

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY MARCH TERM
REGULAR SESSION MARCH 17, 2026**

Be it remembered that a Regular Meeting of the Legislative Body for the County of Hardeman, State of Tennessee was conducted in the Hardeman County Courthouse in the City of Bolivar, on the 17th day of March, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Hon. Todd Pulse, County Mayor, was present and presiding, and a quorum of Commissioners, namely, Hon. David Bell, Hon. Cory Bufford, Hon. Russell Deberry, Hon. Michion Gatlin, Hon. Mark Gilliam, Hon. Brad Grantham, Hon. Bobby Hensley, Hon. Joe Jenkins, Hon. Jeff Kennamore, Hon. Chandra Y. Lake, Hon. Johnny Lanier, Hon. Bethany Miller, Hon. Johnny Weems, Hon. John Vickers, Hon. Jackie Sain, and Hon. Bobby Wright were present. County Clerk, Tonet Griggs and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr. was present. The meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

16 PRESENT 0 ABSENT

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 17, 2026, meeting were presented for review. Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to approve the minutes and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion.

Carried By Acclamation

Approval of Notaries

The notaries were presented for approval. Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to accept the notaries presented and Hon. Michion Gatlin seconded the motion.

Carried By Acclamation

Department Reports

Highway Department Reports

Superintendent Casey presented several items regarding road maintenance and budget adjustments:

Budget Amendment (Insurance Recovery): Moving \$41,466.23 from insurance recovery into the operational maintenance account. Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to accept the budget amendment and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote 16 Aye 0 Nay

Work Proposal Report & Annual Road List: Presented for review. Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept the work proposal and Hon. Jackie Sain.

Carried By Acclamation

Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept the annual road list and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded the motion to accept the annual road list.

Carried By Acclamation

Equipment Swap with Chester County: A proposal to swap \$10,000 worth of milling/patching services for a "Dirt Master/ Dura Patch" trailer/patching machine from Chester County. Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to accept the swap for services with Chester County and Hon. Mark Gilliam seconded the motion.

Carried By Acclamation

Ebenezer Road Safety Project: Discussion regarding upcoming safety improvements at the Pine Top intersection, including rumble strips and solar-powered stop signs funded by the state. No formal vote was required for this discussion.

Special Recognitions

The Commission honored the Bolivar Middle School Boys Basketball Team for winning the State Championship. Hon. Mayor Todd Pulse read a formal proclamation congratulating the players and coaches (Head Coach Beauregard and assistants).

School Board Reports

Superintendent Dr. Smith presented the following:

Special Education Budget Amendments: Cleanup of line items involving speech pathology contracts and bus assistants. Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept a motion to accept the budget amendments and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote 16 Aye 0 Nay

Energy Efficient Lighting Project: A proposal to upgrade 6,600 fixtures to LED across the district in common area. Hon. Bobby Wright made a motion to apply for the loan and Hon. Jeff Kennamore seconded the motion.

- **Action:** Approval to apply for the ESI/TVA loan of \$621,969 at 1.5% interest.

Roll Call Vote 16 Aye 0 Nay

Sheriff Department

Sheriff Doolen brought forth a list of surplus property to be disposed of to be approved. Hon. Mark Gilliam made a motion to accept the surplus and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

Carried By Acclamation

Building and Zoning

Zoning Director Ron Pirtle presented information regarding justification for compliance fees exceeding \$250. The commission also reviewed the infographic sheet provided on Public Chapter 140, effective July 1, 2026. Formal resolution in the packet will be reviewed at next month's meeting.

Ambulance Board - Appointment of Director

The Ambulance Committee recommended the appointment of a new Director to address high overtime costs and management issues.

Commissioner Miller said not all internal applicants were interviewed, but all resumes were looked over. Hon. Bethany Miller said that the candidate comes with a positive recommendation from the board. Hon. John Vickers made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation for Russell Thigpen as director and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion. Hon. David Bell questioned why there was no interview process conducted.

Roll Call Vote 15 Aye 1 Nay

Financial & Budget Amendments

The Budget Committee presented amendments 1 through 6. Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion to accept these amendments and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion. Budget amendments 7 through 12 were approved by the Budget Committee.

1. Sheriff's Dept: \$2,100 for equipment (correction of clerical error).
2. Landfill: \$47,142 for personnel and maintenance.
3. Health Dept: \$3,350 for Dementia Navigator travel.
4. Drug Court: \$12,000 transfer for treatment programs.
5. Ambulance Dept: \$224,000 to cover overtime shortfalls and vehicle repairs.
6. Circuit Clerk: \$3,500 for clerical/office equipment.

Roll Call Vote 16 Aye 0 Nay

Mayor's Report & Announcements

- **FEMA Updates:** Assessments are ongoing for recent ice storm damage; the county is awaiting fund obligation.
- **Community Events:** Extension Office Open House (March 31) and the County Fair (March 24–28).
- **Sports Hall of Fame:** Announcement of the inaugural Hardeman County Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony on April 4.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 