

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

Tuesday, October 20, 2015  
5:30 p.m.  
Washington County Quorum Court Room

2016 FEB 24 PM 1:38  
DEBORAH E. WALLER  
COUNTY PROBATE CLERK  
WASHINGTON CO. OR

FILED

- 679.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met for a special meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Marilyn Edwards who stated the purpose of this meeting was to continue working on matters pertaining to the 2016 budget process.
- 679.2 A. Harbison led the Quorum Court in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 679.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Harvey Bowman, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Gary McHenry, and Butch Pond.
- 679.4 MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Patterson and Bill Ussery.
- 679.5 Judge Edwards reported that Joe Patterson was having knee surgery.
- 679.6 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, County Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 679.7 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 679.8 Judge Edwards stated that due to a scheduling conflict, Judge Zimmerman has requested to be moved up on the agenda.
- 679.9 **L. Ecke made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. R. Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 679.10 REVIEW 2016 BUDGET REQUESTS: Norma Frisby, Director of Juvenile Court Services, addressed the Quorum Court stating that Judge Zimmerman was finishing up her last two cases and she would speak on her behalf in the meantime. She addressed the Circuit Court III Budget, stating that they have requested an additional \$10,000 for Other Professional Services, as well as reducing close to that amount in other line items to be able to make the budget as even as possible. N. Frisby stated that Other Professional Services goes to cover some of their diversion programs with instructors to teach the programs as well as contract interpreters.
- 679.11 S. Madison asked about the request of \$2,500 for medicine and drugs in the budget with actual expenditures this year of \$988; to which N. Frisby stated

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that in previous years they spent around \$2,000 and she is not sure why this year was so low. She stated that this pays for their first-aid kits as the drug screenings fall under a separate line item.

- 680.1 S. Madison inquired about their food budget; to which N. Frisby responded that goes toward their diversion programs where they provide meals, noting that their Creating Lasting Family Connections Program is held in the evenings and they provide a meal for them which is customary throughout the State. Further, she stated whenever someone graduates from their programs; they provide a meal to promote the program and to congratulate them. She noted that these families and kids are court-ordered to attend the evening classes from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and they are not home to eat dinner, so they provide pizza or sandwiches. N. Frisby stated that their programs run year round and the food budget is to feed the families, and the staff does not partake.
- 680.2 S. Madison asked about the Dues and Memberships line item; to which N. Frisby explained this is membership dues for their staff to be certified and attend continuing education classes yearly.
- 680.3 S. Madison stated she has mixed feelings about the County providing food for people even if in a setting that would expect food.
- 680.4 N. Frisby stated that they are looking into grants for next year to help them expand their programs due to recent problems with some youth in Springdale.
- 680.5 A. Harbison stated that these meals are very, very important in these diversion programs. She noted that she helped with these ten years ago and they are trying to change behavior in these families and make better citizens.
- 680.6 B. Pond stated that members of this Quorum Court have been very fortunate to have grown up in a family that realizes the importance of a family sitting down for a meal together and visiting with one another to know what is going on in each other's lives. He noted that in some cases, it is not just the kids, but the families that do not know anything about this and these programs help them learn to become a functional family. He stated that it saves tax money by keeping more of the children in these families from winding up in JDC. He knows that these programs work and those families are grateful for them. B. Pond stated that A. Harbison was a key person in getting a lot of these programs started.

