

**COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING**

DATE OF MEETING: December 6, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.  
BUILDING: Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom  
STREET LOCATION: 400 Spring Street  
CITY OF LOCATION: Columbus, Texas 78934

The Colorado County Commissioners Court Meetings will be broadcast live on Zoom <https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/93198500943> for those individuals who wish to watch or listen remotely.

Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chapter 551, the Commissioners Court may convene in a closed meeting to discuss, deliberate and take action on any of the agenda items listed below. Immediately before any closed session, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Chapter 551, which provides statutory authority, will be announced.

**On this the 6th day of December 2022, the Commissioners Court of Colorado County, Texas met in Regular Session at 11:00 A.M., in their regular meeting place at the Colorado County Courthouse, County Courtroom, 400 Spring Street, in the City of Columbus, Texas.**

**The Following Members were present, to wit:**

<b>Honorable Ty Prause</b>	<b>County Judge</b>
<b>Honorable Doug Wessels</b>	<b>Commissioner Precinct #1</b>
<b>Honorable Darrell Kubesch</b>	<b>Commissioner Precinct #2</b>
<b>Honorable Keith Neuendorff</b>	<b>Commissioner Precinct #3</b>
<b>Honorable Darrell Gertson</b>	<b>Commissioner Precinct #4</b>
<b>By: Michelle Kollmann</b>	<b>Deputy Clerk</b>

**Honorable Kimberly Menke, County Clerk, was unable to attend.**

**County Judge Ty Prause called the meeting to order at 11:03 A.M., followed by**

**Pledges to the United States Flag and Texas Flag.**

**MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER'S COURT SPECIAL MEETING**

**December 6, 2022**

DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

\_\_1. Agenda as posted.

**Motion by Commissioner Wessels to approve Agenda as posted; seconded by  
Commissioner Kubesch; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.**

**(See Attachment)**

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FILED FOR RECORD  
COLORADO COUNTY, TX

COLORADO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

2022 DEC -1 PM 2:56

KIMBERLY MENKE MK  
COUNTY CLERK

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**DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- \_\_1. Agenda as posted.
- \_\_2. Public comments.
- \_\_3. Workshop regarding General Land Office (GLO) CDBG-MIT-MOD with Jill Phinney of Langford Community Management Services; timeline, deadlines, required application information and choices by Commissioners Court to be funded by GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD as eligible projects.
- \_\_4. Discuss, consider and take action to choose or select eligible projects, such as improvements to roads, bridges, infrastructure in the County, etc., under the GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD.
- \_\_5. Adjourn.

**CERTIFICATION**

NAME: Ty Prause  
TITLE: Colorado County Judge  
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL:  
DATE: December 1, 2022  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (979) 732-2604  
FAX NUMBER: (979) 732-9389



The Colorado County Courthouse is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available.

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**\_\_2. Public comments.**

**No public comments.**

**\_\_3. Workshop regarding General Land Office (GLO) CDBG-MIT-MOD with Jill Phinney of Langford Community Management Services; timeline, deadlines, required application information and choices by Commissioners Court to be funded by GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD as eligible projects.**

**Judge Prause announced that Jill Phinney, Michael Fuhrr, Chuck Rogers, Michelle Lowrance and he had a Zoom meeting to discuss the December 23, 2022, deadline. The issue came up and it was determined that one of the clearly allowable expenditures was for road and bridges. The application deadline is January 9, 2023, however the location of the project, the beneficiary of the project and the budget of the project must be posted by December 23, 2022 on the County website and at the Courthouse. It must posted for fourteen days to allow citizens to be fully informed of the projects. Judge Prause explained he had three bullet points to cover in detail. He said that this is certainly doable because if a project is selected by the court the map can be prepared with the assistance of the 9-1-1 office, the beneficiaries in that area can be ascertained and the budget for the project can be a rough number with as much detail as possible for the posting. The engineered dollar amount would not be needed until the application deadline. Ms. Phinney explained that the purpose of the General Land Office method of distribution is for mitigation and for resiliency. Commissioner Kubesch said he knew the city of Sheridan was needed funds to complete and eight inch main to help distribute water. Commissioner Wessels said he knew Rock Island and Garwood needed generators. Ms. Phinney said that this is the purpose of this meeting, to come up with projects to use these funds on. She hopes that at the conclusion of the meeting there will be a list of specific projects that will be worked on. Commissioner Wessels asked about using funds for the maintenance of roads. Jill Phinney explained it was not for maintenance but for roads that flood or wash out during disaster situations. Commissioner Gertson talked about roads that flood in his precinct that could use attention. Commissioner Wessels asked if a certain amount could be set aside for roads and bridges or if the project had to be specific. Ms. Phinney explained all projects that are decided on will need very specific details for the application. Commissioner Gertson proposed looking at the true needs first and see what those cost and then decide on other projects based on what amount of money is left. Judge Prause said that in the Zoom**

