

AGENDA ITEM # 22

January 26, 1999

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Discuss personnel matters: (EXECUTIVE SESSION REQUESTED as per VTCA 551.074 pertaining to personnel).

No action was taken in executive session.

COMMISSIONERS COURT RECONVENED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:21 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1999.

AGENDA ITEM # 23

January 26, 1999

Hear comments from commissioners.

Commissioner Boatright wished Nickey Lawrence a happy birthday.

Judge Doerfler congratulated Nickey on her birthday.

Commissioner Limmer discussed a problem with the agricultural community of Williamson County. As a member of the Small Bank Board he is aware of the drastic problem affecting the financial condition of farmers of Williamson County. A false economy has been created by the subsidy of the Federal Government for the past 30 years when the farmer was making a decent living. Over the past 7 years the subsidy has been phased out, the Freedom to Farm act was passed along with NAFTA causing this county to lose one-third of the farmers this year and the balance next year. It is impossible for the local farmers to compete with the price of NAFTA products being imported into this country.

Congress enacted a grant program which netted approximately \$20.00 per acre for Williamson County farmers who are paying approximately \$100.00 per acre to plant grain. Mr. Limmer recently sold his corn for an average of \$1.65 per bushel which cost him \$2.50 a bushel to produce.

The Commissioner welcomed all input and help because he believes a part of our heritage will be gone within the next two years. Many of the hog farmers in the United States moved to Brazil where their pork is now being imported by the United States while grain is being imported from Canada.

County Attorney Gene Taylor requested an item on the February 2, 1999, agenda to consider approval of resolution supporting State Legislature creation of jail magistrates and addition of another County Court-at-Law and District Court.

The County Attorney has called a meeting for Friday, January 29, 1999, with the County Judge and representatives of departments which could be affected by the addition of the two courts for their in-put and needs.

Judge Doerfler advised Legislative lobbyist Robert Stluka contacted him just before 9:30 this morning advising his attendance at TAC meeting in which Don Lee and Jim Allison reported HB 423, relating to the Elgin Bank case, has support for subdivisions of 10 acres or less.

COMMISSIONERS COURT ADJOURNED AT 11:39 A.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1999.