

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, 02 DECEMBER 2015**

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 P.M.**

The following members were present: Mr. Paul Chapman (Chairman), Mr. Bobby Blasingame (Vice-Chairman), Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Justin Spiller, and Mr. Sterling Braswell.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY MR. STERLING BRASWELL

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Robert Dickey (State Representative) requested "*Old Courthouse*" and "*Extension Office Repairs*" be added to the agenda. Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the requested additions. Mr. Spillers made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Braswell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Chapman introduced the following agenda:

T-SPLOST

There was a discussion as to the effect and importance of the eleven county regional SPLOST and its impact on Crawford County. As a "recipient" County, Crawford would receive approximately twice the revenue annually as it would with a local SPLOST and a ten million dollar local project.

There was discussion of how likely a regional SPLOST would pass in the eleven county region and the importance of it passing on a local level should it fail on a regional level.

Consolidation of Services – Multi County

- **Animal Control**
- **Tax Assessors**
- **Medical Examiner**

This discussion hinged around the types of services that could be shared at the district level and the realistic possibility of implementing a multi county approach. After some discussion it was the consensus of the group that while a multi county approach may save money, at this time it may not be practical due to a variety of concerns and issues.

Elimination of Coroner Position – Transition to Medical Examiner

There was much discussion as to converting the current coroner position into a fee paid position rather than a salaried position. Mr. Dickey stated that he would explore the issue should the County wish to convert to a fee system.

Minimum Property Tax Value for Habitable Structures – Out Buildings

The discussion revolved around the possibility of applying a minimum property tax value for any structure that was habitable and the resident was receiving services that were paid for by tax payer monies. At this time the Board took no actions.

Privatizing Services

There was a discussion as to the benefits of privatizing some segments of the county services. Those services included roads, grounds, water, shop, and jail. The benefits included lowering insurance exposure due to work comp, wrongful termination, property or liability claims. Concerns expressed included loss of control over those departments and response times in emergency situations.

Consolidation – County/City

The discussion touched on the various issues that would impact the decision as to move forward with a consolidation effort. The following is a summary of the discussion points of those issues:

- **Franchise Tax**

It was noted that if the two governments consolidated the charter for the new government could require “Franchise Taxes” from the various utilities. Those revenues generated could exceed \$800K annual.

- **Non Partisan Elections**

Should the governments consolidate the local elections could be non-partisan.

- **Reduction of City Property Tax (7.74 mills)**

Should the governments consolidate the City property taxes would roll back to the County level. This would result in a 7.74 mill reduction to those city properties. This is a \$97,000 reduction in taxes and revenue.

- **Job Security**

There are currently eleven (11) full time jobs associated with the City. If the citizens were to opt for a consolidated government those jobs could be rolled into the new consolidated government. There would be no loss of jobs due to consolidation.

- **CDBG Grants**

Due to the way Community Development Block Grants are awarded it would be possible to direct an annual grant each successive year to one project in a consolidated government. Currently those grants are awarded every two (2) years.

Due to time restraints the last item covered on the agenda was Consolidation.


Adjourn:

There being no further business, Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to adjourn the 02 December 2015 Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Braswell made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spillers. Motion carried 5-0 and the Board adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

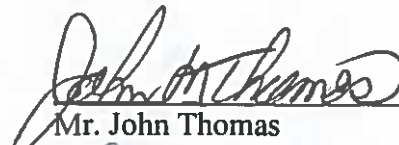
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**THE CALLED MEETING OF THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2015**



Mr. Paul Chapman - Chairman


Mr. Blasingame - V. Chairman


Mr. Justin Spillers


Mr. John Thomas


Mr. Sterling Braswell


Attest - County Manager