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meeting they determined that the EMS station and building will not be eligible with this money however the 9-1-1 console and equipment would be roughly \$315,000, with another \$2,000,000 for a tower including land and infrastructure in the southern part of the county, and \$1,000,000 for radio replacements. After this it was determined that with these three projects approximately \$1,500,000 would be leftover for any additional projects.

Commissioner Wessels asked if the tower would be made available for the private sector to hang their equipment and the county could get rent. Chuck Rogers who has been gathering information on this project said yes. Chuck Rogers stated that there are two commercial towers available to rent but the cost is high, and the locations are not in the optimal areas. Commissioner Wessels asked if the grant was used for the tower would it prevent the county from leasing the tower in the future. Ms. Phinney said it would not. Chuck Rogers said he was looking at a long term lease a half-acre on FM 1693 to have the tower installed on.

Commissioner Wessels suggested taking the money out for the tower and the radio replacement and using what is left to buy generators for the water districts. If any were to remain after the generators, Commissioner Wessels to put it towards roads. Jill Phinney explained that once projects are decided on the engineering firm will get involved and draw up the budget. She suggested budgeting more to allow for contingency because it could be a year from now before work begins at the site. Commissioner Kubesch had additional questions about the tower. Chuck Rogers answered that he is in hopes of the tower improving service and internet in the southern part of the county and eliminate many of the problems with communications. The court continued discussing purchasing generators for the water districts. Chuck Rogers made the comment that the county should consider not only what is needed now, but also in the future. He feels that with past projects growth was not taken into consideration and would like to see that considered this time. Judge Prause asked Jill Phinney what the next steps should be. She suggested contacting Weishuhn Engineering and have him go to the water districts and evaluate their needs and the size generator for each.

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- \_\_4.** Discuss, consider, and take action to choose or select eligible projects, such as improvements to roads, bridges, infrastructure in the County, etc., under the GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD.

**Motion by Judge Prause to make priority number one the 9-1-1 console equipment and communications tower for a combined total of 2.7 million dollars of the GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD funds; seconded by Commissioner Wessels; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried it was so ordered.**

**Conversation continued on the last 1.6 million dollars. Commissioner Gertson suggested purchasing generators for the water districts and repair roads with any remaining funds. It was discussed having Weishuhn Engineering speak with the water districts and come back with a budget. Judge Prause asked Michael Furrh, EMS Director to present his project ideas for the EMS Department. These projects will not be eligible for this money, but he wanted the court to have ideas for future opportunities. Mr. Furrh spoke on the need for a new station in Eagle Lake, possibly staffing three more paramedics, and a maintenance shop for tools, workspace, and storage.**

**Motion by Judge Prause to approve up to 1.6 million of the GLO CDBG-MIT-MOD funds for generators for water districts if the amount needed is less than this then additional funds can be used for other projects such as roads and bridges; seconded by Commissioner Wessels; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.**

- \_\_5.** Adjourn.

**Motion by Judge Prause to adjourn at 12:39 P.M.; seconded by Commissioner Neuendorff; 5 ayes 0 nays; motion carried; it was so ordered.**

**An audio recording of this meeting of December 6, 2022 is available in the County Clerk's Office.**

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**Minutes were taken and prepared by Kimberly Menke, County Clerk on the 6th day of December 2022 with Judge Ty Prause presiding.**

**I, KIMBERLY MENKE, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT IN AND FOR COLORADO COUNTY, TEXAS do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Commissioner Court in session on the 6th day of December 2022.**

**Given under my hand and official seal of office this date December 6, 2022.**



