

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS
REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2026**

DeWitt County Commissioners Court met in regular session January 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas, with the following members present:

County Judge Daryl L. Fowler
Commissioner Ryan Varela, Precinct No. 1
Commissioner James B. Pilchiek Jr., Precinct No. 2
Commissioner James Kaiser, Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Brian Carson, Precinct No. 4

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Judge Fowler called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Carson gave the invocation.

New Business:

Election Judges and Alternates (No. 1)

Court did not take any action on this agenda item.

Joint Primary Election Resolution (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-002, a Primary Joint Resolution proposing a joint Primary Election between the DeWitt County Democratic Party and the DeWitt County Republican Party to be conducted by the DeWitt County Elections Administrator and authorize the 2026 Joint Primary Election Services Contract. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Interlocal Agreement (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between DeWitt County and Fort Bend County for performance of Post Mortem Exams by the Fort Bend County Medical Examiner for a term ending September 30, 2026. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Road Announcement (No. 4)

Court heard announcement from Commissioner Varela on the need to temporarily reduce speed limit on Old Gonzales Road in Commissioner Precinct 1 due to construction.

Mr. Varela reported that on the 500 block of Old Gonzales Road, the county has a box culvert water crossing that has begun to fail. He has put out temporary warning signs with reduced speed limit up. He is waiting on TxDOT inspection report to concur with his finding. He has requested a proposal from Southwest Engineering for geotechnical report to test the ground under the site, as well as hydrologic and hydraulic calculations for the crossing to determine if the structure needs to be redesigned to better move water. The precinct will continue to monitor the water crossing and other boxed crossing while keeping the public updated.

Gulf Bend Center FY2025 Budget and Financial Report (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Gulf Bend Center FY2025 Budget and Financial Report. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Appraisal District Board of Directors Election for 2026-2027 (No. 6)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive letter from DeWitt County Appraisal District with results from the Board of Directors Election for the 2026-2027 term. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Set Terms of Constitutional County Court (No. 7)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to set the terms of the Constitutional County Court for 2026 pursuant to Government Code §26.002 as January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and October 1st with each term running until the beginning of the next term. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Racial Profiling Report (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive the Full Exemption Racial Profiling Report from the DeWitt County Attorney's Office. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Racial Profiling Report (No. 9)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Racial Profiling Report from DeWitt County Constable Precinct No. 2. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Racial Profiling Report (No. 10)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Racial Profiling Report from DeWitt County Constable Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Constable Precinct No. 1 Activity Report (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to receive Constable Precinct No. 1 Activity Report. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Constable Precinct No. 2 Activity Report (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to receive Constable Precinct No. 2 Activity Report. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Certificate of Completion (No. 13)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive Certificate of Completion for DeWitt County Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 employee Alexis Villa from the Office of the Attorney General of Texas for the successful completion of the Public Information Act training course. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve temporary right of way agreement with NexGen Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Gus Meyer Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve temporary right of way agreement with Select Water Solutions LLC for installation of a temporary water line along A. Metting Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from Select Water Solutions LLC for installation of two (2) temporary water lines along Walter Mueller Road and Dubose Ranch Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Minutes (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and approve minutes of the previous term of court. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Treasurer's Monthly Report (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive report and approve Court Order No. 2026-001, Order Approving Treasurer's Monthly Report. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report (No. 19)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive County Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0

Payroll Reports (No. 20)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify approval of payroll reports. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Jury Reports (No. 21)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify jury reports. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Notice of Assignment of Contract (No. 22)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to acknowledge receipt of notice of assignment of all contract(s) from The Brandt Companies to Southland Industries and confirm acceptance of the assignment of the contract(s) between DeWitt County and Southland Industries. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – December 18-31, 2025 (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports from December 18th through 31st, 2025 pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 114. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Monthly Revenue Reports from County Officials and Department Heads (No. 24)

County Auditor Neomi Williams reported that the auditor's office had received monthly reports from all officials including the 24th Judicial District Attorney's November 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve monthly reports from County Officials and Department Heads. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Purchasing Audit Report FY 2026 1st Quarter (No. 25)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Purchasing Audit Report FY2026 1st Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Cash Count Report FY 2026 1st Quarter (No. 26)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Cash Count Report FY2026 1st Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Accounts Payable Audit Report FY 2026 1st Quarter (No. 27)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Accounts Payable Audit Report FY2026 1st Quarter and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit for December 2025 (No. 28)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Deposit Receipt Audit for December 2025 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report December 2025 (No. 29)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Payroll Audit Report December 2025 and pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report December 2025 (No. 30)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Positive Pay Audit Report December 2025 and pursuant to Local Government Code, Chapter 115. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

2026 IRS Mileage Rate (No. 31)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the IRS standard mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile effective January 1, 2026. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Accounts Payable (No. 32)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve accounts payable. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Ratified Accounts Payable (No. 33)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve ratified accounts payable. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Personnel Policy (No. 34)

No necessary amendments/changes.

