DIMMIT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 2nd day of February, 2025, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Dimmit County, Texas, convened in regular session in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Dimmit County Courthouse Annex.

1.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.2 Roll Call – quorum established and duly noted for the record.

Members present:
Martha Alicia Gomez Ponce, County Judge
Jose A. Urenda, Commissioner Pct. 1
Alonso Carmona, Commissioner Pct. 2
Julissa Talamantes, Commissioner Pcts. 3 & 6
Valerie Rubalcaba, Commissioner Pcts. 4, 5 & 7
Claudia McDaniel, County Clerk and Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

Visitors: Ernest Martinez, Constable Robert Balderas, Caroline Mendoza, Laura Carmona, Sabrina Villarreal, Julie Carmona, Ruth A. Ceniseros, Yolanda Salgado, Michael Salgado, JP1 Sonia G. Perez, Rick DeLeon, Sheriff Chris Castaneda, Juan Villarreal, Agapito Orosco, County Auditor Carlos Pereda, Eric Olivarez, Mirtha C. Hernandez, Keith Franklin, Victoria Keen, Carissa Munoz, Julieta Leija, Alyssa Cruz, Constable Andres Arambula, County Attorney Daniel M. Gonzalez, County Treasurer Oscar Ortiz, Tax Assessor-Collector Mary Sandoval, Cynthia Montes, Dan Heijl, Rosie Alfaro. (See attached.)

1.3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

The Commissioners Court led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 TESTIMONIAL OATH FOR PRESENTERS

Public was reminded that anyone making a presentation is under oath before the Court.

1.5 PUBLIC COMMENTS

*** Carolina Mendoza – against resignation of Chief Carmona. Expressed gratitude and respect, acknowledgement of leadership. Example to community. Thanks for commitment to community.**

*** Commissioner Julissa Talamantes – Carmona as fire chief**

*** Commissioner Valerie Rubalcaba – shooting range temporarily closed.**

*** Judge Martha Ponce – aware of issues at shooting range. Acknowledged temporary closure for safety issues.**

*** Commissioner Alonso Carmona – found shells at airport. Concerned with issues at shooting range, as well. Re: fire chief position – commissioners all have various departments under them; here to serve.**

1.6 APPROVED: MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2026

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2026, subject to corrections.

2.0 INFORMATIONAL

2.1 REMOVAL OF PHONE RECORDS – completed.

2.2 TEMPORARY FULL-TIME POSITION FOR PCT. 3 & 6

3.0 PERSONNEL & POLICY

3.1 BONDS – NONE

3.2 TABLED: REPORT – CONSTABLE, PCT. 1

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT table the monthly report for Constable Pct. 1 Mr. Rudy Lopez for the month of January 2026.

3.3 APPROVED: REPORT – CONSTABLE, PCT. 2

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report for Constable Pct. 2 Mr. Andres Arambula for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.4 APPROVED: REPORT – CONSTABLE, PCT. 3

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report for Constable Pct. 3 Mr. Robert Balderas for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.5 APPROVED: REPORT – CONSTABLE, PCT. 4

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report for Constable Pct. 4 Mr. Manuel Rosas for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.6 APPROVED: INSTALL DESKTOP/WORKSPACE IN COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the installation of a desktop/workspace in the County Judge's office. (See attached. Note: work to be done by some contractor that did original work.)

3.7 APPROVED: DESIGNATING OFFICE SPACE FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve designating the current office occupied by sanitation clerk on first floor of courthouse annex to be used as office for Veterans Affairs Officer once clerk moves over to Petry Building office.

3.8 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – COUNTY JUDGE, COMMISSIONER

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for County Judge Martha Ponce and Commissioner Jose Urenda to attend the Water & Wastewater Regional Conference on February 27, 2026 in Eagle Pass, TX. (See attached.)

3.9 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – COUNTY JUDGE

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for County Judge Martha Ponce to attend the Spring Judicial Education Session on March 24-27, 2026, in Lubbock, TX. (See attached.)

3.10 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – JUDGE'S & COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICES

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Alonso Carmona MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for County Judge Martha Ponce and Court Coordinator Julissa Sanchez-Alvarado (OLS), County Clerk Claudia McDaniel, and Chief Deputy Clerk Belinda Sandoval to attend the Probate Academy on May 5-8, 2026, in Lubbock, TX. (See attached.)