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- 681.1 Judge Stacy Zimmerman arrived at the meeting and addressed the Quorum Court stating that they would not ask for any money unless they thought it was important to help these kids stay on the right track. Judge Zimmerman noted that it is really hard to get these families to attend the meetings and to be able to feed them a meal with their kids while they are learning how to be a healthy family and communicate with each other is money well spent. She stated that she feels so strongly about this that she would give part of her paycheck if need be. It is important for this program that dinner is provide while we are teaching them tools to be a healthier and functioning family.
- 681.2 L. Ecke stated that they had mentioned the Marshallese population that is growing in Northwest Arkansas that has the largest population outside of the Marshall Islands. Many do not speak English or know much about hygiene or family relationships. She asked what the ages are of the children that they are feeding; to which N. Frisby responded that it varies with some programs taking age 13 to 17 and other programs can be as young as 9 or 10 to 13 or 14. She noted that Juvenile Court hears cases on all ages and they try to accommodate the age groups.
- 681.3 L. Ecke stated she believes they are doing a brilliant job and this diversion program is needed in America, investing in the lives of the next generation and feeding our children.
- 681.4 **E. Madison made a motion to approve the Circuit Court III Budget as presented. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 681.5 S. Madison thanked Judge Zimmerman for her passion and her efforts.
- 681.6 **L. Ecke made a motion to do voice vote. G. McHenry seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 681.7 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court III Budget as presented.**
- 681.8 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court III Budget was approved as presented.**
- 681.9 Judge Zimmerman addressed the Quorum Court with the Detention Judicial Officer Budget, stating that as Administrative Judge she oversees this budget for Judge Ray Reynolds who holds the first appearance hearings at the Jail during which an arraignment date is set in Judge Taylor or Judge Lindsey's Court. Judge Reynolds pays his administrative staff out of this budget for handling these first appearance cases. She stated that this

really speeds up the process, getting the defendants moved through the criminal court system. She stated that there is not an increase from years past in this budget.

- 682.1 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the Detention Judicial Officer Budget for Judge Zimmerman as presented. The motion was seconded.**
- 682.2 **With no further discussion Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Detention Judicial Officer Budget as presented.**
- 682.3 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Detention Judicial Officer Budget was approved as presented.**
- 682.4 Judge Zimmerman addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court Automation Budget, stating that this is fund covers cell phones for Judges, an I-Pad, Internet for the I-Pad, and for the Law Library.
- 682.5 In response to a question from E. Madison, Comptroller C. Bolinger stated that this is not General Fund money and has its own revenue source. E. Madison stated that there has been some discussion about who was paying for internet and IT usually pays for this and they have found some expenses in budgets that were unnecessarily duplicated.
- 682.6 Judge Zimmerman responded to E. Madison stating the internet is for an I-Pad for Judge Martin and the internet service for the Law Library, and that she is not aware that these internet charges were in somebody else's budgets.
- 682.7 C. Bolinger stated that the approximate \$481 a year is for the data air card which is through the internet and the internet charge is approximately \$767 for the Law Library because they have their own Fund and pay their own internet charges.
- 682.8 E. Madison asked for the balance in this Fund because if cell phones can come out of it, they have other budgets with cell phones that they could move. She stated she is looking for non-General Fund sources of revenue.
- 682.9 C. Bolinger stated at the end of September, this Fund had a balance of \$198,615 in it.

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- 683.1 B. Pond stated if this money is not coming out of General and IT money comes out of General, he does not believe they want IT taking care of anything that is not coming out of General; to which C. Bolinger concurred.
- 683.2 R. Cochran stated that revenue shows 2015 year-to-date in October at \$205,000 and the 2016 is projected at \$225,000, so it looks like they have a revenue stream over the next 14 months of \$20,000 and they are asking for just under \$10,000.
- 683.3 **R. Cochran made a motion to approve the Circuit Court Automation Budget as presented. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 683.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court Automation Budget as presented.**
- 683.5 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court Automation Budget was approved as presented.**
- 683.6 Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger addressed the Quorum Court with the Law Library Budget, stating that the Law Library has its own funding through the Act 1256 money and they have a Board that has met and approved this budget.
- 683.7 E. Madison stated that it looks like they are also paying for what seems like the same internet connection; to which C. Bolinger responded that the Automation Fund pays for the Judges' use of the internet.
- 683.8 **R. Cochran made a motion to approve the Law Library Budget as presented. L. Ecke seconded.**
- 683.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Law Library Budget as presented.**
- 683.10 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Law Library Budget was approved as presented.**
- 683.11 Judge Doug Martin addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court I 2016 Budget.
- 683.12 S. Madison asked what they were doing with their food money; to which Judge Martin responded that he keeps his jurors at the Courthouse during the lunch hour and so this money is used to feed jurors. She further noted that the Jurors and Witnesses line item shows actual expenditures of zero; to which Judge Martin responded that what S. Madison is looking at is for

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six months and what they are looking at now is for the year. Judge Martin stated that his copy for the one jury trial he had this year shows Jurors and Witnesses at \$2,757.96 expended.

