

Housing Sought for Food Stamp Effort

By SPENCER PEARSON

Three county commissioners were appointed today to a committee to find housing for the federal food stamp program which has been approved for Nueces County.

They are William E. McKinzie of Precinct 1, Solomon Ortiz of Precinct 3 and Robert N. Barnes of Precinct 4.

This is the first step required in getting the food stamp program into operation here. Barnes said it probably would take 90 days.

During a discussion of the program, County Judge Briscoe King suggested the county find space to build a family services center and propose a bond issue to finance it on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

The center would include housing for the food stamp program, county welfare, county veterans' services and state welfare offices.

No action was taken on King's suggestion, but the commissioners agreed with him in general.

He also suggested to the committee that it consider a short-term lease on the food stamp office building in view of the possibility that the county might build the family services center.

Commissioner Carl Bluntzer of Precinct 2 went a step further and suggested putting the proposed governmental center on the November general election ballot.

In answer to Bluntzer's suggestion,

King said the Committee of 100 appointed to study the governmental center plan is studying site costs and is expected to make a report soon.

On the food stamp program, Barnes told the court that after locating an office, a budget must be prepared. Then the State Welfare Department will hire and train employees. After the training period, they would certify all eligible persons who want to participate in the program.

Barnes said the food stamp program cannot begin until the present surplus commodities program is ended.

The plan is to be prepared to end the commodities program one day and start the food stamp program the next day.

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In other business today the commissioners court:

— Authorized Bill Burch, medical investigator, to work with funeral directors to form a plan for selecting funeral homes for burying paupers and for paying them for taking bodies to the morgue at Memorial Medical Center. Burch will report to the court on the plan.

Funeral directors Ross Langham and Charles Jackson appeared before the court to protest a proposal to take bids for burying paupers. They said there are funds available to bury most people who die — such as Social Security or veterans' benefits — and suggested the funeral homes be selected by rotation.

Election Authorized

— Authorized King to call an election for the Bluntzer Common School District on a proposal to increase its maintenance tax from \$1 to \$1.25 on each \$100 in valuations.

A petition containing 20 signatures was presented to King last week asking for the election.

— Ratified King's approval for Harris County Commissioner V. V. Ramsey to borrow four used voting machines the county bought early this year to demonstrate in Hous-

ton for comparison with used voting machines Harris County bought. Nueces County paid \$235 each for 78 machines, and Harris County paid \$1,500 each for 100.

— Asked for a written opinion from County Atty. Franklin Smith on whether the county can pay \$500 to Martin Lumber Co. for lumber used by the Robstown Day Care Center to build tables and chairs for children at the center.

— Opened bids on a number of supply items. Heldenfels Brothers submitted the low bid of \$18,000 for 20,000 cubic yards of caliche, to be picked up at its Mathis pit. The bids were tabled because B&E Construction Co. which bid \$22,000, did not name the location of its pit.

Clements Electric Co. submitted the low bid of \$3,385 to install electric equipment in the County Court at Law No. 2 courtroom on the fourth floor of the courthouse, and it was accepted.

Bodine-Scott Air Conditioning Company's low bid of \$4,583 for air conditioning the courtroom was accepted.

Armstrong Lumber Company's low bid of \$995 for 100 sheets of paneling for the courtroom was accepted.

E. R. Schendel's low bid of \$769.56 for 22 chairs for the courtroom was accepted.

Overtime Pay

—The court authorized about \$1,000 in overtime pay to employees of several departments.

—Purchasing Agent Herbert Esse was instructed to dispose of four used billing machines of the tax office. They are obsolete, Richard Magee, tax assessor-collector, said.

—The court authorized the installation by Central Power & Light Co. of a two-way electric feed system at the Tule Lake lift bridge to insure a continuous source of power. It will cost \$1,073 a year.

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