

Stop or Yield signs OK'd on County Roads at RR Crossings  
By JOHN SPARKS

Meeting in regular session Friday, January 9, Wood County Commissioners agreed to enforce yield and/or stop signs on three county roads at crossings over the Union Pacific Railroad; reconstituted the Wood County Jury Wheel, and approved the appointment of Elmer Lewis to the board of the Wood County Emergency Services District.

Commissioners agreed to enforce new stop and yield signs at three railroad crossings. Stop signs will be placed on both sides of crossings over the Union Pacific Railroad on County Roads 3390, and 2880. Yield signs will be placed on each side of the UP railroad crossing on CR-2794. This action is being taken as an interim step in agreement with a request from the Texas Department of Transportation. In the near future TxDOT plans to install active warning devices at these three crossings.

As required by state law, the Wood County Jury Wheel was reconstituted on January 2, 2009 from current voter registration and current driver's license and/or personal identification card records. Jenica Turner, District Court Clerk advised Commissioners of the action.

Elmer Davis, CR 3750, Hawkins, was appointed to the board of the Wood County Emergency Services District #1 as a replacement for A. T. Shoemaker. The Board administers tax monies generated in support of the emergency services provided to those living in the district by the Holly Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

In other action the court approved:

- payroll of \$304,409.71.
- claims of \$184,699.98.
- employee and family health care claims of \$37,742.08 for the period ending December 26, and \$33,661.16 for the period ending January 9.
- monthly reports of Constable Precinct-1 and Constable Precinct-3.
- changes to the leave benefits policy.
- Right of entry permit for Texas Department of Transportation on private property in Mineola along U.S. 69 to SH 37 for the next phase of the on-going widening project.
- terms of agreement to 2008 Emergency Management grant for clean-up work in Precinct-4.
- appointments and resolutions related to ORCA grant project #72857.
- amended resolution to agreement related to 2008-2009 VOCA grant for Wood County Victim Services project.

Personnel actions taken at the meeting included:

- Retaining 47 department personnel in the same positions from the previous Wood County Sheriff's office administration, and the addition of eleven new employees including:
  - Wesley M. Griddle, Chief Deputy, WCSO at an annual salary of \$41,499.
  - Richard Scott Price, Captain, WCSO, \$18.21/hour.
  - John Farmer, Lieutenant, WCSO, \$17.58/hour.
  - Jerry Blaylock, CID Sergeant, WCSO, \$17.21/hour.
  - William Burge, CID Sergeant, WCSO, \$17.21/hour.
  - Margaret Dickerson, CID Sergeant, WCSO, \$17.21/hour.
  - Richard Kevin Fretwell, CID Sergeant, WCSO, \$17.21/hour.
  - Clint Norman, Deputy, WCSO, \$16.96/hour.
  - Kilan Polk, Deputy, WCSO, \$16.96/hour.
  - Arthur Judge, Deputy, WCSO, \$16.96/hour.

- Shawna Bishop, Dispatcher, \$13.79/hour.
  - Retaining personnel from the previous WCSO, but in new positions, including:
    - Terry Lynn Bevill, from CID Sergeant to Patrol Sergeant, WCSO, \$17.21/hour.
    - Mark Miller, from Patrol Sergeant to Deputy, WCSO, \$17.21 to \$16.96/hour.
    - Elbert Lee Wilkins, II, from Deputy to Patrol Sergeant, WCSO, \$16.96 to \$17.21/hour.
- The next regular meeting of the Wood County Commissioners Court will be Friday, January 23, 2009 at 10 a.m. A special meeting of the court can be called with 72-hour public notice.