

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

March 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 South West Eighth Avenue, Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

Mayor Brian Gillispie presided.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Cleo Castro, Cactus
- Juan Cantu, Lipscomb County Commissioner
- Irene Favila, Hereford
- Brian Gillispie, Mayor, City of Spearman
- Bob Gober, Councilman, City of Canadian
- Dr. William Hallerberg, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Dr. John Howard, Donley County Judge
- Zelda Lang, Councilwoman, City of Dalhart (left meeting at 2:40 p.m.)
- Karen Price, Pampa
- Amelia Salazar, Alderwoman, Palisades Village
- Winston Sauls, Borger
- Kerry Symons, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Perryton
- Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge
- Ricky White, Mayor, City of Friona

MEMBERS ABSENT: *

- Don Allred, Oldham County Judge
- Ronnie Gordon, Hartley County Judge
- Paul Harpole, Mayor, City of Amarillo
- Saul Hernandez, Amarillo
- Ernie Houdashell, Randall County Judge
- John James, Collingsworth County Judge
- Harold Keeter, Swisher County Judge
- Dan Looten, Carson County Judge
- Jay Mayden, Childress County Judge
- Wayne Nance, Briscoe County Judge
- Walter "Four" Price, Texas State Representative, District 87
- Sal Rivera, Sheriff, Castro County
- Phillip Self, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Water Authority

* Panhandle area judges attending the Texas Association of Counties Spring Judicial Education Session in Lubbock, Texas on March 25-27, 2015.

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Lori Gunn, Regional Services Program Specialist; Mr. Joe Price, Local Government Service Program Coordinator; Ms. Sundee Rossi, Area Agency on Aging Operations Coordinator; Mr. Marin Rivas, Workforce Development Director; Ms. Cindy Boone, CPA, Finance Director; Ms. Rebecca Rusk, Executive Assistant; Mr. Gary Pitner, Executive Director

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Mark Fleming, Edgin, Parkman, Fleming and Fleming; Mr. Paul Simpson, Congressman Mac Thornberry's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brian Gillispie called the meeting to order and noted that a quorum was present.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor Brian Gillispie gave the invocation.

3. MINUTES

Councilman Bob Gober moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 26, 2015, as received. Councilman Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. **VOUCHERS**

Ms. Irene Favila moved to approve the vouchers for the month of February, 2015. Mr. Cleo Castro seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. **2014 AUDIT PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE**

Ms. Cindy Boone, CPA and Mr. Mark Fleming with Edgin, Parkman, Fleming and Fleming presented the Planning Commission's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2014.

Dr. Bill Hallerberg moved to accept the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 12 month period ended September 30, 2014. Mayor Ricky White seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **FOOD NET PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION**

Ms. Sundee Rossi stated that in early March this year, the City of Amarillo provided the Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle (AAA) notice of the opportunity to re-apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The AAA uses these funds to expand the Food NET program, which serves congregate and home delivered meals to older and disabled individuals in Amarillo and Canyon. The CDBG grant can only be used to support home delivered meals within the Amarillo city limits. The AAA plans to submit an application in the amount of \$25,000 to continue serving home delivered meals to the nutritionally at-risk, low and moderate income older and disabled individuals in Amarillo.

Judge John Howard moved to authorize the submission of an application to the City of Amarillo for Community Development Block Grant Funds to partially support the delivery of meals to qualified individuals in need in Amarillo. Ms. Karen Price seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **CHILD CARE FUNDING APPLICATION**

Mr. Marin Rivas stated that for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, the City of Amarillo committed \$77,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through a competitive grant under the City's Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development to purchase child care services for 154 children from low-income families in Amarillo.

A portion of the state's annual allocation through the Texas Workforce Commission to the Panhandle for child care programs is contingent upon our ability to secure local matching funds. For several years, a significant amount of these matching funds has been secured through the CDBG grant allowing access, at a ratio of two federal dollars for each local dollar, \$152,217 in federal child care matching dollars. This means that the CDBG award has brought a combined amount of \$229,217 to our area for the current year.

