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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
AWARD WINNER
The Kinney

Cavalryman

25¢

Vol. 18 No. 34

August 22, 1991

Kinney County, Brackettville, Texas

Commissioners fail to agree on Precinct lines

By LES ROPER
Cavalryman Editor

COURTHOUSE -- Time is rapidly running out for the Commissioners of Kinney County as they endeavor to agree on lines that will determine the new boundaries for the four precincts in the county. Through Wednesday afternoon they have studied 8 different plans but have not unanimously agreed on any one of them.

Shortly after taking office in January, Judge Tim Ward advised the Court that this was the year for the Commissioners to re-draw their precincts according to the 1990 census. He advised them in every meeting up until August to get down to the serious business of re-drawing the precinct lines and balance the Hispanic population according to the laws established and enforced by the Justice Department.

The Court had awaited a report from the Texas Rural Legal Aid concerning a possible plan for the division of the four Commissioner's precincts. The T.R.L.A. was carried on several agendas but, at the time, they were pre-occupied with other matters and failed to show up.

In late June the Commissioners voted to employ the law firm of Ford and Ferraro from Austin to help draw the new lines and submit them for approval. They were hired at a cost of \$5,800.00 to help with the initial stages of all of the legal matters that will be involved in submitting the proposal to the Justice Department for approval.

At the time, the Commissioners apparently were not aware of the late hour in the project and failed to move with any expediency. They continued to drag their feet.

On numerous occasions they were reminded by the County Judge of the importance of acting on the redistricting. A shortage of time for the completion of this project was beginning to loom tall on the horizon and a combined effort on the complete Commissioners Court was going to be of utmost importance.

There have been eight plans submitted to the Court with none of them acceptable at the present. As it now stands, the Commissioners are looking at a deadline of August 23 to have a plan that can be submitted to the Justice Department. The Justice Department requires 90 days for reviewing and approving the plans.

The County will be under a strain with the upcoming elections because the people will need to file for office in December of 1991. They need to know where they reside in relations to the Commissioners precincts.

If the plan is not approved it will create a hardship for the individuals who wish to run for public office. The County will have to revert back to the old plan that has been in existence for the past ten years and the prospective candidates will have to file under the old plan.

The County Judge's office was contacted in regards to the delay in establishing these boundaries. When he was asked what would happen if no agreement is reached by the Commissioners he replied, "I had hoped that this delay would

not have transpired. My real hope was in having a plan to submit back in May or June but this did not happen."

If the Court reaches a stalemate and fails to submit a plan that is acceptable by the Justice Department then they will come in and redraw the precinct lines for the County. The duty of redrawing the lines is mandatory as mandated by the Justice Department with the County not having any choice in the matter. The only choice the County will have is the right to submit a proposal as to where they desire the new lines. The county is instructed to redraw the lines by law which they must obey.

At the present Freddie Frerich, Commissioner of precinct one and Alvin McClure, Commissioner of precinct four are in agreement with the lines that are to be submitted from one of the plans. The holdup is coming from Plunker Sheedy, Commissioner of precinct two and Ruben Fuentes, Commissioner of precinct three.

Commissioners Fuentes and Sheedy met with County Attorney Shahan Tuesday afternoon in the county courtroom and Shahan instructed both of them that "one of you is going to have to make a move."

With time running out it is obvious the County Attorney and the County Judge are making a big push to resolve the stalemate between Sheedy and Fuentes.

Visitors to the courtroom were heard commenting, "it is time for the Commissioners to start thinking about the welfare of the County and stop playing politics." That just might possibly be the solution.



A good crowd from Fort Clark turned out to inspect the brand new 1991 Sirkosky Helicopters that were flown in by the Texas National Guard this past Saturday for the public to view.

Texas National Guard retraces trails and battles of Lt. Hood

"During Desert Storm, this machine carried a 7.2 caliber machine gun and also 16 Hellfire Missiles."
Warrant Officer Scott Huntley

Cavalryman Reporter

25 combat assault troops with full flight simulator operator. Huntley lives in Austin and looks forward to his time in the Guard flying the big Blackhawks. He was heard to remark, "where else can you do the thing you enjoy the most (fly a helicopter) and get paid for it."

The 49th was not called up during the Desert Storm confrontation with Iraq but a need for their aircraft caused them to lose everything they had to the regular army. However, this was not all bad. The old helicopters were replaced with the brand new Blackhawks that were flown into Fort Clark.

Traveling with the Guard was the Adjutant General and a large part of his staff. Leading the Unit in was Major General Daniels on the lead aircraft followed by General Sanchez.

The trip to Fort Clark was, not only a historical flight, but a public relation trip as well. According to one of the young Warrant Officers, "it gives us a chance to show the people where their tax dollars are going."

