

AGENDA ITEM 20**Discuss and take appropriate action on road bond program.**

Mike Weaver mentioned that Representative Krusee's bill allowing counties to sell commercial paper passed in the House. The rating trip to New York went very well. Moody's was favorably impressed with the county's work and indicated that the county would keep the rating that it has. Both Standard & Poor and Moody's made positive remarks regarding the parks program and corridor trail program.

Dale Rye mentioned that he had a proposed response from Commissioner Limmer to the Texas Ethics Commission on the complaint that was filed in connection to the road program. He asked for the Commissioners to read and sign the affidavit.

<Attachment>

Texas Ethics Commission Affidavit

We, the undersigned members of the Williamson County Commissioners Court, do swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the following statement is in all things true and correct:

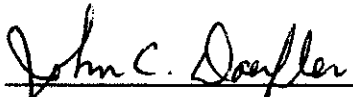
Williamson County has passed a very large bond issue to build roads and parks. During the campaign, the Commissioners Court promised to keep the public informed of how they were handling some hundreds of millions of dollars of the taxpayer's money. During the summer of 2002, the county's road consultants reported that they were planning to send out an informational leaflet reporting on the projects' progress. To manage costs, they proposed that the mailing not be sent to every household in the county, but only to those with one or more residents who had evidenced their interest in the bonds by voting in the authorization election. The Commissioners Court acquiesced in this, but had no direct involvement in the preparation or mailing of the brochure.

The brochures were originally planned to be sent out in August. A series of delays postponed the actual mailing of the leaflets until shortly before the general election. The primary problem was that the map detailing the various projects had to be repeatedly updated as progress occurred. The leaflets were sent as soon as they came back from the printer. The Court had no part in the timing of the mailing, and the county employees and consultants who did have a role were not concerned about the proximity of the election because they saw the contents as educational, not promotional.

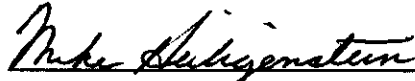
As it turned out, the only readily available list of voters was from the primary election, not the bond election, but the consultants figured that there would be a high degree of overlap between the two concerned taxpayer populations. The primary voter lists were essentially nonpartisan, as they included both Democrats and Republicans, and were available to the County free of cost.

The brochure mostly consisted of maps, other graphics, and descriptions of the various projects. It also included quotations from all the members of the Court, who are the public officials who directly supervise the bond projects. It gave equal prominence to the quotation from each one, including those who were not up for reelection or were running unopposed. Commissioner Limmer (who did have an opponent) was on the outside of the leaflet, but only because that is where Precinct Four fell in numerical order.

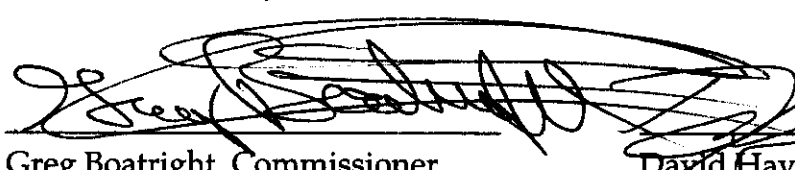
The quotes contained factual information, not "self-promotion." The road bond program has been very successful and Williamson County has been able to expedite construction and improve safety in a timely and cost-efficient manner. That is certainly good news that the taxpayers were entitled to hear. However, if the news had been bad, the leaflet would still have been mailed at exactly the same time, because the taxpayers had a right to be informed of everything that was happening, good or bad. The political impact, or lack thereof, was not a consideration. This is simply not a case of the misuse of public funds to promote a private political purpose.



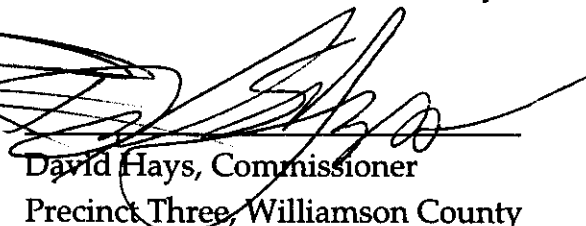
John Doerfler, County Judge,
Williamson County, Texas



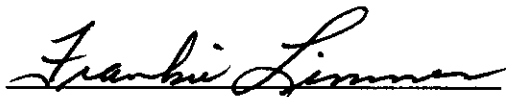
Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner
Precinct One, Williamson County



Greg Boatright, Commissioner
Precinct Two, Williamson County

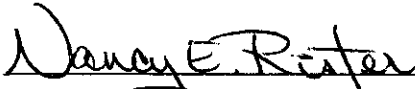


David Hays, Commissioner
Precinct Three, Williamson County



Frankie Limmer, Commissioner
Precinct One, Williamson County

Sworn and subscribed before me by The Hon. John Doerfler, Mike Heiligenstein, Greg Boatright, David Hays, and Frankie Limmer on this the 20th day of May, A.D. 2003, to certify which, witness my hand and seal of office.



Nancy Rister, County Clerk
Williamson County, Texas



AGENDA ITEM 21

Discuss and take appropriate action on jail/courthouse annex expansion.

Ed Lee updated the court on the jail/courthouse annex expansion. The construction manager agent for the courthouse annex is requesting a change order for extending the project start date from March 11, 2003 to April 15, 2003 and to shift the schedule for substantial completion to June 14, 2004.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Motion: To grant the extension for extending the project start date from March 11, 2003 to April 15, 2003 and to change the schedule for substantial completion to June 14, 2004.

Vote: **5 - 0**

Commissioner Hays requested a work session for next Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. regarding the jail/courthouse annex expansion.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Discuss and take appropriate action on granting easements to TxDOT for water quality items related to SH130.

Ed Sutherland from Lone Star Infrastructure made a presentation regarding the request by TxDOT for placement of drainage features inside the boundary of Berry Springs County Park and Preserve.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Hays**

Motion: To approve a resolution granting easements to TxDot for water quality items related to SH130 once Charlie Crossfield and Dale Rye have reviewed it and worked out the legalities.

Vote: **5 - 0**

<Attachment>