

MINUTES

On this, the 22nd day of June 2026, the Commissioners Court of Jack County, Texas, met in Regular Session at 10:02 a.m., beginning with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and Texas flag, with the following individuals present:

Brian Keith Umphress	County Judge
Gary Oliver	Commissioner Precinct 1
Ronald Fitzgerald	Commissioner Precinct 2
Henry Birdwell, Jr.	Commissioner Precinct 3
Terry Ward	Commissioner Precinct 4
Suzanne Brooks	Chief Deputy Clerk
Lisa Perry	County Auditor
Brad Campsey	County Treasurer
Cara Smith	County Treasurer's Assistant
Frank Hefner	Emergency Management / IT
T-Bob Hauger	Jack County Sheriff
Doug Angell	SO Chief Deputy
Macaul Johnson	County Judge's Assistant
Ron Butler	TDEM County Liason
Jed Moore	Sheriff Deputy
James Mayo	Sheriff Deputy
Lynn Casteel	Election Administrator

The following public members were in attendance: Nathan Dudley, Melanie Belcher, Zach Zeitler, Anna Fitzgerald, Connie Fellers, John Barry IV, Brian Heiser, Melvin Clay, Billie Clay, Jeremy Jennings, Don Sneed, Jim Harvison, Donna Handley, Gary Lobdell, Bowen Lobdell, Ashley Anderson, Mark B. Laird, Bobby Miles, Katy Hammond, Mike Smith, Jacksboro City Manager, Terry Beske, Ken Alles, Kristen Howell, Jeff Jackson, Nichole Rose, Tony Horn and Heather Crowley.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND CLAIMS

Commissioner Birdwell moved to approve all [accounts and claims](#) submitted. Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded the motion, which passed. (5-0).

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) Approval of Minutes of Meeting for June 8, 2026;
- (b) Review and Acceptance of Auditor's Monthly [Report](#);
- (c) Acceptance of Extension Activity and Travel Reports from agents [Alinda Cox](#) and [Taylor K. Chapa](#) for the month of May 2026;
- (d) Approval of Performance Bonds and Oaths for (1) Jack County Sheriff Deputy Gary Fitzgerald; (2) Jack County Sheriff Deputy Jeremy Maxwell; (3) Jack County Deputy Constable David Vanderkaay; (4) Jack County Sheriff Deputy Dustin Mayhue;
- (e) Acceptance of Certification of Final Commercial Operation Date [letter](#) from Pinnington Solar;
- (f) Approve and sign annual [service agreement](#) with Flock Safety LPR;
- (g) Approval of the 2027 Mack P164T for Pct. 4 through H-GAC [contract](#);
- (h) Ratification of the Bohrer Law Firm Engagement PLLC [Letter](#);

Judge Umphress made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell and passed (4-1), Commissioner Oliver against.

TIMED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

PRESENTATION OF THE FY2025 REPORT FROM MELANIE BELCHER WITH THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER FOR NORTH TEXAS

Kristin Howell, CEO of [Children's Advocacy Center](#), updated the court on the services they provide and the importance of providing these services in Jack County. They serve children up to 18 years old and have served 38 children in Jack County. In 2025, the largest issue was sexual abuse under the age of 14. Once a case is reported, the total cost from start to finish is approximately \$3,000 per child. Sheriff Hauger told the court he supports this organization 100%; they are a vital piece of the puzzle in getting these cases prosecuted. They make sure the

children receive the medical and mental support needed. Jack County has financially supported the Children's Advocacy Center for the last 3 years, and they are asking the court for \$15,000 again, as they did last year. They will have their first fundraiser this November to bring awareness and raise additional funds.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REAPPOINT MS. CINDY BARKSDALE
TO THE HELEN FARABEE CENTERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Judge Umphress made a motion to reappoint Ms. Cindy Barksdale to the Helen Farabee Centers Board of Trustees. Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded, and the motion passed (5-0).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE QUOTE #00016814
FOR THE JACK COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

Election Administrator Lynn Casteel updated the court on this item. The New Talley Computer was paid for with the HAVA grant, but she needs a Laser printer to go with the Talley Computer for printing election results.

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to approve purchase [quote #00016814](#) for the elections office. Commissioner Oliver seconded, and the motion passed (5-0).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE QUOTE #00016755
FOR THE JACK COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

John Barry thanked the court for approving these items, which will make the Election Administrator's job easier, and reported that Lynn Casteel is doing a great job. This is for a Mail ballot printer and an emergency ballot printer.

Commissioner Birdwell made a motion to approve purchase [quote #00016755](#) for the Jack County Election Office. Commissioner Ward seconded, and the motion passed (5-0).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE
THORNBURG ESTATES PLAT

No action taken; item tabled at this time.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ASSIST STOMP WITH ADDITIONAL
FUNDING

Katy Hammond, Executive Director, and Heather Crowley reported on STOMP summer camp and all of the exciting programs going on in Jack County. There was recently a mock trial, which was very informative for the students, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving spoke at one of their recent programs. They have seen significant growth and expanded their services into Wise County. STOMP has many fundraisers throughout the year, but with rising costs of fuel and supplies, they are requesting an additional \$3,500.

Judge Umphress made a motion to financially support STOMP with an additional \$3,500 budget amendment for this budget cycle to be taken out of reserves. Commissioner Ward seconded, and the motion passed (5-0).

DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE ENGAGEMENT WITH BLUE WAVE AUCTION TO
DISPOSE OF PCT. 2 EQUIPMENT

Commissioner Fitzgerald reported he has a couple of pieces of equipment not being used and would like to sell them and buy something he can use daily.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fitzgerald to amend and approve engaging with Purple Wave, not Blue Wave, auction service to dispose of Precinct 2 Equipment. Commissioner Oliver seconded, and the motion passed (5-0)

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENGAGE A STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

Commissioner Fitzgerald addressed the court on this service, which would be to provide better communication to the public.

11:00 a.m. Zoom hearing with Merrie Spaeth, Anna. McEnlee and James Davis with Touchdown Strategies, a Communications Consulting company.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fitzgerald to engage a strategic communications consulting services [agreement](#) with Touchdown Strategies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Birdwell and passed (4-1) with Commissioner Oliver against.

[DISCUSSION](#) AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE TWIN LAKES ADDITION
SUBDIVISION

No action, item tabled at this time.

DISCUSSION TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF LEXIE LANE AND RACHEL LANE TO
911 ADDRESSING

No action at this time.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSIONER PRECINCT OPERATIONS

Discussion made, no action taken.

REPORTS, IF ANY, BY OTHER DEPARTMENT HEADS

Discussion made, no action taken.

PUBLIC FORUM (LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES PER PERSON)

Members of the [public](#) addressed the Court.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Oliver and Commissioner Birdwell have items to deem as salvage to add to the auction list for Purple Wave.
Twin Lakes Addition subdivision.
Meetings will begin regularly on Mondays for the budget workshop, with meetings starting at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Birdwell moved to adjourn. Commissioner Oliver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 1: 53 p.m.

Brian Keith Umphress, County Judge

Gary Oliver, Commissioner Pct. #1

Ronald Fitzgerald, Commissioner Pct. #2

Henry Birdwell, Jr., Commissioner Pct #3

Terry Ward, Commissioner Pct. #4

ATTEST:

Vanessa James, County Clerk