Courthouse/Annex/Museum Expenditures/Maintenance/Improvements (No. 35)

Judge Fowler reported on the following items:

1. Contractor has finished the project of rebuilding the railing that surrounded the staircase going into the basement that has rusted out and the Knox box will be installed soon.
2. Water heater at the annex has failed, bids were received; and Judge Fowler has engaged Edwards Plumbing out of Victoria to remove and replace it with a new a tankless water heater at the costs of \$5,956.00;
3. Water circulation pump issue downstairs of the courthouse in the hot water loop that has been leaking; bids were received; and Edwards Plumbing will replace the seal or bearing whichever is causing the leak at a cost of \$1,227.25.
4. An inspector from the Texas Historical Commission came down and conducted an inspection of the courthouse. The inspector could not get over how well the building has been taken care of. The report will come at the next meeting.
5. Contractor has finished the work on the courthouse windows on the second and third floor. Contractor has pulled the sashes out, applied a felt barrier and some other things and closed the windows back up. The work has cut the draft out and the windows are no longer rattling.
5. The plaster is failing at the Weber Annex from moisture penetrating the walls from either the ceiling or floor. Building Supt. Kenneth Swope is looking at having that chiseled out and re-mortared soon.

Mr. Varela reported that he had received the final checklist for final repairs and clean up for the exterior repair of the museum. The contractor will be back this week to finish all repairs and touch ups.

Legislative Update (No. 36)

Judge Fowler reported that he had a meeting last week with Judge Teel and the Cornerstone people up in Austin. They have been working the Capitol halls trying to feel what the sentiment is for funding out road grant in the next session and topics about tax reform.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 37)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported on normal operations; blading roads, clean ditches, patching roads and trimming trees.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 3 reported on normal precinct operations.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported that the work on Emil Zielonka Road is finished and the road is totally paved. Kenne Road is $\frac{1}{2}$ paved. Also reported on normal precinct operations.

Adjourn (No. 38)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 10:42 a.m.]

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF DE WITT COUNTY, TEXAS REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2026

DeWitt County Commissioners Court met in regular session January 26, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom at the DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero, Texas, with the following members present:

County Judge Daryl L. Fowler
Commissioner Ryan Varela, Precinct No. 1
Commissioner James B. Pilchiek Jr., Precinct No. 2
Commissioner James Kaiser, Precinct No. 3
Commissioner Brian Carson, Precinct No. 4

Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

Judge Fowler called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Carson gave the invocation.

New Business:

Motorola Change Order (No. 1)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 to Motorola Service Agreement, Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement Identifier No. 25766. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

TDCJ Project Agreement Form (No. 2)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve the revised Project Agreement Form between Texas Department of Criminal Justice and DeWitt County for prison labor at the DeWitt County Historical Museum with effective dates of February 16, 2026 through June 30, 2026, Project #SB-MISC-02-26-01. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Interlocal Agreement (No. 3)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve Court Order No. 2026-003, approving the Interlocal Agreement between DeWitt County and the City of Yorktown for Reverse 911 Services

for a term beginning October 27, 2025 for a term of one year. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Resolution (No. 5)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion for the approval of resolution for exemption of hotel tax for official government use; forward signed document to Texas Association of Counties, County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas, and state representatives, Resolution No. 2026-004. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Law Enforcement Services (No. 6)

Sheriff Carl R. Bowen discussed the City of Yorktown law enforcement services that are being provided by the DeWitt County Sheriff's Department. Court did not take any action on this agenda item.

Fire Services (No. 7)

Cuero Fire Department Captain Morris and Cuero City Manager Wayne Berger discussed fire service and fire response within the county. Court did not take any action on this agenda item.

Public Announcements/Comments (No. 36)

Mark Herchek and Patrick Valentine addressed the court regarding the chicken farm on Concrete-Edgar Road. Rep. A. J. Louderback advised that he would schedule a meeting with the concerned citizens.

Ambulance Donation and Economic Development Agreement (No. 4)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve agreement between DeWitt County and Yorktown Emergency Medical Service for ambulance services. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to authorize county judge to submit an application for HB 3000 ambulance grant. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Racial Profiling Report (No. 12)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Racial Profiling Report from DeWitt County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Schedule Public Hearing Date (No. 8)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to schedule a public hearing on February 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Courtroom to discuss a No Thru Truck Traffic sign on Carter Avenue in Westhoff, Texas. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Road and Bridge Tracking Software Workshop (No. 9)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 Ryan Varela gave an update on the current program and alternative options.