Last year a total of 3,526 children in Amarillo were served using all of the funding available through the Workforce Development system. The Planning Commission proposes to again submit an application to the City of Amarillo for \$77,000 in CDBG funds for the coming year, which would once more allow us to use these funds and access federal child care resources to serve eligible children in Amarillo.

Councilwoman Zelda Lang moved to authorize the submission of an application to the City of Amarillo for Community Development Block Grant Funds to partially support the delivery of child care services in Amarillo. Mayor Ricky White seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote

8. **PANHANDLE REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board that state funds for regional law enforcement training programs are authorized under Section 102.056 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and Section 772.006 of the Texas Government Code. The source of these funds is from monies collected through court costs and fees. The Texas Legislature does not have a specific allocation for law enforcement training academies, typically the State Fund 421 funds have been used to support regional law enforcement training programs.

In the last biennium CJD asked councils of government to submit a 2-year grant rather than a new program application each year. CJD has continued the request for a 2-year grant. CJD is now accepting applications for law enforcement training grant applications for FY 2016-2017 with a submission deadline of April 17th. PRPC is now in the process of developing that proposal.

Ms. Gunn stated that due to rising education costs, our 2014 funding was consumed seven months prior to the end of the grant period. Over the past five years the Basic Academy costs

for in-district and out-of district students along with the hourly in-service training costs have all risen. Due to the rising costs PRPC was only able to provide 10 scholarships through the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy rather than the 12 per year that had been awarded.

In an effort to optimize training funds available PRPC and Amarillo College took a different approach on how contract funds were being categorized in FY 2015 for in-service training. Previously we paid for in-service training on a contract hour basis; with the new approach we pay only a proportion of the class costs equal to the percentage of PRPC-paid officers in each class. Despite not having completed the full contract year, this new approach is appearing to be working quite well. This new approach may give us the opportunity to provide more training hours with the funds available.

With the 2016-2017 Regional Law Enforcement training application, PRPC is proposing a 5% overall increase in funding. The amount requested for each year of the 2-year grant period would be \$108,086.47. This increase would help begin moving us back to the levels needed as the demands for law enforcement training continue to increase each year.

As has been done for the past many years, the 2016-2017 Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Training Program would include Basic Law Enforcement Training, In-Service Training and Advanced Specialized Training. Every August, in advance of the new school year, PRPC staff meets with the staff from Amarillo College to negotiate the annual training contract. AC has operated the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy (PRLEA) for as long as it has existed and the contract has to be renewed each year to account for any changes in tuition costs. PRPC staff will present the 2016 PRLEA contract to you for your consideration later this year at which time we will know how much of a positive impact this 5% increase will have on the level of training services we'll be able to procure in 2016.

In order to submit the 2016-2017 grant application to CJD, it must first be authorized by the PRPC Board of Directors. A resolution will allow PRPC staff to submit the grant application to CJD by the April 17th deadline.


Dr. Bill Hallerberg moved to pass a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division for funds to support the continuing operation of the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy for a two year period from September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2017. Mr. Winston Sauls seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At this point in the meeting (2:40 p.m.), Councilwoman Zelda Lang had to leave, and Mayor Gillispie noted for the record that a quorum was no longer present. He stated that no action would be taken on the remaining agenda items.

Mr. Joe Price discussed a regional public transportation coordination planning grant application as well as an amendment to a regional water plan development consultant services contract, but no action was taken by the Board.


Mr. Gary Pitner discussed an inter-fund transfer from the Planning Commission's undesignated fund balance as well as an allocation of funds to the Planning Commission's building repair activities, but no action was taken by the Board.

Mr. Gary Pitner reported on the recent and upcoming Planning Commission sponsored regional meetings. Members of the Board were then dismissed at 3:05 p.m.



John James, Chairman
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Ernie Houdashell, Secretary/Treasurer
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors