

The Bandera PROPHEET

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Commissioners Court Briefings

By Jessica Nohealapa'ahi
The Bandera Prophet

Bandera County commissioners unanimously approved the 2022-23 fiscal year budget and tax rate.

Denise Gober delivered the lone comment during the public hearing, asking if the documents could be made available online in an easier-to-read format.

“The budget is much higher this year,” Gober said, referencing higher property tax revenue and increased protests. “It concerns me that nobody from our county talks about or understands the impact on taxpayers. It is very hard to analyze where the money is going and what it’s being spent on.”

Bandera County Judge Richard Evans said the full PDF version of the budget is available online.

~ In other business, commissioners recognized the Bandera County Historical Commission for receiving the the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. Bandera County has received the award for 18 consecutive years.

~ Commissioners unanimously approved entering into an agreement with Sylint, LLC., for cyber security services. Recommended by the Texas Association of Counties forensic analysts, the security service has monitored the county’s 250 computers since a data breach shut down email and other services last year. From then until now, Sylint has identified and stopped nine breach attempts.

The annual cost is \$30,825, paid in monthly increments.

“There are other counties in the state that have been attacked like we were. This is the best armor that we can use at this time to protect us,” Pct. 2 Commissioner Bobby Harris said.

~ Commissioners unanimously approved hiring Tcore Engineers to prepare a design plan to widen the low water crossing at San Julian Creek and Wharton’s Dock Road.

Once the surveying is done, the court can expect a plan in approximately three weeks, County Engineer Dieter Werner said.

~ Commissioners unanimously approved giving the Lakeshore Volunteer Fire Department \$38,270.62 plus \$7,146 from the COVID Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The LSVFD is under new management, Fire Chief Eric Fraser said, referencing past problems the department had.

“We have identified some of the reasons the department has been the way it has...we have taken steps to remove people...who contributed to the instability of the department,” Fraser said, who was appointed fire chief by the board of directors.

During his 34 years in the U.S. Army, Fraser said he joined a volunteer fire department wherever he was stationed.

“I believe we have the support of the community to help keep us on the right path,” Fraser said.

~ Commissioners postponed action on setting a rate for tire disposal. Currently, the county charges \$3 per tire at each solid waste station, but that fee is expected to increase, due to higher rates for haul off.

~ Commissioners unanimously approved designating the second and fourth Thursdays of each month as their regular meeting dates.