One of the Warrant Officers, Scott Huntley, who was also the Sr. pilot on the lead aircraft was found to be more than willing to share his experiences in the Guard plus a small part of his personal life. Officer Huntley introduced his chief engineer to the press and explained his duties as a civilian

flight simulator operator. Huntley lives in Austin and looks forward to his time in the Guard flying the big Blackhawks. He was heard to remark, "where else can you do the thing you enjoy the most (fly a helicopter) and get paid for it."

"During Desert Storm," said Huntley, "this machine had a 7.2 caliber machine gun mounted on each side. That is the equivalent of a 30.06 shell." He continued on by saying, "this 'bird' hauled up to 16 Hellfire missiles at a time."

The visitors from the Guard were given the "red carpet" treatment by the Historical Society with a historical tour that covered places of interest such as the Museum and the Commissary. The C.O. Club which is now referred to as the Wainwright House was one of the highlights of the tour taken by the military V.I.P.s.

Before departing, many of the military visitors were heard expressing their appreciation for the hospitality and the beauty of Fort Clark. Just might be possible that some of these men could possibly be future residents of the Post.

Sheriff gets new car

Cavalryman Reporter

COURTHOUSE -- County Judge Tim Ward called a special meeting to order Monday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. With all four Commissioners present a quorum was established and the order of business proceeded.

Local road contractor, Travis Wilson who has been chosen by the county to do the road work on the city roads, was called before the court. The streets that would be receiving a priority were pointed out to Wilson. The money that has been allocated for the project

will be paid out as directed by the Commissioners.

A request for a hearing by the Texas Department of Human Services was called to the attention of the Commissioners. The T.D.H.S. is requesting the hearing for the purpose of allowing their offices to remain in the Annex building, the site they now occupy.

It was called to the attention of the Commissioners by County Attorney Tully Shahan, that the county was paying rent for the Justice of the Peace office. He reminded the Court of the new budget that was being studied and the necessity of cutting corners.

In his opinion, he felt it was not financially wise to pay rent for a county office when the county owned one that could be used by the J.P. for nothing.

After the Commissioners took the suggestion under advisement and word reached the T.D.H.S. office, steps began to take place to negotiate an arrangement that might eliminate a move by either governmental office.

A \$600 figure per month in rent was suggested to the Commissioners creating a stir among them. They were cautioned that nothing

See COUNTY page 8

Dark clouds of dissention over city hall

Cavalryman Reporter

CITY HALL -- A special called meeting of the City Council was called by Mayor Pro-tem Diane Bravo for Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.. When a letter written by City Secretary Felix Gonzales "requesting a public hearing" was discovered attached to the agenda, rumblings began to occur from within the City Council. Further research found that Gonzales had invited his attorney to attend the meeting with him.

Mayor Bravo called the city attorney and was notified that he would not be available Thursday

evening, but could attend on Tuesday, so she immediately canceled the Thursday meeting and rescheduled it for Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

According to the original agenda the Council would be going into executive session for: A - personnel .. city secretary, Felix Gonzales; B - Discussion of missing bank deposit.

Mr. Gonzales was contacted and questioned about the need for an open hearing. He stated that his attorney had advised him to do so. No more information was given out by Mr. Gonzales.

When the afternoon edition of the Del Rio News-Herald hit the

stands, the story concerning the city secretary was on the front page.

According to the News Herald, Gonzales told them that "one of the county commissioners came to me and informed me that he heard I'm being terminated." Gonzales went on to say that this was what prompted him to call for a public hearing.

When Mayor Diane Bravo was contacted by the Cavalryman she gave no indication the city secretary was being terminated. She said, "Mr. Gonzales is on probation, as is the policy for any new employee hired by the city. This does not mean he is on probation

for something he has done wrong. It is just city policy to handle employment that way."

When interviewed by the Del Rio News Herald Mayor Bravo stated that "the executive session was not to terminate him, but he jumped the gun. He went around creating chaos." Mrs. Bravo also told the Cavalryman that she was misquoted when it was reported that she said "some council members have come to me very upset and they do now want to terminate him (Gonzales). I'm going to word the agenda so that we have that option. I want to make sure we can take that action." She was very adamant in her denial of this remark.

A dark cloud has been hovering above City Hall even before David Tillery resigned his position as city superintendent and Mayor Larry Moore quit with one year left on his term.

When Tillery and Moore were questioned about their premature departure from city hall neither of them gave a good answer. Moore merely stated that he anticipated a problem serving effectively with the current council and Tillery moved on to greener pastures.

Questions that are being asked are; why would a County Commissioner disrupt city government by spreading a rumor like the one that was supposed to have been

told to Gonzales? With the county surrounded with problems of their own, why would a commissioner go to a city official with a story that could set city government back ten years? Who was the County Commissioner who created this problem in city government?

The events leading up to the present day status of Brackettville and Kinney County government appears to have some unidentified force working against them. The biggest question circulating through the minds of the citizens of our community is "what have we ever done to deserve this plague that seems to be destroying our local government." Where will it all end?

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the Kinney Cavalryman
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Misc.	Misc.	Real Estate
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