

Wood County Commissioners Court

Employee dental plan OK'd;

Appeals Court fees added

By JOHN SPARKS

Meeting in regular session Friday, September 4, Wood County Commissioners voted to add dental insurance as a benefit program for employees of the county government and approved the addition of \$5.00 to court costs for all cases brought before the county court, the probate court and the district court.

Employees of Wood County will be covered by a dental plan effective October 1. The plan provides 100 percent coverage for preventive care; 80 percent for basic care and 50 percent for major and orthodontic care up to a maximum of \$1,000 per participant per year. Orthodontic care carries a lifetime maximum benefit of \$1,500. Wood County will pay \$21.10 monthly for the coverage for each employee. The employee can add at his cost a spouse at the rate of \$23.87, dependent child at \$24.86, or select a family plan for \$38.70.

Commissioners approved a \$5.00 fee to be imposed on each civil case filed in county court, probate court and district court. The action is in response to legislation passed in the 2009 Texas legislative session. Funds collected from this new fee will be used to offset costs of the appellate court system, specifically the Sixth and Twelfth Appellate court districts.

In other action the court approved:

- a two-week County payroll of \$268,321.27.
- claims and payments totaling \$539,087.70.
- employee and family health care claims of \$26,615.06.
- tax sale of property located at 408 McDaniel in Mineola for the minimum bid of \$500. Property purchased by Sabrina B. Dean.
- minor changes in "sick leave-funeral leave" policy for county employees.
- investment policy presented by Treasurer Becky Cannon (no changes from fiscal 2009 policy).
- annual tax collection report by the Wood County Tax Assessor Collector.
- readvertising for public radio and dispatch radio system upgrade proposals.
- East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) agreement for E9-1-1 public safety answering point services.
- ETCOG maintenance contract for addressing functions at a cost of \$2,570. Offsetting this cost is \$5,000 in road signage credit to the county's four precincts.

Personnel actions include:

- Joseph D. Fenlaw, new hire, assistant district attorney, WC Criminal District Attorney's Office, \$40,000/yearly.
- Rusty Owens, new hire, deputy sheriff, WCSO, \$16.96/hour.
- Matthew Leon George, resignation/return to school, temporary help, Precinct-2 R&B,

\$9.00/hour.

- Sandra Russell, salary increase, deputy tax collector, WC Tax Assessor/Collectors Office, from \$12.92 to \$13.79/hour.

The next regular meeting of the Wood County Commissioners Court will be Friday, September 18, 2009 at 10 a.m. A special meeting of the court can be called with 72-hour public notice.