTH.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE MADE BY THE COURT TO SELECT
SPECIFY AREAS OF SUPPORT THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED AS PART OF
THE COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE.

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THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WIMPEE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BEATY WITH THE COURT VOTING 5-0 IN FAVOR OF PETITIONING THE LEGISLATURE TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL DISTRICT COURT IN ROCKWALL COUNTY.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GRINNAN WITH THE COURT VOTING 5-0 TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION REGARDING INDIGENT HEALTH CARE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, DURING THE PAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION, REVISIONS WERE PROPOSED REGARDING THE TEXAS SYSTEM OF INDIGENT HEALTH CARE; AND

WHEREAS, SOME BILLS PROPOSED AN ASSESSMENT UPON COUNTIES TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL INDIGENT HEALTH CARE SYSTEM; AND

WHEREAS, SUCH ASSESSMENT WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNFUNDED MANDATE, REQUIRING PROPERTY TAX INCREASES IN THOSE COUNTIES; AND

WHEREAS, SUCH REGIONAL SYSTEMS WOULD NOT BE EFFICIENT OR RESPONSIVE TO LOCAL TAXPAYERS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS OPPOSES ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A MANDATORY

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ASSESSMENT UPON TEXAS COUNTIES TO FUND A REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER WIMPEE, SECONDED BY JUDGE FLORANCE WITH THE COURT VOTING 5-0 TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT A RESOLUTION REGARDING OPPOSITION TO APPRAISAL CAPS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, IN REGULAR SESSION THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE CONSIDERED PROPOSALS FOR REVENUE CAPS ON COUNTIES AND LOWER APPRAISAL CAPS; AND

WHEREAS, 60 PERCENT OF THE AVERAGE TAXPAYER'S PROPERTY TAX BURDEN IS DUE TO SCHOOL TAXES WHILE ONLY 14 PERCENT IS DUE TO COUNTY TAXES; AND

WHEREAS, APPRAISAL CAPS OR REVENUE CAPS WOULD DIMINISH LOCAL CONTROL AND TIE THE HANDS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS AND LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND EMERGENCIES OF THEIR CITIZENS; AND

WHEREAS, COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY STRUGGLING TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF UNDER-FUNDED AND UNFUNDED STATE MANDATES SUCH AS INDIGENT HEALTH CARE, INDIGENT DEFENSE AND FEDERAL

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MANDATES SUCH AS THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AND
THE CLEAN AIR ACT; AND

WHEREAS, THE DEMANDS ON COUNTY BUDGETS CONTINUE
TO INCREASE INCLUDING MOTOR FUEL, ROAD MATERIALS,
AND ALL OTHER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PURCHASED BY
COUNTIES; AND

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BEATY, SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER GRINNAN WITH THE COURT VOTING 5-0 TO SUPPORT A
RESOLUTION REGARDING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INDIGENT HEALTH AS
FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, TEXAS HAS RELIED UPON HOSPITAL DISTRICTS,
COUNTIES, AND PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT HOSPITALS TO
PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO OUR INDIGENT CITIZENS; AND

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS FAILED TO FULLY
ACCESS FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDS; AND

WHEREAS, THIS FAILURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS
FORCED LOCAL TAXPAYERS TO ASSUME THIS BURDEN
THROUGH PROPERTY TAXES; AND

WHEREAS, THESE FEDERAL FUNDS ARE BEING FULLY
UTILIZED BY OTHER STATES;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNTY
JUDGES AND COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

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REQUESTS THAT THE STATE OF TEXAS EXPAND ITS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO OBTAIN FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR INDIGENT HEALTH CARE AND RELIEVE THE PROPERTY TAXPAYER OF THIS UNFAIR BURDEN.

THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GRINNAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WIMPEE TO LIST THE TOP PRIORITIES OF ROCKWALL COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE AS FOLLOWS: TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, NEW DISTRICT COURT, INDIGENT HEALTH CARE AND OPPOSITION TO APPRAISAL CAPS. THE MOTION WAS AMENDED BY COMMISSIONER GRINNAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WIMPEE WITH THE COURT VOTING 5-0 IN FAVOR OF PRIORITIZING AS FOLLOWS: 1) TRANSPORTATION FUNDING, 2) OPPOSITION TO APPRAISAL CAPS, 3) CREATION OF A NEW DISTRICT COURT IN ROCKWALL COUNTY, 4) DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND 5) INDIGENT HEALTH CARE.

ITEM #2

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 10:00AM- 10:20AM

- DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY, AND ALL RELATED ISSUES.

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ITEM #3

NO ACTION TAKEN REGARDING PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.

JUDGE FLORANCE ADJOURNED THE SPECIAL MEETING.

LISA CONSTANT, COUNTY CLERK

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