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Minutes of the Woodward County Commissioners Special Meeting Monday, March 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Woodward County Fair Grounds Meeting was called to order by Chairman Clint White with members Donny Thorn & Troy White present. Also, present Wendy Dunlap, Amanda Parks, Bailey Kafka, Ben Smith, Trina Mingus, Tom Lucas, Keith Weber, Lyman Schwinn, Connie Wilcox, Ray Bayliff, Dan Mathews, Stan Walker, Billy Riggs, Sheri Rice, Michael Fox, Harvey Currier, Margie Smith, Michael Smith, Rick Hay, Trey Hutchison, Dakota Coffey, David & Elaine Beckwith, Hayden Steadman, Kelley Overton & Barbara Anderson.

Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Statement of Compliance was acknowledged, agenda was filed & posted February 27, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. Motion was made by T. White to approve the minutes of the previous meeting seconded by Thorn Voting: all ayes. Motion was made by C. White to approve Woodward County sponsoring & approving application letter to the OEDA REAP interim funding cycle for the purchase & installation of two (2) water hydrants for the Town of Quinlan seconded by T. White Voting: all ayes. Concerned citizens regarding public safety Ray Bayliff reported" I have lived in Woodward County for 50 years I am concerned about our sheriff being absent, we elected a sheriff to live & work in Woodward County. I like Kevin Mitchell & he has been a good sheriff except for lately spending time in another country for a long period of time, In Title 19 it states the sheriff shall work 25hrs a week, DA Boring reported to me there is no statue that says an elected official has to work 8 hours a month this is a rumor, I feel like the commissioners should set a policy for elected officials & their hours, a letter has not been submitted to the county clerk to appoint Patrick Holloway as the undersheriff, Mitchell received a raise from \$54,850 to \$74,500 per year in January, I feel like the tax payers of Woodward County deserve a sheriff that stays in Woodward County, the sheriff is the most powerful person in the

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county, As an elected official he has the power to tell the FBI to stay away or to help out I have been to the sheriff's office eight times unable to talk to Mitchell but one time, Question to the commissioners who is signing the time sheets for his deputies? Billy Riggs reports I have lived here for 10 years I am more worried about the legal side with him being gone & something happens in the jail I want to know more about the statute for working 25 hrs. per week & if Woodward County gets sued & the tax payers have the extra burden of increased taxes, my question is what is the sheriff's duties? Lyman Schwinn reports I agree with Bayliff we need a sheriff to be in the county & live in the county. Harvey Currier reported this is the 1st sheriff of Woodward County that I have seen being gone for a long period of time. We need a recourse to stop Mitchell from doing this nonsense. Sheri Rice stated How much is Mitchell here? The appointment of the undersheriff Holloway was reported to the DA but not the county clerk. Do we have an undersheriff? Who are the deputies answering to when the sheriff is gone? Mitchell's Facebook page says he has a English teaching job & residence in Panama City & has sold his house in Woodward County. What are we supposed to believe & why was the public not informed? We need some answers. Bayliff reported that Mitchell got a grant for \$250,000 to be used for vehicles & transferred his budgeted M&O to personal services so his deputies could get a raise which is great & they deserve it but will this grant last more than three years? We want answers by the next meeting I think the commissioners should ask for Mitchell's resignation if he continues to be gone & not here to serve the citizens of Woodward County, Mitchell is a great guy & has been a good sheriff but he either needs to stay here in Woodward County & be our sheriff or resign? Stan Walker, I moved here 10 years ago I just want to present a fact my family members needed the sheriff & went to them twice & the sheriff's office did nothing my family finally contacted another agency &

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the same information was given to that agency they did an investigation & there are some things that were found. Bayliff reported that Walker is a retired Highway Patrolmen if he had not known to go to another agency nothing would have been done for his family. In another incident south of town fire department called the sheriff sent two deputies to block hwy because the fire was getting close & they only sent one we have ten deputies. Micheal Fox stated he has lived here for 30 years & I have run a business with 100 employees & you can not manage a business being gone so much. Mitchell needs to be in the community Micheal Smith has lived here since 1979 & have seen businesses being run from home during covid & things just didn't work. I agree with others that have spoken Mitchell needs to live & work here. Kelly Overton asked What can be done gentlemen? C. White stated he is getting legal advice from the DA & plans to meet with Mitchell this week. T. White stated we are here to help you guys & will have answers by Monday. Margie Smith has lived here for 73 years. My dad was fire chief in the 60's when Creel Gaston was our sheriff. He slept on a bunk bed in the jail when a killer was loose, I own a gun and know how to use it but if I am scared, I want to know that my sheriff will protect me & know what goes on in the county. Take these facts please & give us some answers. Thorn reported he talks to Kevin probably more than anyone he told me he had submitted his undersheriff to the DA but maybe they did not get down to the county clerk's office, Thorn also stated that he knows Mitchell has been gone for thirty days. Bayliff is asking the sheriff to make a choice either Woodward County Sheriff or go with his wife in Panama City. He adds I am very happy that Mitchell found someone but \$74,500 is a lot to pay someone who is gone so much I would ask that he submits his resignation if he chooses to be gone & not protect the citizens of Woodward County. Harvey Currier stated does this not concern you guys? C. White informed the group he will meet with the DA & Mitchell & inform the group

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next Monday. Motion was made by T. White to approve payroll for March 7th seconded by T. White Voting: all ayes. Weber reported on grants he is watching federal funding & updating you for water, city & sewers Trump cut grants, but should be back in 90 days , safe streets plans due March 15th Bridge improvement due May 1st , there are 12 different sheriff equipment grants available Motion was made by Thorn to approve transfer of funds out of Fair M&O \$223.25 & Co. wide fire \$340.75 into District #3 M&O for fuel reimbursement seconded by C. White Voting: all ayes. Wilcox informed the group that the Woodward County Election Board will be making a temporary location move to The Village 1107 Main Street Suite #5 with no down time for the public & will be open at new location on Friday. As there was no other business before the board at this time a motion was made by C. White to adjourn seconded by T. White Voting: all ayes.

Clint White-Chairman
