

***There was a Public Hearing held beginning at 9:00 A.M. regarding the Reinvestment Zone Rabbit's Foot Solar LLC #2 & reauthorization of the guidelines and criteria governing tax abatement agreements. Everyone in attendance was asked to sign a sign-in sheet and after discussion the hearing was closed at 9:09 A.M.***

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Pct. 3-James Strain, DeKalb, TX

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance to the United States

**COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES**

December 22, 2025

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, the HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS COURT of Bowie County, Texas met in REGULAR SESSION at the Courthouse in New Boston, Texas after due notice had been posted on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025 with the HONORABLE BOBBY L. HOWELL present and presiding with the following Commissioners being present.

Sammy Stone	Commissioner Pct. #1
Tom Whitten	Commissioner Pct. #2
James Strain	Commissioner Pct. #3
Mike Carter	Commissioner Pct. #4

Also in attendance were the following County Officials:

- County Auditor-Jennifer Beckett
- County Clerk Tina Petty
- County Legal Advisor Samuel Brown

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS**

Court convened at 9:16 A.M. when the following ORDERS, JUDGMENTS and DECREES were had and ORDERED spread upon the minutes of the Court to-wit.

Item 1: Public Comments were made by Mike Sandefur, New Boston, TX.

Item 2: There was no Commissioners Court response to Public Comments.

**Item 3: There was a presentation given to the Court by Red Barn Solar.**

**Item 4: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the reauthorization of the Bowie County Tax Abatement Guidelines and Criteria.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 5: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the purchase of a 2025 Toyota Highlander for \$45,620.20 for the Bowie County Juvenile Probation Office from Buyboard State Contract #724.23.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 6: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve quote #1953626000108757011 between Jett Business Systems and the Bowie County Courthouse.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 7: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to approve the addendum to the Service Contract No. C1167 between Jett Business Systems and Bowie County Courthouse.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 8: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the contract between Civic Plus and Bowie County.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 9: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to make the following changes to the Tax Assessor Collector Office labor table for FY 2026.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 10: On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Tom Whitten to make the following changes to the Elections Office labor table for FY 2026.**

**Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.**

**Motion carried.**

**Item 11:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Application for the Other Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) FY 2026-2028.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 12:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to approve the FY2026 Victim Assistance Grant (OVAG) 2<sup>nd</sup> Offering Contract.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 13:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to authorize the County Judge to sign the renewal of the contract between Westlaw Publishing Corporation and the Public Defender's Office.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 14:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner Sammy Stone to amend the 2025 Holiday Schedule to include December 24, 2025.  
Motion was put to a vote and three (3) Commissioners voted yes and one (1) Commissioner Tom Whitten voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 15:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to accept the resignation of Larry Meadows from ESD #5.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 16:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to appoint Robin Brule to the unexpired term held by Larry Meadows to ESD #5.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 17:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to reappoint Ben Franks to ESD #5 for a one-year term expiring December 2026.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 18:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to pay Four States Fiber the payments of \$1,377,428.00 and \$1,554,406.00 from ARP Funds for the Bowie County Fiber Ring Project.  
Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.  
Motion carried.

**Item 19:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement for Complex Response and Investigation Planning.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 20:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025 a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter 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 Bowie County Reinvestment Zone-Rabbit's Foot Solar LLC No. 2 and located as described and depicted in the application for Designation of Reinvestment Zone by Rabbit's Foot Solar LLC, dated July 22, 2025 and in the public notices published in accordance with Chapter 312 of the Texas Tax Code.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 21:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner James Strain and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Modification of the Tax Abatement Agreement with Rabbit's Foot Solar LLC, pursuant to Chapter 312, Texas Tax Code.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 22:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the Treasurer's Investment Report as of September 30, 2025.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 23:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Mike Carter and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for September, October & November 2025.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 24:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve the Auditor's Monthly Report for September, October & November 2025.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 25:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve budget adjustments (line-item transfers).

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 26:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to approve payment of accounts payable and payroll.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 27:** On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Tom Whitten and duly second by Commissioner James Strain to approve the minutes as an Order of the Court (December 1, 2025-Special Session and December 8, 2025-Regular Session).

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.

**Item 28:** There was no adjournment into Executive Session pursuant to the following Sections:

- a. Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with an attorney regarding legal issues relating to pending or contemplated litigation.
- b. Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code: Deliberation of the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
- c. Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code: Personnel Matters.
- d. Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code: Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations.

**Item 29:** There was no action to authorize the County Judge to execute settlement participation and release forms regarding confidential partial settlement matters in the Texas opioid multi-district litigation for Bowie County in the matter of *County of Bowie v. Purdue Pharma L.P., et al.*

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2025, a motion was made by Commissioner Sammy Stone and duly second by Commissioner Mike Carter to adjourn.

Motion was put to a vote and all Commissioners voted yes and none voted no.

Motion carried.