3.11 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for Dimmit County Attorney Investigator Gazaan Gonzalez to attend Investigator Conference on February 9-12, 2026, in Conroe, TX. (See attached.)

3.12 APPROVED: REPORT – CO EXTENSION AGENT

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report from County Extension agent Ms. Alyssa Cruz for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.13 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – CO EXTENSION AGENT

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for County Extension Agent Ms. Alyssa Cruz to attend the San Antonio Livestock Show on February 18-22, 2026, in San Antonio, TX. (See attached.)

3.14 APPROVED: REPORT – FCH AGENT

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report from FCH Agent Mrs. Carissa Munoz for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.15 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – FCH AGENT

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for FCH Agent Carissa Munoz to attend the 2026 Agrilife Health Summit on February 9-13, 2026, in College Station, TX. (See attached.)

3.16 APPROVED: MONTHLY REPORT – RODEO ARENA

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the monthly report from Rodeo Arena Event Coordinator for the month of January 2026. (See attached.)

3.17 TABLED: MONTHLY REPORT – GOLF COURSE

Motion: Jose Urenda Second: Alonso Carmona MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT table the monthly report from Dimmit County Golf Course for the month of January 2026.

3.18 APPROVED: SANITATION 4TH QUARTER REPORT

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the quarterly report from Sanitation department for the months of October, November, and December 2025. (See attached.)

3.19 APPROVED: AIRPORT 4TH QUARTER REPORT

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the quarterly report from the airport for October, November, and December 2025. (See attached.)

3.20 APPROVED: RENEW AIRPORT MANAGER'S CONTRACT

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve renewing the airport manager's contract for 2026. (See attached.)

3.21 APPROVED: POLLING PLACE CHANGES FOR Pct. 2 & 7

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Alonso Carmona MOTION FAILS

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the Notice of Change to Polling Place for Precinct 2 from "old band hall" to Dimmit County Public Library Museum and Polling Place for Precinct 7 back to the Courthouse South, effective for the March 3, 2026 Joint Primary Election. (See attached.)

3.22 APPROVED: HOLIDAY SAVINGS FOR EMPLOYEES

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the holiday savings for Dimmit County employees. (Note: voluntary, must sign up with Treasurer's office.)

3.23 APPROVED: TRAVEL REQUEST – UTILITY DEPARTMENT

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the travel request for Jacob Rodriguez to attend the Groundwater Production Class on June 23-25, 2026, in New Braunfels, TX. (See attached.)

3.24 APPROVED: DESIGNATED JUROR PARKING

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve designating the parking lot next to motorbank and across from DPS office for juror parking.

3.25 APPROVED: LIVESTREAM COMMISSIONERS COURT

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve livestreaming commissioners court meetings through Youtube with a link to the channel on the county's website. (Note: would cost $300-$600 for equipment.)

3.26 APPROVED: PTO POLICY

Motion: Jose Urenda Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the PTO policy as previously presented. (Note: More than 90% of Dimmit County employees were in favor of policy.)

3.27 APPROVED: ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF DCVFD CHIEF

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED 3-2
Against: Judge Martha Ponce, Valerie Rubalcaba

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve accepting the resignation of Alonso Carmona as fire chief of the Dimmit County Volunteer Fire Department.

3.28 APPROVE: ADVERTISE FOR FIRE CHIEF POSITION

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve to allow advertisement of an open application process for the Dimmit County fire chief position.

3.29 NO ACTION: DCVFD BYLAWS

3.30 TABLED: APPOINTED POSITIONS TERM OF SERVICE

Motion: Jose Urenda Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT table discussion and application process of appointed positions.

3.31 TABLED: BRUSH TRUCK IN BIG WELLS

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONER COURT table allowing Big Wells mayor and volunteers to store and operate a brush truck.

3.32 APPROVED: REMOVE DEAD TREE FROM BIG WELLS CEMETERY

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve removing a dead tree from the Big Wells cemetery due to safety concerns, subject to this being one-time allowance and subject to approval by county attorney.

3.33 APPROVED: REPLACE FENCE AT STOCKYARD IN BIG WELLS

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED 4-1
Abstained: Alonso Carmona

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve replacing the fence line in Big Wells at the stockyard shared with the city. (Note: City of Big Wells owns the property.)

3.34 APPROVED: JP 3 CARPORT

Motion: Jose Urenda Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT retroactively approve the purchase order for materials to build the JP3 carport in the amount of approximately $3000. (Note: Pct. 3 employees did the work.)

