



# JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

**Christopher Boedeker**  
County Judge

**Rick Bailey**  
Commissioner  
Precinct 1

**Kenny Howell**  
Commissioner  
Precinct 2

**Mike White**  
Commissioner  
Precinct 3

**Larry Woolley**  
Commissioner  
Precinct 4

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**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF  
THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM. 201  
2 N. MAIN ST. CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024 – 9:00 AM**

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

**BE IT KNOWN** that on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024, the Honorable Commissioners Court of Johnson County, Texas, met in Special Session at the Johnson County Courthouse thereof, in the City of Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. with all members present. The following items, having been lawfully posted and filed for record in the Office of the County Clerk on February 7, 2024, at 8:09 A.M., were considered:

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PA1.** Constable, Pct. 4 to Present Public Update Regarding Bio Solids Being Placed on Property Adjacent to County Road 102 and County Road 204-Precinct 4

County Judge Christopher Boedeker stated that he appreciated the public turnout which included commissioners, mayors, council members, and stakeholders throughout the community.

Comm. Woolley echoed the welcome to the Johnson County residents and visitors from other counties. He stated that this is a presentation, not a hearing. He added that it is an interactive process and it will be a presentation of findings from an investigation and testing that has taken about 10 months to complete. He stated that it has been on the forefront for about a year, it has taken a long time to put together, and that he appreciates everyone being here. He stated that there will be a lot of data presented and that there is a handout with all the data and some of the data is very disturbing. He also announced that tonight at 6 pm, he along with Constable Troy Fuller, Detective Dana Ames, and Comm. Bailey will be hosting a town hall meeting at the Grandview Community Center. He invited everyone to attend a condensed version of this morning's meeting which will be a little more informal and more of an interactive process. He also stated that he wanted to give a disclaimer in the areas that are being talked about today by stating that no county in Texas has the authority over the land application of biosolids. He stated that it is a state-regulated authority that goes through TCEQ. He stated that counties have asked for that authority and it has fallen on deaf ears, so he reiterated that there are no counties in Texas that have the authority over that. He did however state that the Court has authority over the public health and public safety, which is what triggered this investigation.

Comm. Bailey stated that this is a public service address to inform the citizens of the findings of this research.

Comm. Woolley stated that the Court wants to educate the residents about what has been going on and to empower the citizens to do whatever they need to do. Comm. Woolley introduced Constable Troy Fuller to the Court.

Constable Troy Fuller stated that his office is here to present the findings of an extensive investigation that was initiated in December 2022. He stated that it was initiated because a complaint was received. He stated that this investigation involved coordination of efforts between PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibilities), Eurofins, which is a scientific laboratory and a TECQ approved laboratory, the Office of the State Chemist, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which Comm. Woolley referred to as TCEQ, and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory as well as many other agencies that were involved. He stated that the findings of this investigation today are released in the interest of public safety. He stated that the purpose of this investigation was to resolve the issues facing the original complaint of two families in the Southeastern portion of Johnson County. He stated that alarmingly there is little to no resolve for them as well as to the impact on their property that is at best devastating. He stated that more importantly, it is their goal that the release of these findings allows citizens of this county, as well as other counties, to have information to make informed decisions in the best interests of their own families and to create cause to our legislatures, county officials, private industries, and city entities to address these issues affecting our county, our state, and our country. He added that this can only be done through zero or no tolerance and enforcing regulations by the EPA and other state regulatory agencies. He emphasized that there are no safe levels of these PFAS chemicals acceptable for human consumption. He stated that also in the stronger purpose is to protect our benefactors, such as our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren from exposure to PFAS and other chemicals that poison our water, land, cattle, fish, and our general way of life. He then stated that he was going to turn the presentation over to Detective Dana Ames, Environmental Crimes Investigator for Johnson County Constable's Office Precinct 4 who will present the case in its entirety.

Detective Dana Ames, Environmental Crimes Investigator for Johnson County Constable's Office Precinct 4 presented. She stated that this is a very highly emotionally charged subject no matter what position you take on this. She stated that Johnson County is not trying to come against our farmers. She stated that we love our farmers and they are the backbone of this country and none of us could survive without them. Mrs. Ames stated that what is being presented today is not against our farmers but to protect them and to protect all of us. She thanked our farmers for all that they do for us.

Comm. Woolley commented that they see permit signs on application sites that show TCEQ permitting Class AB biosolids even though the EPA doesn't say anything about AB biosolids.

Comm. Woolley asked Mrs. Ames what crops were being grown.



Detective Ames stated that it was corn and wheat and that it was for feed.

Comm. Woolley stated that, to clarify, the subject property where this was applied was across the road from the victim's property and where the tests were taken.

Detective Ames stated that was correct and continued the presentation slideshow.

Dr. Kyla Bennett, Director of Science Policy for PEER (Public Employees Environmental Responsibility), presented virtually from Massachusetts.

Detective Ames continued her presentation.

Comm. Bailey stepped out of the meeting at 9:55 A.M. and returned at 9:57 A.M.

Comm. White asked Detective Ames how citizens can test their soil.

Mrs. Ames stated that the public can collect their own water and soil and send them in to one of the labs that are approved by TCEQ.

Comm. Woolley stated that multiple generations of cattle have consumed these chemicals so that is a potential reason why the levels are so high.

