

MINUTES OF MEETING – SEPTEMBER 3, 2003

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT BUDGET VOTING SESSION

On Wednesday, the 3rd day of September, 2003, the Commissioners' Court convened the Budget Voting Session at 1:36 PM in the Commissioners' Courtroom, 1st Floor of the Ned Granger Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, Austin, Texas. Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Melissa Velasquez.

The Commissioners' Court adjourned the Budget Voting Session at 4:03 PM.

1. CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON TRAVIS COUNTY FY 04 BUDGET INCLUDING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS.
(1:36 PM)

Clerk's Note: The Court received a brief overview of the Travis County Budget from the Planning and Budget Office.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Clerk's Note: The Court discussed County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe's recommendations on possible expenditure decreases and revenue increases to the County Budget.

(1:52 PM) **Fluor Daniel Litigation Reserve, Release of General Fund Money**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, Planning and Budget Office (PBO); Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor; and Alicia Perez, Executive Manager, Administrative Operations.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to reduce the Preliminary Budget by taking the ½ million dollars from the Fluor Daniel money.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(1:57 PM) **East Metro Park – Delay Opening**

Members of the Court heard from: Jessica Rio, Budget Analyst, PBO; Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Carol Joseph, Assistant Director, Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR).

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Davis to delay the opening of the East Metro Park.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

(2:04 PM) **Subdivision Fees Increase to Cover Increased Cost**

Members of the Court heard from: Jessica Rio, Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to increase subdivision fees for a total revenue amount of \$179,977.00.

Clerk’s Note: The Court did not take a formal Vote on the previous Motion.

(2:06 PM) **Travis County Corporations**

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to accept from the Health Facilities Development Corporation \$300,000.00.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(2:07 PM) **CAPSO Funds**

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to expect \$100,000.00 in CAPSO Funds.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe yes
 Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis yes
 Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner yes
 Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty yes
 Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez yes

(2:07 PM) **Property Tax Litigation Reserve**

Members of the Court heard from: Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to free up \$800,000.00 of the amount that we put aside in anticipation of Property Tax Litigation.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe yes
 Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis yes
 Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner yes
 Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty yes
 Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez yes

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(2:09 PM) **Records Archive Fee**

Members of the Court heard from: John Hille, Assistant County Attorney; Diana Ramirez, Budget Analyst, PBO; Travis Gatlin, Budget Analyst, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Judge Biscoe and seconded by Commissioner Davis to reduce the General Fund contribution by \$250,000.00. Part of the Motion is the understanding that we would receive from the County Attorney, basically, a listing of what is legal and what is not, and to send that list to the County Clerk to say, “Here is what the Court would like to do, if there is a better way to achieve the savings of \$250,000.00 in General Fund money, let the court know.”

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(2:25 PM) **Cell Phones**
 (2:53 PM)

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to add to the list the \$50,000.000 that the Court voted to take from the Cell Phone Preliminary Budget.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	no
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

Members of the Court heard from: Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Daugherty to reconsider the \$50,000.00 amount related to the Cell Phones budget.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner that we now use the accurate figure of \$38,160.00 to take from the General Fund Cell Phone Preliminary Budget.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(2:25 PM) **LCRA Waiver of Contribution**

Members of the Court heard from: Carol Joseph, Assistant Director, TNR.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Daugherty to ask the LCRA to waive the 15% contribution to the Capital Reserve for the LCRA Parks.

A Friendly Amendment to the previous Motion was offered by Commissioner Sonleitner that, along with collecting the funds we ought to have a master plan, or multi-year plan, multi-year budget related to those dollars, and whether they should be leveraged with a Certificate of Obligation to do some improvements in those parks.

Acceptance of the Friendly Amendment was made by Judge Biscoe and Commissioner Daugherty.

Motion carried: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

(2:32 PM) **Freeze Unfilled Positions**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Item to be reposted on the Budget Mark-Up Voting Session, September 10, 2003.

(2:39 PM) **Fleet Management Fuel**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Jessica Rio, Budget Analyst, PBO; Cynthia McDonald, Financial Manager, TNR; and Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Item to be reposted on the Voting Session, September 9, 2003.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(3:01 PM) **Constables & Sheriff's Fees, Increase**

Members of the Court heard from: Blain Keith, Chief Assistant County Auditor, Travis County Auditor's Office; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Sonleitner to add the new revenue amount of \$168,258.00 into the Preliminary Budget.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

(3:02 PM) **Fire Marshall Fees**

Members of the Court heard from: Blain Keith, Chief Assistant County Auditor, Travis County Auditor's Office; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Clerk's Note: The Court discussed Precinct One County Commissioner Ron Davis' recommendations on possible expenditure decreases and revenue increases to the County Budget.

(3:05 PM) **Protective Orders**

Discussion Only. No action taken.

(3:07 PM) **Retirement Incentive Program**

Discussion Only. No action taken.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

Clerk's Note: The Court discussed Precinct Two County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner's recommendations on possible expenditure decreases and revenue increases to the County Budget.

(3:10 PM) **Judicial Fee**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor; and Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

(3:15 PM) **EMS Interlocal with the City of Austin**

Members of the Court heard from: Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

Clerk's Note: The Court discussed Precinct Three County Commissioner Gerald Daugherty's recommendations on possible expenditure decreases and revenue increases to the County Budget.

(3:17 PM) **Domestic Relations Office (DRO); Collection of Fines and Fees**

Members of the Court heard from: Alan Miller, Budget Analyst, PBO; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

(3:22 PM) **Road and Bridge Fund**

Members of the Court heard from: Jessica Rio, Budget Analyst, PBO; Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor; Blain Keith, Chief Assistant County Auditor, Travis County Auditor's Office; and Mike Wichern, Chief Assistant County Auditor, Travis County Auditor's Office.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(3:41 PM) Risk Management, Excess Funds, Use to Fund Health Insurance Increase; Healthcare Premium

Members of the Court heard from: Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor; Alicia Perez, Executive Manager, Administrative Operations; Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; and Diana Warner, First Assistant County Auditor, Travis County Auditor’s Office.

Motion by Judge Biscoe **and seconded by** Commissioner Davis to set the composite rate for employees that enrolled for Healthcare at \$517.00 per employee per month.

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

(3:47 PM) Setting the Tax Rate

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

(3:54 PM) Re-budgeting the CAR Projects, Sweeps

Members of the Court heard from: Jessica Rio, Budget Analyst, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

(3:56 PM) Encumbrances, more than 1 year old

Members of the Court heard from: Leroy Nellis, Budget Manager, PBO; Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO; and Susan Spataro, Travis County Auditor.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

ITEM 1 CONTINUED

(4:00 PM) **Debt Model**

Members of the Court heard from: Christian Smith, Executive Manager, PBO.

Discussion Only. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sonleitner **and seconded by** Commissioner Gómez to adjourn the Budget Voting Session. (4:03 PM)

Motion carried:

County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	yes
Precinct 1, Commissioner Ron Davis	yes
Precinct 2, Commissioner Karen Sonleitner	yes
Precinct 3, Commissioner Gerald Daugherty	yes
Precinct 4, Commissioner Margaret J. Gómez	yes

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Date of Approval

Samuel T. Biscoe, Travis County Judge