

MINUTES

Of The

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

January 15, 2002

THE STATE OF TEXAS     )(  
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON)(

BE IT REMEMBERED that at 9:30 a.m. on January 15, 2002, a SPECIAL SESSION of the Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, was held with the following members being present, to-wit:

JOHN C. DOERFLER, County Judge  
MICHAEL L. HEILIGENSTEIN, Commissioner, Precinct 1  
GREGORY W. BOATRIGHT, Commissioner, Precinct 2  
DAVID HAYS, Commissioner, Precinct 3  
FRANKIE LIMMER, Commissioner, Precinct 4  
EUGENE D. TAYLOR, County Attorney  
NANCY E. RISTER, County Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 1

Hear any interested person and consider forming the next agenda or adding items to today's agenda.

David Harper, Williamson County Capital Metro representative, discussed the railroad crossing for Cypress Creek and Brushy Creek Roads. Mr. Harper requested a financial contribution of \$250,000.00 from Capital Metro for the crossing, and he stated that the board was very receptive.

Commissioner Boatright discussed the proposed donation to the county of a 4.62-acre tract of land in Precinct 2.

Karalei Nunn of 1311 Architects discussed the failure of Williamson County to obtain a courthouse restoration grant from the state. The county was 15<sup>th</sup> in a list of possible grant recipients, with the first 14 applicants receiving grants. She suggested that the county apply for the full restoration grant after the next legislative session has appropriated more restoration grant money.

Leo Wood discussed the current condition of the courthouse, stating that some patchwork needs to be done as a temporary fix to stop the leaks and further corrosion of the dome.

< Attachment >

## Report on Texas Historic Commission Round III Grants

Fourteen counties received grant funding under the Texas Courthouse Preservation Program last week, out of the 28 counties that received planning grants in December 2000. Williamson County, ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in 2000, was one point out of the money, despite an improvement of twelve points over the 2000 rankings (164 points to 176 points). Archer County (the courthouse was built in 1892) and the old Cameron County courthouse (built in 1912, the same year as the Williamson County courthouse) finished one point ahead of Williamson, tied at 177.

The fifteenth place finish puts Williamson County literally at the top of the list for the next round of grants, likely to be awarded in 2003 or early 2004, if continued funding is approved by the 78<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature.

The minimum grant request made in this round by 1113 Architects and the County to the THC was \$2.1 million, which would have covered the renovation of the exterior of the courthouse, including the dome and roof. The maximum requested grant funding was \$3.8 million, which would pay for the entire renovation of the courthouse, both interior and exterior.

The majority of grants made to the 14 counties last week were for entire courthouse renovation projects. Should Williamson County receive full project funding in the next round, decisions will need to be made as to where current courthouse occupants would be moved, in order to allow for the renovation of the interior of the building.

The plans and specifications for the courthouse, completed in August, 2001 by 1113 Architects under a grant to Williamson County from THC, will allow the project to move forward almost immediately, should funding be awarded by THC in 2003/2004. Any courthouse repair or renovation expenditures made by the county through June 2004 will be considered additional matching funds during the next round of grant applications.

The current point total of counties **not** funded for courthouse renovation:

Williamson	176
Brooks	175
Falls	175
Potter	175
Bee	172
Old Harrison	172
Wharton	172
Old Red (Dallas)	171
Crosby	168
DeWitt	167

— Karalei Nunu  
January 15, 2002

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Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program  
Round III Grant Recipients

Archer County Courthouse	Archer City	1892	\$2,805,444
Dancy Building (Old Cameron County Courthouse)	Brownsville	1912	\$3,170,185
Denton County Courthouse	Denton	1897	\$2,500,000
Dimmit County Courthouse	Carrizo Springs	1884	\$2,403,913
Fayette County Courthouse	La Grange	1891	\$3,999,989
Goliad County Courthouse	Goliad	1894	\$3,751,784
Hudspeth County Courthouse	Sierra Blanca	1922	\$1,569,847
Jeff Davis County Courthouse	Fort Davis	1911	\$2,266,624
Lamar County Courthouse	Paris	1917	\$3,535,500
Lavaca County Courthouse	Hallettsville	1899	\$938,570
Maverick County Courthouse	Eagle Pass	1885	\$2,338,057
Parker County Courthouse	Weatherford	1886	\$3,614,800
Val Verde County Courthouse	Del Rio	1887	\$2,500,000
Wheeler County Courthouse	Wheeler	1926	\$3,756,508

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The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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**AGENDA ITEM 2**

Read and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Moved: **Commissioner Boatright**

Seconded: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2001 meeting.

Vote: **5 - 0**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

Hear County Auditor concerning invoices and bills submitted for payment and take appropriate action including, but not limited to approval for payment provided said items are found by the County Auditor to be legal obligations of the county.

Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To authorize the payment of \$1,632,267.15 in computer printout from the proper line items, if found by the County Auditor to be legal expenses as appropriated in the 2001/2002 County Budget.

Vote: **5 - 0**

< Attachment >