Detective Ames also stated that Fort Worth put out a press release acknowledging that they were experiencing a massive PFAS contamination and in that article dated January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, they address the fact that they are trying to remove toxic chemicals from their city water. She stated that they have been conducting their own tests and they have discovered PFAS greater than 500 times the EPA's recommended limits. She stated that the calf tested at 2000% higher than the recommended level. She stated that the City of Fort Worth was potentially going to be filing suit against the chemical companies. She stated that the biosolids that were applied to this property came directly from the City of Fort Worth's biosolids.

Judge Boedeker thanked Detective Ames.

Comm. White asked Detective Ames if she would go to the slide with Eurofin's information if anyone needed it.

Comm. Woolley stated that he wanted to recap some things and thanked Investigator Ames for referring to the Fort Worth article from January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated that he also wanted to reference a situation that took place in Clovis, New Mexico with a large dairy. He stated that it started in early 2019 and that the dairy was close to Cannon Air Force Base. He stated that the 400-head dairy was shut down based on a water well that tested 12,000 parts per trillion and the cows' milk tested at 2,600 parts per trillion. He stated that almost 4000 head of cattle were euthanized and this happened in June 2022. He stated that he also visited with the Secretary of Agriculture in New Mexico and he asked him what happens when you euthanize 4000 head of cattle.

He stated that the cattle were composted on their own properties and would have to be disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill. He then stated that New Mexico doesn't have a hazardous waste landfill and he can assume where those are going to go and that they will probably come into our state. He stated that when we reference 12,000 parts per trillion in a water well, the two subject wells sampled 192,000 parts per trillion and 266,000 parts per trillion. He stated that also in July 2021, through the Texas Well Owner Network, those wells were not tested for PFAS but they did test positive for coliforms. He stated that there are 150 head of cattle on this property. He added that the sample that Synagro handed out tested at 13,000 parts per trillion. He stated that according to Dr. Bennett, these chemicals thrive in water, and bordering on this property on the north side is Chambers Creek. He stated that Chambers Creek feeds into Richland Chambers reservoir which provides water for the city of Fort Worth and other cities such as Keller. He stated that is about 70 miles from the property and that Dr. Bennett said the chemicals can travel that far and that the Grandview municipal wells are only 3 miles away. He stated that there are a lot of victims such as the landowners. He stated that there are rumors that the Court is against the farmers. He explained that he grew up in a farm and ranch environment and that he still owns and operates a farm and ranch operation. He added that he also has an AG degree and he was an AG teacher. He stated that they are not against the farmers and the producers, that have been led to believe this is safe, are one of the key set of victims. He stated that these people were led to believe this was safe, that it was a cheap fertilizer, and they have been victimized as much as anybody and the landowners have been victimized as well.

Dana Ames stated she was advised by the gentleman who applied these biosolids that it cost him approximately \$30.00 a ton and that is one of the things that makes it so attractive.

Comm. Woolley stated that it has been portrayed as organic when we learned this morning that it is so far from being organic. He stated that the victims in the consumer bracket when we think about the beef that has gone into the food chain, before this was known and this isn't just isolated to this one incident here in this county or in multiple counties. He stated that the level of victimization is widespread and asked where have TCEQ (who permitted this), the EPA, and the City of Fort Worth been.

Judge Boedeker stated that he agreed it would take all of us from cities, counties, state, and national government to work together on this as a community and that we need to band together to protect our land, soil, water, food chain, and air. He stated that the biggest disgrace in all of this is that this gets labeled as fertilizer which is misleading to the people who are putting it out and is harmful to the neighbors.

Comm. White commented that it had been a long drawn out investigation and he would have liked to have gotten it out sooner but they had to wait and get test results back so they knew how bad it really was.



Comm. Howell stated that when those results came back he was shocked and he thought it was a mistake. He stated that this was serious. He stated that it is just as important to him as anyone else in the county.

Comm. Bailey stated that this process began 30 or 40 years ago and it was sold as a fertilizer and at the time the test for PFAS was unavailable. He added that man-made disasters were unheard of then. He stated that no matter how much science is displayed here today, there are still going to be those who doubt it and there will still be those who profit from it. He stated that water is our most valuable resource.

Comm. Woolley stated that the odor is a nuisance but underneath it all is the land.

Dana Ames stated that approximately 22% of Fort Worth's biosolids have been land-applied to Johnson County.

Comm. Woolley asked Detective Ames how one would know if this had been applied close to them and if there was a record of that.

Detective Ames stated that this is information they will be requesting from the state so that they can identify where this has been applied.

Comm. Howell stepped out of the meeting at 10:43 A.M. and returned at 10:45 A.M.

Comm. Woolley expressed his appreciation to the Constable's Office for taking this on and to the current Commissioners Court for funding the testing. He also thanked Dr. Bennett and the PEER group as she worked pro bono for Johnson County.

Dana Ames also thanked Dr. Amanda Beckman, Scientific Consultant, who was in the courtroom.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the Commissioners Court adjourned at 10:52 A.M.

Approved by: *CPH Boeder*  
Christopher Boedeker, County Judge

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF JOHNSON §

I, April Long, Johnson County Clerk, attest that the foregoing is a true and accurate accounting of the Commissioners Court's authorized proceedings for February 16, 2024.



**FILED & RECORDED**  
**March 11, 2024**  
**Commissioner Court Minutes**

*April Long*  
April Long, County Clerk  
Clerk of Commissioners Court  
Johnson County, Texas