

COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF MILAM COUNTY, TEXAS

AGENDA FOR MONDAY, August 23, 2021

The Milam County Commissioners Court will convene on Monday, August 23, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Court will convene in person at the Milam County Courthouse in the Milam County Courtroom located at 102 S. Fannin Ave., Cameron, Texas. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns for public health and safety the meeting will also be broadcast by Facebook Live. Public attendance may be limited due to COVID-19 spacing requirements and admittance may be done on a first come, first serve basis.

If you would like to make a public comment on any of the agenda items and you are unable to attend in person, please call 254 697 7000 before 10:00 a.m. August 23, 2021 and we will make arrangements for you to participate by phone. If you would like to attend and speak in person, you may register with the County Judge's office before 10:00 a.m. Monday, August 23, 2021.

To join by Facebook Live navigate to the Moving Milam Forward Facebook Page which is located at <https://www.facebook.com/live/producer/934846117015797>

The following items will be addressed:

1. The Court will convene, and a quorum will be established.
2. Prayer.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and to the Texas Flag.
4. Discuss the minutes of previous Commissioner's Court meetings and take any necessary action regarding approval, correction and/or changes of the minutes of prior Court action.
5. Public Participation:
 - a. The Milam County Commissioners Court will entertain any reasonable request from any citizen who wishes to address the Court, so long as the remarks are made pursuant to respectful decorum, the Texas Government Code and limited to five minutes or less.
6. Texas Association of Counties:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a presentation from TAC Wellness Consultant, Ashley Cureton, to discuss the opportunity for Milam County to implement a County specific Incentive program.
7. Milam County Small Business Grant Program:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the applications and awards of the Milam County Small Business Grant Program.
8. National Telecommunications and Information Agency Grant:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on Milam County's application for a broadband grant.

9. Economic Development Administration – Build Back Stronger Grant
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the Milam County application for a “Regional Training Center” grant.
10. Thorndale Volunteer Fire Department:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the construction and funding of the new Thorndale Volunteer Fire Department.
11. AMR Contract with Milam County, City of Rockdale, City of Cameron:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the existing contract between the County of Milam, the City of Rockdale, the City of Cameron and American Medical Response Inc.
12. Renovation of the Milam County Annex:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the Milam County “Annex” renovation project.
 - b. Discuss and take any necessary action to send out a request for proposals to provide phone and internet (data) wiring, including the cost of installation; wi-fi equipment, including the cost of installation; phone equipment, including hardware and software for the phone system; and surveillance monitoring inside and outside the building, including the cost of equipment, wiring and installation.
13. COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Milam County, including:
 - b. The status of the Milam County vaccination clinics;
 - c. A summary of the cases in the County; and
 - d. The prognosis for additional vaccinations and testing.
14. Disaster Declaration:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve and indefinitely extend a Milam Disaster Declaration of local disaster due to a public health emergency, dated August 19, 2021 implemented and executed by Milam County Judge Steve Young.
15. Commissioner On-Line Training:
 - a. Discuss and take any action regarding a proposal to allow for approval of CJCAT credit for online continuing education, except for a county commissioner during the first 12 months of his/her first year.
16. Commissioner Education Training Approval:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve 14 hours of educational training at the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, June 28 – July 1, 2021 for Commissioner Art Neal.
 - b. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve 13 hours of educational training at the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, June 28-July 1, 2021 for Commissioner Henry Hubnik.
17. Virtual Meetings of Milam County Commissioners Court:
 - a. Discuss and take any necessary action to continue with Facebook Live publication of the Milam County Commissioners Court.

18. Milam County Tax and Budget Issues:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to appoint Ms. Sherry Mueck, the Milam County Tax Assessor/Collector to calculate the 2021 effective “No New Revenue” and “Voter Approved Tax Rate.”
- b. Discuss and take any necessary action to assign a proposed 2021 maintenance and operation (M & O) and interest and sinking (I & S) tax rates for Milam County as follows:
 - i. Proposed tax rate - .73 per hundred dollars of evaluation
 - ii. Proposed M&O tax rate - .6759
 - iii. Proposed I&S tax rate - .0541
- c. Discuss and take any necessary action to amend the date of the required public hearing from September 2, 2021 to September 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Milam County Courthouse.
- d. Discuss and take any necessary action to publish notice of the public hearing in the Cameron Herald and the Rockdale Reporter during the week of August 23, 2021.

19. Public Hearings on Tax Abatements for Ben Milam Solar 5 L.L.C. and Two Rivers Solar L.L.C.:

- a. Conduct a public hearing on the creation of a Reinvestment Zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Ben Milam Solar 5 and Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Two Rivers Solar L.L.C., for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county, and possible action on a Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, L.L.C. and Two Rivers Solar, L.L.C.
- b. Discuss and take any necessary action to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Ben Milam Solar 5, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, LLC.
- c. Discuss and take any necessary action to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Two Rivers Solar, LLC, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Two Rivers Solar, LLC.
- d. Discuss and take any necessary action to set September 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. as a hearing date and time to consider the adoption of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, L.L.C., pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code.
- e. Discuss and take any necessary action to set September 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. as a hearing date and time to consider the adoption of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Two Rivers Solar, L.L.C., pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code.

20. Lease Agreement with the City of Rockdale:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Rockdale to lease .27 acres of land owned by the County of Milam for the purpose of storage of various City supplies.

21. Bond Approval for Carolyn Hux:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve bond for Carolyn Hux, Milam County Agri-Life Extension Office.
22. Deputation of Alex Infantino:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve the deputation of Alex Infantino, recently employed by the Milam County Sheriff's office.
23. Certificate of Attendance for Jodi Morgan and Monica Montez:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve and accept certificates of attendance of Jodi Morgan and Monica Montez for attending the 39th Annual Election Law Seminar.
24. Interlocal election agreements with Cameron and Bartlett ISD's:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve interlocal agreement(s) between Milam County and Cameron and Bartlett ISD's to conduct school bond elections.
25. Request of Carolyn Strong:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a request from Carolyn Strong as follows: "Can the Commissioners write a letter to the Tax Office verifying that this document does abandon all non-developed platted roads in the City and the County."
26. Notice of Intent to Create Private Road:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a proposal to create a new public road beginning at the right of way of FM 2095 and extending northward 345 feet on Private Road 6040.
27. Proposed Agreement with R&M Construction:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a proposal for Milam County Precinct 1 to contract with R&M construction to mow alongside roads in Precinct 1 at a rate of 72.22 cents per mile, to include mowing both sides of the involved roads.
28. Permission for Entry and Waiver of Claims, Precinct 1:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action for permission to enter and waiver of all claims of landowners Troy Lightfoot, Shawn Hubnik and Jeff Hall in order for bridge construction on County Road 214 at Bear Creek, beginning on or about September 1, 2021.
29. Road Repairs to County Road 209:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to allow Weldon Daskocil to repair a washout and ditch channel on County Road 209.
30. Subdivision Variance:
- a. Discuss and take any necessary action on a proposed subdivision variance on 14.5 acres on Highway 79 at County Road 360, appraisal district property ID 14214.
31. Discuss and take any necessary action to pay the bills of Milam County, Texas.
32. Discuss and take any necessary action to adjourn the Milam County Commissioners Court.

Dated this the 19th day of August 2021:

Commissioner's Court of Milam County, Texas
Digitally signed by Judge Steve Young
Date: 2021.08.19 19:20:36 -05'00'

By: _____
Steve Young, Milam County Judge

I, Jodi Morgan, the undersigned County Clerk, do hereby certify that the Notice of convening of the Milam County Commissioners Court is a true and correct copy of said Notice. Further, the Notice is published on the Courthouse door and the County Clerk's Office of Milam County, Texas and at other place(s) readily accessible to the public at all times beginning on the 20th day of August 2021. The notice will remain so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled date and time of said Court.

Filed 20 day of August
in 2021, At 8 A M.

Dated this 20th day of August 2021.
County Clerk of Milam County, Texas

JODI MORGAN
County Clerk, Milam County, Texas
By: Jodi Morgan
Deputy

By: Jodi Morgan
Jodi Morgan, Milam County Clerk



JODI MORGAN
County Clerk

If during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting the Commissioner's Court will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E. Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes or decisions will be taken in open meeting.

STATE OF TEXAS:

COUNTY OF MILAM:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on Monday, the 23rd day of August A.D. 2021, the Commissioners' Court of Milam County, Texas, convened in Regular Session in the Commissioners' Courtroom, Milam County Courthouse, 102 S. Fannin, Cameron Texas, with the following members of the Court present, to-wit:

Commissioners Court is now live stream through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/live/producer/934846117015797>

**STEVE YOUNG, MILAM COUNTY JUDGE
HENRY HUBNIK, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO.1
DONALD SHUFFIELD, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 2
ART NEAL, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 3
JEFF MUEGGE, COMMISSIONER PRECINCT NO. 4
JODI MORGAN, COUNTY CLERK**

Absent to wit:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MAY BE VIEWED ON THE WEBSITE WWW.MILAMCOUNTY.NET , in the minutes in the Commissioners Court book located in the County Clerk's office, or online at <https://milam.tx.publicsearch.us/>

And the proclamation having been made the Court was in session, the following business came on to be considered:

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM – 10:00 A.M.**
- 2. PRAYER**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG AND THE TEXAS FLAG**

4. DISCUSS THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMISSIONER COURT MEETINGS AND TAKE ANY NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL, CORRECTION AND/OR CHANGES OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Muegge to approve the minutes from the previous Commissioner's Court, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously.

August 9, 2021-Regular Meeting

5. Public Participation:

**Rebecca Johnson-Vasquez
Darron Kunkel
Herbie Vaughan
Stephen Smith
Monty Humble
Bill Whitmire
Dave Savage**

6. TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a presentation from TAC Wellness Consultant, Ashley Cureton, to discuss the opportunity for Milam County to implement a County specific Incentive program

Ashley Cureton with TAC gave a presentation on the handout attached

7. MILAM COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the applications and awards of the Milam County Small Business Grant Program.

***102 Application Received
47 Applications Approved
\$376,843 Estimated payout
Maximum payout is \$1 million ARPA Funds***

8. NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION AGENCY GRANT.

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on Milam County's application for a broadband grant.

***Zochnet proposal \$10.5 million grant
Submitted to NTIA at 12:33pm on August 15
Install 294 miles of underground fiber***

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION-BUILD BACK STRONGER GRANT

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the Milam County application for a "Regional Training Center" grant.

***2 part grant - \$500,000.00 plan development
200 million set aside for local distressed***

10. THORNDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the construction and funding of the new Thorndale Volunteer Fire Department.

***New Fire Department in Thorndale-Cost \$1 million
Met with Drayton McLane, he is making a \$30,000.00
contribution***

11. AMR CONTRACT WITH MILAM COUNTY, CITY OF ROCKDALE, CITY OF CAMERON:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the existing contract between the County of Milam, the City of Rockdale, the City of Cameron and American Medical Response Inc.

Herbie Vaughan- Chief Fire Marshall- Speaking on behalf of all Milam County Fire Departments

Here to talk about the response time of AMR

There have been numerous times we are at a level 0, which means there is no Ambulance in the county

With the help of AMR showing up at a few of these calls, we have managed to get by, but our biggest help has been from PHI, their quick response which is usually about 20 minutes. When AMR is not there, we have to get them to a landing zone or a helipad, which means setting up the landing zone and then traveling to the landing zone, lots of times we are traveling in our own vehicles, loading in our personal vehicles and getting to the landing zone. We have very limited supplies; Rockdale came up with a Medical Director doing it free for us that is doing basic interventions. This has helped us a bunch, but we are still waiting long periods of times waiting on the Ambulances. The biggest problem came in 2018 when we lost our hospitals, you have an hour for them to get to the hospital, then 20 minutes or more to get them transferred into the hospital and then another hour back. That's 2 ½ hours we are without an Ambulance. Its very taxing on us to sit and watch our citizens suffer, we only do so much as a Fire Department. The other day we have a child we took in our command vehicle because no ambulance was available nor was the helicopter, it was just faster for us to take. This has happened more than once, Constable Pratt has transported himself, the weather was bad, the helicopter could not fly out, he met an ambulance in Rogers. We can't accept this; this is not good for our public.

Bill Whitmire- Most of the issues on the agenda can be talked about today, budget, tax abatement, the lack of the ability to have a Public Hearing in the evenings like we use to. Today I am here to talk about the ambulance availability or lack thereof, like Herbie said. Make a note first off our EMS folks in the County are outstanding when they are available the problem is availability and you heard the stories that we have a local physician assistant that responded to a call and did CPR for an hour because we couldn't get an ambulance over there and the individual died. Now we don't know if an ambulance would have made a difference, we will never know because an ambulance was not available. An elderly couple from Milano needed an ambulance, they were told 2 hours, they both had COVID, the wife had to drive, luckily, they had a nurse follow them in another car, they had to drive all the way to Robertson County to meet an Ambulance. Robertson County EMS can't come into Milam County because of a noncompete agreement with AMR unless there is a natural disaster. We had 3 ambulances when we had 2 hospitals, and that was adequate, we were able to. We have 9,000 residents per every one ambulance, that's crazy. Milam County is as big as Rhode Island, we are just a little smaller than the entire state of Rhode Island. Many of our accidents happen when there is bad weather, during bad weather those air ambulances cannot respond. When we have 3 ambulances, they are pretty busy those nights too. We got local firemen and law enforcement transporting people in vehicles that are not set up for that and quite frankly if they are taking privately owned vehicles there's a liability to that as well. What do we do? We need more ambulances; we need to look at how to fund that. We have a contract with AMR for \$350,000 a year. So, when you roughly take that per ambulance, little under \$125,000 a year. So basically for \$240,000 a year we could add 2 ambulances. It would definitely help the situation. How is that funded, the \$350,000.00, folks in Cameron and Rockdale are going to love this, its \$350,000 split a 1/3 for the County, 1/3 for Cameron and 1/3 for Rockdale, so that means if you live in Rockdale and in Cameron, guess what

you are paying for it twice. We need to find a way to fund this, there are grants out there. We need to reach out to the other counties and see how they are doing it. Let's look at tax, from 2010-2019 the average yearly increase in the budget was \$393,000, since 2019 increase has been \$940,000, nearly twice the amount. I don't know what we have done with \$500,000 more per year to improve things. We have almost made more tax money in 3 years than we did in those 10 years, so there is money there. We need more ambulance care in Milam County. There was a letter issued to AMR last week to ask to meet their contractual obligations, I am glad that was done. Most importantly we don't need to reinvent the wheel. We have a hospital district in Rockdale that we don't have a hospital for. We can take and make an EMS district here in Milam County.

5 minute Recess 11:08am-11:12am

12. RENOVATION OF THE MILAM COUNTY ANNEX:

- a. a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding an update on the Milam County "Annex" renovation project.
- b. Discuss and take any necessary action to send out a request for proposals to provide phone and internet (data) wiring, including the cost of installation; wi-fi equipment, including the cost of installation; phone equipment, including hardware and software for the phone system; and surveillance monitoring inside and outside the building, including the cost of equipment, wiring and installation.

Motion by Commissioner Muegge to send out request for proposals to provide phone and internet (data) wiring, including cost of installation; wifi equipment, including hardware and software for the phone system; and surveillance monitoring inside and outside the building, including the cost of equipment, wiring and installation, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

13. COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Milam County, including:
- b. The status of the Milam County vaccination clinics;
- c. A summary of the cases in the County; and
- d. The prognosis for additional vaccinations and testing.

14. DISASTER DECLARATION:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve and indefinitely extend a Milam Disaster Declaration of local disaster due to a public health emergency, dated August 19, 2021 implemented and executed by Milam County Judge Steve Young.

Motion by Commissioner Hubnik to approve to extend a Milam Disaster Declaration of local disaster due to a public health emergency, dated August 19, 2021, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

15. COMMISSIONER ON-LINE TRAINING:

- a. Discuss and take any action regarding a proposal to allow for approval of CJCAT credit for online continuing education, except for a county commissioner during the first 12 months of his/her first year.

Motion by Commissioner Shuffield to allow for approval of CJCAT credit for online continuing education, except for a county commissioner during the first 12 months of his/her first year, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

16. COMMISSIONER EDUCATION TRAINING APPROVAL

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve 14 hours of educational training at the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, June 28 - July 1, 2021 for Commissioner Art Neal.

b. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve 13 hours of educational training at the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, June 28-July 1, 2021 for Commissioner Henry Hubnik.

Motion by Commissioner Neal to approve Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Hubnik's educational training at the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, Seconded by Commissioner Hubnik and approved unanimously

17. VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF MILAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to continue with Facebook Live publication of the Milam County Commissioners Court.

Motion by Commissioner Hubnik to approve the continuation of Facebook Live publication of the Milam County Commissioners Court, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

18. MILAM COUNTY TAX AND BUDGET ISSUES:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to appoint Ms. Sherry Mueck, the Milam County Tax Assessor/Collector to calculate the 2021 effective "No New Revenue" and "Voter Approved Tax Rate."

b. Discuss and take any necessary action to assign a proposed 2021 maintenance and operation (M & O) and interest and sinking (I & S) tax rates for Milam County as follows:

i. Proposed tax rate - .73 per hundred dollars of evaluation

ii. Proposed M&O tax rate - .6759

iii. Proposed I&S tax rate - .0541

c. Discuss and take any necessary action to amend the date of the required public hearing from September 2, 2021 to September 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Milam County Courthouse.

d. Discuss and take any necessary action to publish notice of the public hearing in the Cameron Herald and the Rockdale Reporter during the week of August 23, 2021.

Motion by Judge Young to appoint Sherry Mueck, the Milam County Tax Assessor/Collector to calculate the 2021 effective "No New Revenue" and "Voter Approved Tax Rate", Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

Motion by Judge Young to adopt a proposed 2021 Maintenance and Operation (M&O) at .6759, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

Motion by Judge Young to adopt a proposed 2021 Interest and Sinking (I&S) at .0541, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

Motion by Judge Young to adopt a proposed 2021 Tax Rate at .73 per \$100 evaluation, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

Motion by Commissioner Muegge to set the Public Hearing to September 13, 2021, at 9:30a.m. at the Milam County Courthouse, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

This date was amended from September 2, 2021 to September 13, 2021

11:30am- Public Hearing

Rebecca Johnson-Vasquez-Apex Clean Energy/Lone Star Guns & Goods

Resident of Milam County for a while, I work in Renewable Energy, the company I work for has one of the many projects that is coming to this county. It frustrated me the misinformation that is out there, via Facebook or social media. I have had several people call me and say, I know you work in this industry can you tell us what is true and what is not? It is unfortunate that the industry has become so political, and we have sides based on politics where it shouldn't be. The reality of these projects is that they are going to bring in millions of dollars to the community, whether it be through direct landowner payments, taxes paid over the duration of these projects. We have suffered as a community since Alcoa and luminant shut down. I think everybody in this room knows what It was like going to court year after year fighting for the evaluation of Alcoa. That is what these Abatements are about, to prevent going year after year to do that. Not only are we going to have the investment in our community as a whole with these projects but we are going to have the ability to have people trained to work in these industries. The number one job in the country is solar panel installers, believe it or not. It's a very good wage, we have the need for employment in this county that puts money in people's pockets. Half of our tax base disappeared when Alcoa and Luminant shut down, the projects will bring into the county is finable for the amount of taxes and for what it will do for our infrastructure. Most importantly I have seen on Facebook and talked about by members of the public, and I have been asked about; are these solar panels going to leak stuff into our water, groundwater, streams and wells, that is absolutely false. There are two types of panels made that are put into utility scale solar

projects. One is comprised of silicon which is the most abundant second to oxygen in our entire world, second the item that is used in the manufactured of these panels is something that is very, that is actually contained in fertilizer that our Farmers use every single day. There is nothing in these panels that are going to leak into our properties that are going to destroy our water, there are millions of panels across the world today, none are contaminating waters, so that is absolutely not factual. Anyone can contact me and ask questions. I want to encourage our Commissioners and Judge to approve these abatements, it is good for Milam County.

Dr. Darron Kunkel- Veterinarian and landowner in Milam County. I am a landowner that is leasing property for Solar Born and Raised in Milam County, my parents came to Milam County following Alcoa.

I graduated Rockdale High School

My wife here with me today, she was born and raised in Rockdale, her parents were born and raised in Milam County.

Her grandparents were born and raised in Milam County.

Were Milam County people, both of my sons graduated Rockdale High School, my granddaughter is in 6th grade in Thorndale. The lady before me answered all the questions about all the false thing going around about Solar. I am going to talk about the Abatements, I have been self employed all my life, first as a veterinarian and now I run cattle and goats for a living. I know what it takes to make a living, I never worked for a paycheck. Everything I ever made, I made with my two hands. I didn't go to any Economics classes at A&M, I was concerned more about getting my veterinarian degree. When I got out of school and went to work for an old veterinarian he said, Economics is real simple, you got to make more than you spend, if you don't make more than you spend than you spend less or you make more. This county can't spend any less, its going to spend more, so we got to make more. Alcoa and Luminant are gone, we need business here. Since I was a little boy, business have tried to come to Milam County and Milam County people have run them off. They wanted it here, but they didn't want to have to deal with it. People are coming in, they are pouring in. Judge said on every topic its all about the money. I told you what my veterinarian partner said about Economics, something else he

said, he said you don't want to charge them people so much, kinda like shearing sheep, when you get somebody inside the door, you don't take all the wool and the skin, you leave some so they come back next year. So these solar farms you don't want to scare them off by taking all their money, you got to give them a break, let them get their feet on the ground.

Steven Smith- 5th generation Milam County person, I live in Dallas today, but I own a residence in Milam County. My father's name was Niley J. Smith, grandfather was A.J. Smith, both directors of the Bank here, my father was President of the School Board many years ago. I was a Cameron Yoemen Football player and graduated from Yoe High, I have lots of pride in this area. Having 5th generation interest in my land, I am the primary landowner in two solar program project that is in the Branchville area. I am very proud of that generation and who farmed it many years. I am a Chief Engineer for a company called Trinity Industries, that I just retired from. Where we are heavily involved in all sorts of heavy manufacturing, plus we build wind towers and other renewable projects. Pretty familiar with whats going on here, If I thought there was any danger to my land, I would take it seriously. This is good, a good project for Milam County.

Dave Savage- Two River Solar, Director of Project Development for Apex Clean Energy, Partnering with High Road Clean Energy on this project, Steve Smith that just spoke is a primary landowner on one of our projects. One thing that these projects do is bring a lot of tax dollars into the community. Our tax models are showing even with the 312 agreement, showing us over the life of our project bringing in 13 million dollars to the county and 42 million to the school district which makes us one of the larger tax payers but at the same time we are a very small user of community services. After construction is done we will only have two full time employees, ironically we already have two full time employees here that are doing other projects here. We will have two full time employees associated with the project to do operations and maintenance for the lifetime of the project after construction. The need for fire, ambulance, police and education services will be very minimal.

Monty Humble- grew up here, my dad was a county judge in 1958, graduated from Yoe High School. These two projects today are the fourth and fifth projects we brought to Milam County. The total capital investment for the five projects will be on the order of 1.5 billion dollars. Very proud to be making this contribution to my home county, believe it will substantially improve the level of services that the county and schools are able to offer. The projects will benefit Buckholts, Cameron, Thorndale and Rosebud-Lott School District as well as producing economic benefits for landowners that will flow into local community.

Sherry Mueck- The rollback tax that is on the land that is changing ag use value, are you aware of that? If so that is extra revenue tax revenue coming into the County.

Judge Young- They are aware of it, those places have ag exemptions on them, they lose the ag exemption and there is a 3 year roll back.

Commissioner Hubnik- Every since you put on the agenda, my phone has been ringing, people are against it. If we are giving solar farms tax abatements, are we going to give people exemptions for putting on their houses?

Judge Young- No, because this is a tax abatement for a business opportunity. There could be some Federal Tax abatement for private individuals.

Rebecca Vasquez- There are Federal, personal funding or tax write off already out there.

**Motion by Judge Young to close the public hearing at 11:50a.m.,
Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously**

19. PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TAX ABATEMENTS FOR BEN MILAM SOLAR 5 L.L.C. AND TWO RIVERS SOLAR L.L.C.:

- a. Conduct a public hearing on the creation of a Reinvestment Zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Ben Milam Solar 5 and Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Two Rivers Solar L.L.C., for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county, and possible action on a Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, L.L.C. and Two Rivers Solar, L.L.C.**
- b. Discuss and take any necessary action to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Ben Milam Solar 5, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, LLC.**

Motion by Judge Young to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Ben Milam Solar 5, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, LLC, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved 3 for, 1 against, 1 abstained

**Judge Young- For
Commissioner- Hubnik- Against
Commissioner Shuffield- For
Commissioner Neal- For
Commissioner Muegge- Abstained**

c. Discuss and take any necessary action to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Two Rivers Solar, LLC, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Two Rivers Solar, LLC.

Motion by Judge Young to create a reinvestment zone for purposes of tax abatement to provide economic development within the county in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code, said reinvestment zone to be known as Milam County Reinvestment Zone-Two Rivers Solar, LLC, and located as described in the application by Tax Abatement Agreement with Two Rivers Solar, LLC., Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved 4 to 1

**Judge Young- For
Commissioner Hubnik- Against
Commissioner Shuffield- For
Commissioner Neal- For
Commissioner Muegge- For**

d. Discuss and take any necessary action to set September 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. as a hearing date and time to consider the adoption of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Ben Milam Solar 5, L.L.C., pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code.

e. Discuss and take any necessary action to set September 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. as a hearing date and time to consider the adoption of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Two Rivers Solar, L.L.C., pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code.

Motion by Judge Young to set September 13, 2021 at 9:30a.m. as a hearing date and time to consider the adoption of a Tax Abatement Agreement for Two Rivers Solar L.L.C. and Ben Milam Solar 5 L.L.C. pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved 4 to 1

***Judge Young- For
Commissioner Hubnik- Against
Commissioner Shuffield- For
Commissioner Neal- For
Commissioner Muegge- For***

20. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ROCKDALE:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Rockdale to lease .27 acres of land owned by the County of Milam for the purpose of storage of various City supplies.

Motion by Commissioner Neal to enter into a lease agreement with the City of Rockdale to lease .27 acres of land owned by the County of Milam for the purpose of storage of various City Supplies, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously.

21. BOND APPROVAL FOR CAROLYN HUX:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve bond for Carolyn Hux, Milam County Agri-Life Extension Office

Motion by Commissioner Shuffield to approve a bond for Carolyn Hux, Milam County Agri-Life Extension Office, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

22. DEPUTATION OF ALEX INFANTINO:

a. Discuss and take any necessary action to approve the deputation of Alex Infantino, recently employed by the Milam County Sheriff's office.

Motion by Commissioner Neal to approve a deputation of Alex Infantino, Milam County Sheriff Office, Seconded by Commissioner Hubnik and approved unanimously

23. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE FOR JODI MORGAN AND MONICA MONTEZ

- a. **Discuss and take any necessary action to approve and accept certificates of attendance of Jodi Morgan and Monica Montez for attending the 39th Annual Election Law Seminar.**

Motion by Commissioner Muegge to certificate attendance for Jodi Morgan and Monica Montez for the 39th Annual Election Law Seminar, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

24. INTERLOCAL ELECTION AGREEMENTS WITH CAMERON AND BARTLETT ISD'S:

- a. **Discuss and take any necessary action to approve interlocal agreement(s) between Milam County and Cameron and Bartlett ISD's to conduct school bond elections.**

Motion by Commissioner Shuffield to approve Election Agreements with Cameron and Bartlett ISD, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

25. REQUEST OF CAROLYN STRONG:

- a. **Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a request from Carolyn Strong as follows: "Can the Commissioners write a letter to the Tax Office verifying that this document does abandon all non-developed platted roads in the City and the County."**

Motion by Judge Young to not write a letter to the Tax Office verifying that the document previously submitted does abandon all non-developed platted roads in the City and the County, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

26. NOTICE OF INTENT TO CREATE PRIVATE ROAD:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a proposal to create a new public road beginning at the right of way of FM 2095 and extending northward 345 feet on Private Road 6040.

Motion by Commissioner Shuffield to table a notice of intent to create Private Road, Seconded by Commissioner Neal and approved unanimously

27. PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH R&M CONSTRUCTION:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding a proposal for Milam County Precinct 1 to contract with R&M construction to mow alongside roads in Precinct 1 at a rate of 72.22 cents per mile, to include mowing both sides of the involved roads.

Motion by Commissioner Hubnik to approve an agreement with R&M Construction to mow alongside roads in Precinct 1 at a rate of 72.22 cents per mile, to include mowing both sides of the involved roads, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

28. PERMISSION FOR ENTRY AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS, PRECINCT #1:

- a. Discuss and take any necessary action for permission to enter and waiver of all claims of landowners Troy Lightfoot, Shawn Hubnik and Jeff Hall in order for bridge construction on County Road 214 at Bear Creek, beginning on or about September 1, 2021

Motion by Commissioner Hubnik to approve Permission for Entry and Waiver of Claims, Precinct #1 for landowners Troy Lightfoot, Shawn Hubnik and Jeff Hall on CR 214 at Bear Creek, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

29. ROAD REPAIRS TO COUNTY ROAD 209

- a. **Discuss and take any necessary action to allow Weldon Dorskocil to repair a washout and ditch channel on County Road 209.**

Motion by Commissioner Hubnik to allow Weldon Dorskocil to repair a washout and ditch channel on County Road 209, Seconded by Commissioner Shuffield and approved unanimously

30. SUBDIVISION VARIANCE:

- a. **Discuss and take any necessary action on a proposed subdivision variance on 14.5 acres on Highway 79 at County Road 360, appraisal district property ID 14214.**

Motion by Commissioner Neal to approve a proposed subdivision variance on 14.5 acres on Hwy 79 at CR 360, Property ID 14214, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

31. BILLS- Motion by Commissioner Shuffield to pay the bills in the amount of \$575,148.93, Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and approved unanimously

32. ADJOURN- Motion by Commissioner Neal to adjourn at 12:14p.m., Seconded by Commissioner Muegge and carried unanimously.

The above and foregoing Minutes for Monday, August 23, 2021 having been examined and approved in Open Court this _____ day of _____ 2021.

County Judge

State of
Texas:
County of Milam:

I, Jodi Morgan, County Clerk, Milam County, Texas, attest that the foregoing is a true and correct accounting of the Commissioners' Court authorized proceedings for August 23, 2021.

County Clerk and Ex-Officio Member of
Commissioners' Court, Milam County, Texas

STATEMENT OF APPROVAL

Commissioner PCT #1

Commissioner PCT #2

Commissioner PCT #3

Commissioner PCT #4