

Summary of Comments of Llano County Precinct 1 Townhall Meeting 12-13-2018

The meeting started at 5 pm with the pledge of allegiance and introduction of elected officials.

Over 70 people were in attendance.

- Llano County Judge Mary Cunningham discussed the process of removing flood debris. Much research went into the best approach with contact to multiple counties who have experienced disasters. It was determined that debris needs to be removed from the county when picked up not stockpiled and removed later. A Request for Proposal was requested for this approach and TFR Enterprises was contracted to remove debris from the county at \$55 per cubic yard and to date over 8,000 cubic yards of debris have been removed. The removal process is getting close to being completed and it is expected that the cost will be less than anticipated at under \$1 million. The county has followed the requirements of FEMA in its bid process and monitoring and, if a Federal Disaster is approved by President Trump, the county should be able to recover a significant portion of these costs.

Texas Governor Abbott has declared a State Disaster and submitted a request to the White House for a Federal Disaster Declaration. This is still in process and the White House has requested information from the Weather Service to determine if this is one event or two events, with rain up north and flooding on the Llano River. This is important because a threshold of \$38 .5 million in losses has to be met in the collective counties effected to qualify for the Federal Declaration. If this is deemed to be two events the threshold doubles. Our State Representatives and State and Federal Senators are working to get the Federal Disaster approved.

FEMA will not accept applications for reimbursement for losses from local governments or individuals unless a Federal Disaster is declared. As well a member of the audience advised that losses are not deductible unless the Federal Declaration is declared.

Judge Mary Cunningham will leave office at the end of the month and will work for Texas Association of Counties leading the judicial education training for new county judges.

- Llano Central Appraisal District Chief Appraiser, Scott Dudley presented that his office is now in the process of determining taxable property values at 1/1/2019. His office does have a list of those properties that were damaged from the flood and any homeowner can contact his office to determine if they are listed or should be added. Consideration will be given to the taxable property value of those properties damaged which includes the main resident, out buildings and boat docks. The more information his office has to make these determinations is useful and he urges those who wish to provide this data to contract his office. The assessments should be sent out by May 2019 which allows time for any contest of the taxable value. His office phone number is 325-247-3065.

The Llano Central Appraisal District is a State Agency, and even though the State requires the county to fund it operations, the Appraisal District is not a Llano County Department and the

county has no authority to influence the taxable property values that the Appraisal District determines, so any questions on property appraisals should be directed to Scott Dudley.

- A brief discussion about repairs and rebuilding took place. The Llano Permitting Office can help with that. There are different scenarios if the home was built prior to 1991 or post 1991, and if the damage is 50% or more of the market value or not. In any event the county has waived permit fees. The permitting office is located in the square in City of Llano and can be contacted at 325-247-2039
- Regarding Lake LBJ being lowered by 4 feet in January for 8 weeks. City of HSB Mayor Jordan advised that he has requested LCRA to lower the lake more if possible which is being considered. Attached separately is a handout provided at the meeting of Frequently Asked Question Sheet from LCRA.
- Progress to rebuild the 2900 bridge was discussed. TXDOT deemed this to be an emergency need to rebuild quickly and amazingly planned, engineered, bid, funded and contracted the rebuild in 4 weeks for the bridge to be open to traffic in 150 days by April 2019. My conversations with TXDOT this week assured that the project is on target. At the time of this meeting we are at day 38. They are starting to drill shafts for the base. The bridge requires 45 drill shafts and they have completed 3 so far. This work will continue 24/7 since this is the most critical element of being able to complete the bridge on schedule.
- An update on the status of the proposed Sand Crusher Plant at Sandy Creek was discussed. Collier Inc. submitted application to TCEQ for 2 air quality permits. One for the sand sifting and stockpiling and one for the Sand Crusher to bring the sand to concrete specifications. The Sand Sifting and Stockpiling permit has been approved by TCEQ under what they call Permit by Rule. In other words TCEQ does not see this function as providing air pollution and since it met technical requirements it was approved. The other permit for the Sand Crusher has not yet been approved. TCEQ held a Public Hearing in Llano Nov 13th to hear from the public on their concerns of air quality. Although TCEQ will not consider other issues than air quality many who presented expressed health concerns, water consumption supply and quality, traffic safety and many other issues. All who spoke opposed the project and none spoke for it. Many requested a contested case hearing. At this time the comments submitted in writing are being reviewed by TCEQ and they will determine if a Contested Case Hearing will be held. Other permits will also be required from Texas Parks and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, TXDOT and Llano County for a Floodplain Development Plan. The only other application we are aware of that has been submitted by Collier is to Texas Parks and Wildlife which has been rejected twice as not sufficient, so this could be a long process.
- The project to ban off-premises signs on Hwy 71 from the Llano/ Burnet County line to the City of Llano was discussed. An off-premise sign is one where the business being advertised is

not located on the property, such as McDonalds, HEB and Burger King Signs. Property owners who operate a business on the property can erect signs promoting their business such as a hunting lodge. This requires a legislative amendment passed in the next session. This section of highway is a 26 mile stretch of pristine highway in Llano County and Precinct 1. With the passing lanes now complete and reseeded with millions of wildflowers this is one of the most beautiful highways in the county. The current status on this is that upon investigation the City of Horseshoe Bay already has a ban on Off-Premise signs in their Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) for the first 6 miles west from the Llano/Burnet County line to RR962. The City of Llano ETJ extends about 1.5 miles east on Hwy 71. They do not have a ban on off-premise signs but do have restrictions.

This leaves about 18.5 miles. I sent out 150 surveys to property owners close or adjacent to Hwy 71 and received 67 responses with the overwhelming majority in favor of the ban. Some of those who were against the ban live in the ETJs of Horseshoe Bay or The City of Llano. Only 2 families in the center of the 18.5 mile section where against the ban and after repeated attempts to contact them I had no response. In view of this I proposed to the Commissioner Court a resolution to ban signs in 13.5 miles of the stretch of road in 3 sections eliminating the location of those families that objected. This was passed with a 3 to 2 vote. All of this data has now been presented to Senator Buckingham and State Representative Andy Murr's office to draft a legislative amendment for presentation to committee in the next sessions. I met with them last week and I believe they are both supportive of this amendment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm with Merry Christmas wishes to all

Submitted by Llano County Commissioner Precinct 1 Peter Jones
December 14, 2018