



Judge Linda Grant
President

Judge Jay Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer

Councilmember Jim Holmes
Vice-President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, on Thursday, the 22nd Day of April 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas.

The meeting can also be accessed by “Virtual/Telephone Conferencing”, (as approved by the Texas Attorney General): <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/782078045>; or dial in using your phone: United States (Toll Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

Access Code: 782-078-045

Members Present

Judge Linda Grant, *President*
Judge Jay Elliott, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Judge Scott Felton
Judge Justin Lewis
Judge Richard Duncan
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Commissioner Nita Wuebker
Mr. Calvin Rueter
Mayor Johnnie Hauerland
Co. Treasurer Jeannie Keeney
Commissioner Jim Smith
Mayor Andy Smith

Freestone County
Falls County
McLennan County
Hill County
Limestone County
Bosque County
Falls County
Special Districts
City of Meridian
Freestone County
McLennan County
City of Hillsboro

Members Absent

Councilmember Jim Holmes, *Vice-President*
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Mayor Dillon Meek
Mayor Geary Smith

City of Waco
City of Robinson
City of Waco
City of Mexia

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky
John C. Minnix
Gary Luft
Mary McDow
Dorthy Jackson

Executive Director
Dep. Exec. Director of Administration
Dep. Exec. Director of HHS
Personnel Manager
Regional Economic Development Manager

Tim Jeske
Amy Derrick
Rep Pledger
Lana Gudgel

Homeland Security Manager
Emergency Preparedness Planner
Transportation Manager
Criminal Justice Planner

Visitors/Guest

Michelle Bobo
Stacy Webb

Texas Department of Agriculture
Economic Dev. Administration

AGENDA

I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

President Linda Grant called the meeting to order, roll call, and determined that a quorum was present.

II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act. Proof of posting was provided by Mary McDow.

III. Introduction of Guests. Guests and staff were introduced. Mr. Devorsky thanked everyone for being in attendance, being the first in-person meeting in over a year because of the pandemic and noted the updates to the audio/visual equipment in the Board Room including cameras with ability to live stream and video record.

Presentation. Mrs. Dorothy Jackson introduced Stacey Webb, representative from the Economic Development Administration to make a virtual presentation on future funding of potential EDA projects.

IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

A. Approval of the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes

Judge Grant asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Judge Scott Felton and seconded by Judge Cindy Vanlandingham to approve the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. HOTCOG Executive Committee Appointment

Mr. Russell Devorsky noted that Limestone County Judge Richard Duncan had recommended Mayor Geary Smith, City of Mexia, for appointment to the Executive Committee to replace former Councilmember Mike Thompson, City of Groesbeck who reigned last year.

A motion was made by Judge Richard Duncan and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve Mayor Geary Smith, City of Mexia, to serve on the Executive Committee. Motion passed.

2. Texas Silver-Haired Legislature-Legislators Representing HOTCOG in the 19th Legislative Session

Mr. Gary Luft stated that four (4) candidates had made application to run for the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature representing the Election District for the April 30, 2021 election. Four candidates can be elected unopposed eliminating the requirement to hold an election. Mr. Luft noted that three candidates are incumbents-Barbara Aydlett from Aquilla, Linda Timmerman from Streetman, and Danny Volcik from Waco. David Timmerman is new to the legislature. Each of the four positions are classified as “At Large District” representatives.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Mr. Calvin Rueter to approve the recommendation of the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council to approve all four candidates as “elected unopposed” to represent HOTCOG in the 19th Legislative Session. Motion passed.

3. Heart of Texas Rural Transit District Purchase of Six (6) Vehicles

Mr. Gary Luft stated that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) had notified staff that the Heart of Texas Transit District (HOTRTD) was awarded \$455,800 to purchase five (5) each Type 2 Glaval Commute transit buses to replace five buses that have met end of life currently in the existing fleet of twenty-three transit buses. The HOTRTD was also notified by TXDOT that \$104,725 was awarded to purchase one transit vehicle to expand the fleet to twenty-four transit buses.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Nita Wuebker to approve and proceed with the purchase of six buses from Creative Bus Sales through the Oklahoma State contract for \$90,542.26 for each vehicle for a total of \$543,253.56. Motion passed.

4. Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee (LETAC) Appointment

Mr. Tim Jeske presented a recommendation from Judge Cindy Vanlandingham to appoint David Monthey to serve on the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Judge Cindy Vanlandingham and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the appointment of David Monthey to serve on the Law Enforcement Training Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

5. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Rankings and Recommendations for FY2021 Funding

Mr. Jeske stated the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) met on April 8, 2021 to evaluate and score the applications submitted for funding under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Violent Crimes Against Women (VAWA), State Fund 421, Truancy Prevention (TP), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's office. The committee's rankings and recommendations for funding were presented in the packet for review.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Cindy Vanlandingham to approve and accept the rankings and recommendations for funding for the Criminal Justice grant programs as presented. Motion passed.

6. Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Application and Resolution

Mr. Jeske stated that notification was received from the Office of the Governor that HOTCOG was eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF). The grant will help reimburse expenses incurred by the Criminal Justice Program in its efforts to support our local jurisdiction in the fight against COVID-19. A resolution was presented as required by the Office of the Governor for approval.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Scott Felton to approve the resolution presented for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding for submission to the Office of the Governor. Motion passed.

7. Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC) Appointments

Mr. Jeske presented three individuals that were nominated to fill a position on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee:

Buffy Waldie, Teacher/CERT Leader, Mart ISD

Jason McGhee, County EMC, Freestone County

Brian Messman, IT Systems Administrator, Falls County

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Freestone County Treasurer, Jeannie Keeney to approve the appointments of Buffy Waldie -Mart ISD, Jason McGhee – Freestone County EMC, and Brian Messman – Falls County IT Systems Administrator to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

8. 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) HOTCOG Regional Projects

Mr. Jeske stated that HOTCOG staff requested local and regional projects for the

2021 State Homeland Security Grant cycle from all local jurisdictions. The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee met on March 17th and reviewed 13 applications that were submitted for funding and ranked the projects as presented in the packet. Mr. Jeske noted the Office of the Governor has not provided HOTCOG's 2021 SHSP funding amount, but staff anticipates an allocation of about \$483,638 which a 5% reduction from previous years funding. The committee ranked the projects and considered the project eligibility, threat and risk protection, existing or new, and the broad scope of terrorism for all projects in the ranking priority.

A motion was made by Judge Scott Felton and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Project List, scored, ranked and recommended funding order by the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee for submission by COG staff to the Office of the Governor for the regional distribution recommendation. Motion passed.

9. Radio Infrastructure Grant Award and Resolution

Mr. Jeske stated that in late 2020, HOTCOG was awarded a \$1,660,000 grant under the State Radio Infrastructure grant program from the Office of the Governor. This grant will help to assist the region with public safety communications by allowing for VHF repeaters to be replaced, three communications towers to be constructed and the addition/modification of two consoles in the region. Mr. Jeske presented a resolution for approval required by the Office of the Governor.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Commissioner Nita Wuebker to approve the resolution presented for the Radio Infrastructure Grant #3978401 for submission to the Office of the Governor's Public Safety Office. Motion passed.

10. Authorization Approval of Homeland Security Expenditures for Avtec Dispatch Console at McLennan Community College

Mr. Jeske stated HOTCOG is requesting authorization for approval of the contract and expenditure of \$176,307.00 for an Avtec Single Position dispatch console with related equipment and system integration from Motorola Solutions. This project is out of the Radio Infrastructure grant and will integrate McLennan Community College (MCC) police into the existing Waco radio network.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Cindy Vanlandingham to approve the authorization for the Executive Director to sign service agreements with Motorola Solutions, Inc., and issue a Purchase Order for an Avtec Single Position dispatch console with related equipment and system integration expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$176,307.00. Motion passed.

11. Authorization Approval of Homeland Security Expenditures for Kenwood VHF Mobile and Portable Radios

Mr. Jeske stated HOTCOG is requesting authorization to approve the contract and expenditure of \$99,995.13 for a Kenwood NX-5200K2 Portable and NX-5700K mobile radios with related equipment for operation from Huffman Communications via Texas DIR contract. This project is out of the regular Homeland Security grant that was awarded to HOTCOG and will be distributed equally to the counties operating VHF radio system for public safety. Documentation was proved to the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Calvin Rueter to approve the authorization for the Executive Director to sign agreements with Huffman Communications and issue a Purchase Order for Kenwood NX-5200K2 Portable and NX-5700K mobile radios with related equipment for operation in an amount not to exceed \$99,995.13. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Report

Mr. John Minnix presented the Financial, Personnel and Investment reports to the committee for review. Mr. Minnix noted that a Budget Amendment to the FY2021 Budget would be presented at next month's meeting as well as the Audit report for FY2020.

2. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mr. Gary Luft presented activity reports for the Health and Human Services division including Area Agency on Aging, HOT Aging and Disability Resource Center, HOT 2-1-1 Call Center, and HOT Rural Transit District. Mr. Luft noted the Resource Guide, a publication listing social services type organizations and resources that help and assist individuals in need, is being updated and will be printed in the near future. Advertising in the publication is limited exclusively for organizations that work with those in need of help and assistance and helps pay for the cost of the publication. The Resource Guide has been well received and is a valuable resource for the community.

Mr. Luft introduced Mrs. Karen Pettit, new Manager of the 211 Call Center. Mrs. Pettit discussed the 211 operation and noted that she will plan visits to the 6 county region to meet with elected officials to talk about 211 and give more detailed information regarding the 211 call center.

3. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

The Regional Services Activities report was provided in the packet for review. Mrs. Dorthy Jackson presented the new HOTCOG/HOTEDD website and highlighted the features and information that is provided on the website. The website should be launched by May 1st.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Devorsky gave his report to the committee:

- (1) Staff are attending local and regional Chamber of Commerce Banquets
- (2) Mr. Devorsky was elected to the NARC Board of Directors
- (3) Mr. Devorsky gave a Legislative update, specifically HB2911 that addresses the 911 surcharge fee that has not been increased since 1968. This would allow the commission to increase the fee up to .75 cents from the current fee.
- (4) Mr. Devorsky noted that the MHMR President, Peter Kultgen has expressed an interest in making a presentation to the Executive Committee regarding the support of the mental health crisis issues at the next meeting.

V. Other Reports – None.

VI. Public Comment – Michelle Bobo, Field Representative from the Texas Department of Agriculture noted the Community Development funds deadline is May 3rd and the HOTCOG allocation for 20-21 is 1.9 million. Ms. Bobo also noted that under the Fire/Ambulance/Truck Fund, the City of Rosebud was awarded funds for a new fire truck.

VII. Adjournment – There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Linda Grant, President
Freestone County Judge

Jay Elliott, Secretary Treasurer
Falls County Judge