



Texas Department of Health

William R. Archer III, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us>

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Austin, Texas 78756-3199
512/458-7111

Patti J. Patterson, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 3, 1999

The Honorable John C. Doerfler
County Judge, Williamson County
710 Main Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Re: Tobacco Settlement Distribution

Dear Judge Doerfler:

The letter concerns the excess payment of \$43,163.66 that Williamson County received in January 1999 from the tobacco settlement proceeds. My correspondence to you dated February 11, 1999, included an explanation of the overpayment along with a request that Williamson County contact the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to arrange a refund.

Your check from the State of Texas included payment for 2,444 residents of Williamson County who also resided in the City of Austin, according to the 1990 federal census. TDH should have incorporated these individuals in the city's population for the tobacco settlement distribution.

The tobacco settlement specifies that political subdivisions with responsibility for providing health care to the general public are eligible for a share of the proceeds. Chapter 61 of the Texas Health and Safety Code makes public hospitals responsible for providing indigent care to the population within their boundaries. Since the City of Austin owns a public hospital, the 2,444 residents were the responsibility of the city, rather than the county.

Please be aware that the State of Texas will withhold the above overpayment from the next distribution of proceeds to Williamson County in April 2000, unless you have refunded this amount by that date. Feel free to have a member of your staff contact Mr. Joe Walton at (512) 458-7261 in the Bureau of State Health Data and Policy Analysis to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Steeg

Susan K. Steeg
General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Kirk Watson
Mayor of Austin

Jesus Garza, City Manager
City of Austin

OGC/DM/52613

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AGENDA ITEM # 22

June 1, 1999

Consider approving funding for month of June for Round Rock Health Clinic.

Moved: Commissioner Hays

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To approve funding not to exceed \$19,000.00 for month of June for Round Rock Health Clinic.

Vote: Motion carried 3 - 0 with Commissioner Heiligenstein absent from the dais.

AGENDA ITEM # 23June 1, 1999Consider awarding, rejecting or extending bid for air conditioners for ambulances.

EMS Director John Sneed recommended awarding low bidder San Antonio Ambulance Sales \$34,500.00 bid for minimum 15 systems installed.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Hays

Motion: To award low bidder San Antonio Ambulance Sales bid for 15 or more 120v ambulance air conditioner/heater systems in the amount of \$34,500.00.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0

AGENDA ITEM # 24June 1, 1999Hear presentation for Texas Association of Counties on loss control financial impact study with suggestions for safety program implementation.

Texas Association of Counties Safety Specialist Rob Gibbs introduced himself to the court discussing how to save money, have more productivity in work force and ways to accomplish these issues.

Mr. Gibbs also introduced Texas Association of Counties insurance salesman John Payne.

Mr. Gibbs distributed a three (3) year analysis of losses of automobiles and workers compensation in Williamson County. Failure to yield was the biggest cause of vehicle accidents. He suggested a unified loss control program for Williamson County by forming a central committee composed of employees of some of the larger departments such as Road and Bridge, EMS, Sheriff's Department, CSCD and the Juvenile Center.

Emergency Medical Services Director John Sneed has tried to institute some driving programs (which seems to be biggest problem area) but cannot find an area to drive (1 1/4 to 1 1/2 mile track). At one time he had a grant to cover the expense of the training.

Benefits Department Lisa Zerkel suggested it would take the efforts of all departments for this program to work.

Commissioner Assistant Julie Lyon suggested appointing one individual to head the effort.

Judge Doerfler advised this is the first year since he has been County Judge that Williamson County has not received a safety award.

Emergency Medical Services Director John Sneed advised his employees are driving four (4) times as many miles this year as 5/10 years ago. His department has suffered 2 rear end collisions to ambulances stopped on 620. He felt sure the Sheriff's Department mileage had also increased.

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion: To appoint Lee Garrett to coordinate a committee to identify loss and injury areas, increase employees awareness and train employees in order to provide a safe work environment.

Vote:

Moved: Commissioner Boatright

Seconded: Judge Doerfler

Motion Restated: To appoint Benefits Director Lisa Zerkel Coordinator to work with Lee Garrett and Julie Lyon coordinating a committee to identify loss and injury areas, increase employee awareness as well as train employees in order to provide a safe work environment.

Vote: Motion carried 4 - 0