Accounts Payable (No. 28)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve accounts payable. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Ratified Accounts Payable (No. 29)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve ratified accounts payable. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Budget Amendment Requests (No. 30)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to approve the following items in accordance with the orders presented: the budget amendment requests for interdepartmental transfers for Constable Precinct No. 1 and Commissioner Precinct No. 2. Mr. Kaiser seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Payroll Reports (No. 31)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to approve and ratify payroll reports. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Jury Report (No. 32)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and ratify jury report. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Declare Fixed Assets as Salvage (No. 26)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to declare certain inventory items as worn, damaged or obsolete pursuant to Local Government Code 263.152. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Correction of Prior Action for Child Abuse Prevention Fee Recipient (No. 27)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive and correct the August 2, 2022 Commissioners Court action by clarifying that Mid-Coast Family Services is designated as the recipient of funds collected for the Child Abuse Prevention Fee pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 102.0186 and not the Family Violence Fine. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports – January 1-21, 2026 (No. 25)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive County Auditor's Semi-Monthly Reports dated January 1st through 21st, 2026, pursuant to Local Government Code Chapter 114. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Information Technology Director - Time Entry Designee (No. 22)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to designate the County Treasurer as the Time Entry Designee for the Information Technology Director, Court Order No. 2026-005. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Maintenance Superintendent -Time Entry Designee (No. 23)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to designate the County Judge as the Time Entry Designee for the Maintenance Superintendent, Court Order No. 2026-006. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Veterans Service Officer - Time Entry Designee (No. 24)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to designate the County Treasurer as the Time Entry Designee for the Veterans Service Officer, Court Order No. 2026-007. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

EMC Quarterly Report (No. 13)

MOTION: Mr. Kaiser made a motion to receive quarterly status report from Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Pilchiek seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

Recess

Court recessed until 1:30 p.m.

Reconvene

Court reconvened at 1:33 p.m.

Custodial Services (No. 10)

Court did not take any action on this agenda item.

Texas Historical Commission Letter (No. 11)

MOTION: Mr. Carson made a motion to receive the letter from recent monitoring visit from a representative of the Texas Historical Commission. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Gulf Bend Center FY2026 Budget and FY2025 Financial Report (No. 14)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive Gulf Bend Center FY2026 Budget and FY2025 Financial Report. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Salary Grievance Committee (No. 15)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to appoint public members to the County Salary Grievance Committee pursuant to Local Government Code 152.014(a) (2). Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to approve the list of names drawn to serve on the Salary Grievance Committee. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Pipeline Permit Modification (No. 16)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion for the approval of the modification of the pipeline permit to include saltwater disposal pipelines. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Pipeline Crossing Permit (No. 17)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion for the approval of the permit application for a saltwater pipeline from Goodnight Midstream Permian LLC to cross Klein Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Varela seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 18)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from EOG Resources Inc. for installation of a temporary water line along Hahn Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Temporary Right of Way (No. 19)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve permit application from Select Water Solutions for installation of a temporary water line along Dubose Ranch Road, Matejek Road, and

Walter Mueller Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 1. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Subsurface Easement (No. 20)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to approve subsurface easement between DeWitt County and ConocoPhillips Company for one wellbore (Schmidt-Musch-John USW B 1 well) under Muschalek Road in Commissioner Precinct No. 3. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Certificates of Completion (No. 21)

MOTION: Mr. Varela made a motion to receive certificates of completion from the County & District Clerk's Association of Texas for County Clerk Natalie Carson and District Clerk Esther Ruiz for completing the required 20 hours of continuing education for 2025 as prescribed in Section 51.605 of the Texas Government Code. Mr. Carson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Kaiser absent.

Courthouse/Annex/Museum Expenditures/Maintenance/Improvements (No. 33)

Judge Fowler did not have anything to report regarding the courthouse and annex.

Regarding the DeWitt County Historical Museum, Mr. Varela reported Komatsu generated the punch card and the contractors have corrected everything on the punch card. Currently waiting for correspondence from Komatsu indicating that everything has been corrected and cleared.

Legislative Update (No. 34)

No Legislative update.

Discussion of Commissioner Precinct Operations (No. 35)

Commissioner Precinct No. 1 reported on normal precinct operations and cold weather prepping.

Commissioner Precinct No. 2 reported on normal precinct operations.

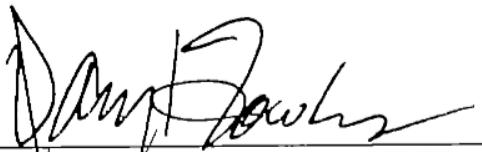
Commissioner Precinct No. 3 was absent.

Commissioner Precinct No. 4 reported that the paving on Kenne Road is finished week before last. His precinct has been monitoring the weather and prepping bridges.

Adjourn (No. 37)

MOTION: Mr. Pilchiek made a motion to adjourn. [Adjourned at 2:20 p.m.]

THE FOREGOING MINUTES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY A.D. 2026 WERE READ
AND APPROVED IN REGULAR SESSION OF COURT ON THIS THE 9TH DAY OF
FEBRUARY, A.D. 2026.



DARYL L. FOWLER, COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: Natalie Carson
NATALIE CARSON, COUNTY CLERK

