

# Cleburne Times-Review, Cleburne, TX

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## Court addresses divided roadways

### Redrawn lines split some roads into multiple precincts

*By John Harden/ reporter3@trcle.com*

— Johnson County commissioners spent several minutes Monday morning at the courthouse discussing which respective precinct would be responsible for roads that are split down the middle into two precincts.

Redrawn boundary lines that cut through the middle of various county roads caused concerns as to which precinct should maintain that portion of the road and which precinct residents should call when there's an issue.

Only a small portion of roads are divided, but commissioners decided not to wait for a problem to occur before tackling the issue.

“We have to resolve this because if someone calls about a pothole or something similar, we need to figure out who's going to fix it,” Johnson County Judge Roger Harmon said.

The commissioners discussed the issue on during a workshop session. The discussion took more than 30 minutes, but commissioners reached an understanding fairly quickly.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Troy Thompson took lead and noted how each road would be managed between the precincts where the road is split.

Thompson said he will present it to the court in the Feb. 13 meeting.

“I want to type it up and give it to everyone so we're all on the same page,” he said.

Commissioners agreed to table the changes until their next meeting.

In another workshop item, commissioners agreed that county employees are prohibited from lighting candles in county buildings.

Harmon was clear on his stance on candles in county buildings.

“That's easy. Just tell everyone, ‘No more candles,’” he said.

He said no candles should be used because they present a fire hazard.

He said all employees will receive a mass email from his office stating the new policy approved by the commissioners.

The court also tackled a reoccurring issue of employees using personal space heaters in offices.

Harmon said space heaters are no longer personal when they begin affecting office thermostats and causing discomfort for everyone.

“A space heater isn’t the most inefficient way to heat an office,” he said. “They can cause a thermostat to shut off or stay on, causing everyone in an office to be unhappy.”

The court also noted that personal heaters can cause air conditioning units to run longer, which could lead to high electric bills.

Commissioners and several county employees gave opinions about the issue and discussions resulted in a stalemate.

“I have people in my office who are more comfortable with them,” County Auditor Kirk Kirkpatrick said. “Everyone seems to have a different degree of comfort. And it just makes this very tricky.”

Harmon and the commissioners realized that it was a touchy subject and a solution could vary by building and person. They postponed their decision until a later date.

Harmon asked Public Works Director Erik Dumas to survey county buildings to see if the use of space heaters are appropriate in some offices that may have insufficient heating or A/C.

Dumas said he would collect information and present it to the court.

The next commissioners court meeting is scheduled for Feb. 13.