3.35 APPROVED: SPECIAL MONTHLY RATE FOR ALANIZ FIELD

Motion: Valerie Rubalcaba Second: Alonso Carmona MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve a special monthly rate of $100 per month for March through July for the youth Brush Country Pony League.

3.36 NO ACTION: ALANIZ FIELD MONTHLY RATE FOR ADULT USE

3.37 APPROVED: INSTALL AT&T INTERNET AT PETRY BUILDING

Motion Jose Urenda Second: Alonso Carmona MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve installing AT&T internet as a permanent setup at the Petry Building.

3.38 TABLED: DIAMOND H ROAD RELATED ACTIONS

BREAK: 1:00 PM BACK IN SESSION: 1:02 PM

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT table any action related to Diamond H Road and not make any further payments.

3.39 APPROVED: TRANSFER COMMODITIES POSITION TO PCT. 3

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED 3-2
Against: Valerie Rubalcaba, Alonso Carmona

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve transferring the commodities position to Pct. 3 without the current employee.

3.40 FAILED: TRANSFER SANITATION DEPARTMENT TO PCT. 1 COMMISSIONER

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Jose Urenda MOTION FAILS 2-2
Against: Valerie Rubalcaba, Alonso Carmona
Abstention: Judge Martha Ponce

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve transferring sanitation department, as a whole, to Commissioner Urenda in effort to combine utilities.

4.0 LAW ENFORCEMENT

4.1 APPROVED: PURCHASE 2024 FORD TRANSIT PASSENGER VAN

Motion: Jose Urenda Second: Julissa Talamantes MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the purchase of a 2024 Ford transit passenger van using OLS 2026 Grant #4375904. (See attached.)

4.2 TABLED: PURCHASE TACTICAL UNIFORMS

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT table the purchase of tactical uniforms from Tops Brass using Sheriff's forfeiture account.

4.3 APPROVED: PURCHASE WATER HEATER, INCLUDING INSTALLATION

Motion: Julissa Talamantes Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the emergency purchase of a 100-gallon natural gas water heater, including disconnect and installation, from Allen Plumbing in the amount of $16,748.00. (See attached.)

4.4 APPROVED: CONTRACT FOR XEROX PRINTER FOR INVESTIGATOR AREA – DCSO

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the contract for C8255H/WIFI/LX finisher 2/3-hold punch Xerox machine for the investigator area for a 60-month term, monthly payment of $270.00. (See attached.)

4.5 APPROVED: CONTRACT FOR XEROX PRINTER FOR CID AREA – DCSO

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the contract for C8255H/WIFI-integrated finisher Xerox machine for the CID area for a 60-month term, monthly payment of $265.00 (See attached.)

4.6 NO ACTION: JAIL STATUS REPORT

4.7 APPROVED: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Valerie Rubalcaba MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve the sheriff's report. (See attached.)

5.0 FINANCIAL

5.1 APPROVED: PROPHET PAY CREDIT CARD SERVICE PROVIDER FOR GOLF COURSE

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve using Prophet Pay credit card service provider for the golf course. (See attached.)

5.2 APPROVED: CLAIM DOCKET

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT approve claim docket. (See attached.)

General Fund	$1,076,903.46
DC Golf Course	$21,027.22
Courthouse Security	$8,600.26
Records Mgmt County Clerk	$3,130.77
Utilities	$92,113.76
Rodeo Arena	$4,657.76
Stone Garden	$45,383.72
Op Lone Star 2022	$96,788.07
DC Payroll	$585,371.50
Tax Note Series 2023	$8,539.53
COs 2022	$26,141.34
GRAND TOTAL:	**$1,928,657.39**

RE-OPEN ITEM 3.27

Discussion by attorney Keith Franklin to advise court to schedule emergency meeting to address appointing interim fire chief. Mr. Carmona agreed to remain as holdover chief until next commissioners court meeting, subject to the DCVFD bylaws.

6.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

7.0 RECONVENE – N/A

8.0 RECESS AND ADJOURN

Motion: Alonso Carmona Second: Jose Urenda MOTION CARRIED

THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURT recess and adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

APPROVED: ATTEST:

MARTHA ALICIA GOMEZ PONCE
COUNTY JUDGE

CLAUDIA McDANIEL
COUNTY CLERK

SEAL