

Consider approving purchase of 1.499 acres of right-of-way at the intersection of County Road 200 and County Road 201.

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Commissioner Heiligenstein

Motion: To approve purchase of 1.499 acres of right-of-way to straighten "y" at intersection of County Roads 200 and 201.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 11

February 16, 1999

Consider authorizing advertising and setting date for public hearing for the closing of a portion of County Road 165.

Commissioner Limmer advised this is a short section of County Road 165 northwest of Hutto which is very seldom used and hardly maintained by Williamson County. The commissioner has signatures of all surrounding land owners agreeing to the closure and will post notices on the property, the courthouse and newspaper.

First Assistant County Attorney Dale Rye suggested Commissioner Limmer determine if any utility companies have need of the road.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Hays

Motion: To authorize Commissioner Limmer to advertise 10 o'clock a.m. March 23, 1999, for public hearing on the closing of a portion of County Road 165.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 12

February 16, 1999

Consider approving resolution to legislature pertaining to agriculture in Williamson County.

Stiles Farm Foundation Manager Archie Abrameit and members of the Williamson County Steering Committee of the Marketing Club advised they had been working diligently to impact legislation for improving the quality of life and the profitability in the agriculture situation which is in a crisis at this time. Current market prices are similar to those of the 1950's. Two of the last 3 years were disastrous to farmers and the rainfall forecast for 1999 does not look good.

He continued with the new technology being adapted they are still unable to compete with other nations who are not restricted like American farmers by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also the labor requirements are so much cheaper in foreign countries.

Despite all this he felt they were still supporting many people by their efficiency in agriculture. One fourth to one-third of those who have farmed all their lives are facing the possibility of discontinuation.

Mr. Abrameit felt some federal level changes had been made. Currently the United States Congress is planning to re-open the farm bill and the Steering Committee plans to impact that legislation.

He felt if the Commissioners Court would approve the resolution the committee could send copies to other counties hoping for their support.

Moved: Commissioner Limmer

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To approve resolution to legislature pertaining to agriculture in Williamson County.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

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STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: THAT ON THIS, the 16th day of February , 1999, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, met in duly called session at the Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

**John C. Doerfler, County Judge
Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner, Pct. #1
Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Pct. #2
David Hays, Commissioner, Pct. #3
Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Pct. #4
Nancy Rister, County Clerk**

and at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following

RESOLUTION

The farming, ranching-the agriculture- we have today in Texas and in the United States is unique. No nation has ever had so few people actively engaged in farming and ranching. This is a profound social change that has isolated most people from rural life and from an appreciation of the complexities and uncertainties of food production. For the most part people take agricultural production for granted. Our society has had no experience with true food scarcity. Our supermarkets always have full shelves and food is cheap. Today we spend only 10 percent of our income on food. In 1950 we spent 22 percent of our income on food and in 1935 a moderate income family in Texas spent 47% of their total living on food. In the past it took much more.

What do the various players - banking, government and agriculture - need to do to succeed in a rapidly changing environment? Agriculture is a 45 billion dollar industry in Texas. Agriculture is important not only to our state's food supply, but also to our economic well-being.

WHEREAS, the past three years of unprecedented weather disasters coupled with very low commodity prices have placed our farmers and ranchers in a situation where in they have been unable to sustain production, supply, financing or profit; and

WHEREAS, as price volatility, environmental and food safety regulation, production variability, insects, diseases, water availability (cost & quality), inability to match "price supported" foreign competition, lack of lender commitment to agriculture, weakening collateral values, cost of credit, property rights, spiraling cost of boll weevil programs, increased machinery costs have blended together to create a situation where in Texas Farmers and Ranchers are unable to sustain production, supply, financing or profit; Now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Williamson County Commissioners Court supports and urges the state of Texas to adopt laws and/or policies that would accomplish the following: