

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Monday, August 10, 2026, the Commissioner Court of Howard County met in Workshop Session at 9:00 AM and in Regular Session at 10:00 AM with RANDY JOHNSON, County Judge, as the Presiding Officer. The following members were present: Commissioner Pct. 1, Eddilisa Ray; Commissioner Pct. 2, Cash Berry; Commissioner Pct. 3, Jimmy Long; Commissioner Pct. 4, Doug Wagner and County Judge, Randy Johnson.

Judge Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM followed by an opening prayer from Commissioner Wagner.

County Auditor Rachel Long and members of the court discussed final budget-related issues. During the session, the court answered Mrs. Long's questions to assist her in finalizing the proposed budget for the upcoming regular session. During the meeting, Judge Johnson highlighted a notable 43% drop in taxable values over the last 2 years, and a potential upcoming multi-million dollar project related to the Halff 25th Street Drainage Project, prompting further discussion regarding its impact on the county's finances. This was a discussion item; no formal action or vote was taken.

The court recessed at 10:00 AM and Reconvened in Regular Session at 10:05 AM.

Howard County Judge, Randy Johnson opened the session by leading the pledges and delivering a recap of the preceding workshop meeting. He also announced that because Odis Franklin, County IT was absent due to a family emergency, the meeting would not be video recorded or livestreamed on the Howard County website.

There were no registrations for public comment at this meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray to Approve the Proclamation related to the 150th Anniversary of Howard County's Establishment as presented by Randy Johnson, County Judge. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve the Order of the 2026 Gubernatorial November General Election as presented by Jodi Duck, Election Administrator and Randy Johnson, County Judge. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Accept the Consent Agenda as presented by Randy Johnson, County Judge. Items on the Agenda were as follows: Civil and Criminal Reports from Angela Griffin, JP 1-1; Civil and Criminal Reports from Mike Averette, JP 1-2; Civil and Criminal Reports from Kandi Campbell, JP 2; Ag Extension Report from Brantly Hoover, CEA ANR; Commissioner Minutes from the month of July; County Clerk's Monthly Report; Treasurer's Monthly Report, Treasurer's Monthly Payroll Report and the Auditor's Monthly Report. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray to Approve the Payment of the Invoices and Change Orders related to the Library Renovation Project as presented by Randy Johnson, County Judge. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long to Accept the Bid from bidder Cristal Calderon, for Tax Deed Parcel 280409, as presented by Randy Johnson, County Judge. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Accept the Personnel Report as presented by Abigail Lopez, County Treasurer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Approve Invoices as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

There were no budget amendments presented or considered during this meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Approve the Purchase Requests as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. Requests were as follows: Maintenance for 4 Windows at the Library from PK Construction at \$3,593.45; Jail for an Open PO for building supplies from WTX Supply at \$2,000.00; Jail for an Open PO for Commissary Restock from Keefe at \$5,000.00 and District Attorney for 3 Chairs and a Triple Monitor Mount from Amazon at \$1,049.96. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

With no opposition from other members of the court, Judge Johnson moved items 4d. - 4h. down to the bottom of the agenda.

Brian Klinksiek, Road and Bridge Engineer, Provided the Court with Roadway Maintenance Updates; No Action Taken.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Approve the Proposed RV Park on North Birdwell Lane as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve Road Improvements on Longshore Road as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve the request to go out for Bulk Fuel Bids for the FY 2026-2027 as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Approve the Change Order to Increase PO 10750 as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve Change Order to PO 10751 as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long to Move forward with the Selection of Option 3, related to the Half Drainage Study as presented by Brian Klinksiek, County Road Engineer. A vote was taken and 4 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY" and Commissioner Ray abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

County Attorney Lindsay Wilkerson updated the court on the status of the lease agreement related to a

property at the Old Howard County Airport (Interstate Steel). Mrs. Wilkerson noted that she had emailed an updated lease agreement to their representatives but had not yet received a response. Commissioner Wagner stated that he would attempt to contact representatives from Interstate Steel and try to get a response from them. No Action Taken by the Court.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray and seconded by Commissioner Pct.4 Wagner to Approve the 2027 Sheriff & Constable Fee Schedule as presented by Stan Parker, County Sheriff. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

Future Items/Events:

- Cancel August 17th Meeting
- Next Meeting will be August 24th
- Budget Approval and Setting Tax Rate
- Komatsu Architect merging to Parkhill Architects
- Ambulance Agreement with COBS

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve the Proposed Elected Official Salaries as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 4 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY" and Commissioner Ray abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Move Forward with the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 4 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY" and Commissioner Ray abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve the Proposed Tax Rate of .44 for FY 2026-2027 as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 4 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY" and Commissioner Ray abstaining from the vote. Motion carried.

Commissioner Long issued a statement warning that the county must prepare for the worst based on actions taken by the state during the last legislative session. Specifically, pointing out Governor Abbott's goal to achieve a 0% increase on the voter-approval tax rate-a restriction that, if passed, would inflict a massive negative financial impact on the county. With the county already running on incredibly lean funds, surging employee insurance coverage costs, and widespread inflation on goods, Commissioner Long emphasized that approving the proposed tax rate is absolutely vital to stabilizing the county's future operations. Judge Johnson echoed these concerns, adding that if the state decreases the voter-approval rate as discussed and the court fails to act proactively, the county will be forced to cut critical public services and personnel within three years. Stating that the county would simply not be able to function under those state-imposed restrictions, Judge Johnson explained that the court has taken a balanced approach: raising the tax rate not as high as legally allowed, but just enough to balance this year's budget while buffering future budgets against incoming state laws. He concluded that while there is an immediate budget-driven need to set this year's tax rate at .44 per \$100 of valuation, that rate is a strategic measure designed to protect and sustain the county well into future fiscal cycles.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 1 Ray and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long to Schedule the Public Hearing for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget on August 24, 2026, at 10:00AM as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pct. 3 Long and seconded by Commissioner Pct. 2 Berry to Approve the Request to go out for Air Distribution System Repair Bids as presented by Rachel Long, County Auditor. A vote was taken and 5 members of the Court voted "AYE" with None voting "NAY." Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 PM

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HOWARD

I, Jury Padron, Howard County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court authorized proceedings for August 10, 2026.



Jury Padron, Howard County Clerk
Clerk of the Commissioners Court
Howard County, Texas