

Regional mobility authority official steps down to run for county judge

FROM STAFF REPORTS, Longview News Journal

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

HENDERSON — Rusk County commissioners met Tuesday to accept the resignation of John Cloutier from the board of directors of the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority.

Cloutier announced he planned to run for Rusk County judge. County commissioners approved the resignation and appointed Andy Vinson to fill the vacancy.

Vinson is the senior vice president of Texas Bank in Henderson and has worked in financial services for 34 years.

"I want to advance the interests of Rusk County and make sure we get the resources that we deserve," Vinson said.

Vinson said although Rusk County doesn't get as much funding as Gregg or Smith counties, it is important to work together for the betterment of the area.

"We know that by advancing the whole region, we advance the county."

The court also raised the county's contribution into the Texas County and District Retirement System for its employees to 7.96 percent.

Officials then heard an update on the Rusk County Rural Rail District's attempt to acquire track from Union Pacific. Cloutier said the company made an offer to Union Pacific several days ago, and the company has yet to reply.