- 684.1 S. Madison stated another thing she has noticed in these Court budgets is that every court except Juvenile Court and Drug Court are spending \$790 on Dues and Memberships, but the amount requested varies and Judge Martin asked for \$950. Judge Martin stated that to join the judicial sections of the Arkansas Bar Association cost \$20 to \$40 each.
- 684.2 E. Madison asked if there was any reason his cell phone line item could not come out of the Circuit Court Automation Budget that is a \$200,000 budget, because they are not spending \$200,000. Judge Martin responded that they are spending a good portion of that for Contexte upgrades required and C. Bolinger concurred.
- 684.3 E. Madison stated her point is if they believe there is extra money in that Fund, it would be helpful to the County General Fund if some of the small expenses that qualify for coverage there could come out of it.
- 684.4 **A. Harbison made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court I 2016 Budget as presented. The motion was seconded.**
- 684.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court I Budget as presented.**
- 684.6 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court I Budget was approved as presented.**
- 684.7 Judge Threet addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court II 2016 budget, stating that his budget is approximately 12% less than last year.
- 684.8 R. Cochran stated that he noted his Small Equipment line item was reduced quite a bit; and Judge Threet stated that the small equipment was for backup sound for the courtroom so they will not have to have that again.
- 684.9 R. Cochran noted that his Food line item had more than doubled; to which Judge Threet stated that they try to figure out the number of days scheduled that they believe will be jury trials for the next year and they have shown 28 days at this time, but they put in at 18.
- 684.10 S. Madison asked about his jurors' lunch breaks; to which Judge Threet responded that they do not prevent the jurors from leaving the Courthouse, however, it often will take 1½ hours for them to leave to eat lunch. He

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stated that by keeping the jurors at the Courthouse, to make it more efficient and accommodate the jurors, they will have lunch breaks 30-45 minutes long.

- 685.1 S. Madison noted that the actual expenditures are less than \$300; to which Judge Threet stated that through June 30 is \$3,200 for juror fees, and food is a separate line item. He also noted when the jury is deliberating; they stay and get fed at Courthouse.
- 685.2 A. Harbison stated that this budget is down by \$5,160.
- 685.3 **A. Harbison made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court II 2016 Budget as presented. B. Pond seconded.**
- 685.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court II Budget as presented.**
- 685.5 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court II Budget was approved as presented.**
- 685.6 Judge Cristi Beaumont addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court IV 2016 budget, stating that she does the Drug Court, Veterans' Treatment Court, family and civil law. She noted that they have not asked for any additional money and continue to look into grants to try to limit the money that they are taking from the County. She also noted that for drug testing they charge the participants and this money goes back into the General Fund. Judge Beaumont stated that five out of the seven Judges use the staff attorney for legal research. She further reported that she has been doing the Drug and Veterans' Treatment Courts almost three years and they now have over 300 participants in the program. Their Veterans Treatment Court is divided into two tracks with the first being the high risk, high needs and are the individuals who have the greatest chance of recidivating and ending up in jail and prison. She had the Jail run criminal histories on the 103 graduates that they had through the first 2½ years and their recidivism rate is less than 10%.
- 685.7 B. Pond stated that he appreciates what her courts do and that they now have one for the Veterans.
- 685.8 E. Madison stated that Judge Beaumont had mentioned that the State is working on increased funding for Drug Courts; to which Judge Beaumont responded the Governor has allocated \$2.8 million for specialty courts in 2016 and originally every circuit was going to get \$100,000. However, they have changed this into an Accountability Grant which they will be

applying for before the deadline of December 1. She explained that Washington County is entitled to what they call base funding for their Drug Court based on number of participants of \$203,000; and \$10,000 for Veteran's Court as most of their services are covered by the Veterans Administration. She stated that the plan is if they can continue to show that they are making a significant difference, then they will continue to fund these programs with yearly evaluations. She further noted that these funds cannot be used to supplement something that is already being paid for by something else. As far as the staff attorney position, this is supplemented by their court fees and she is looking at increasing court fees so there will be more revenue coming into the General Fund to help offset expenses for that position.

- 686.1 **E. Madison made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court IV 2016 Budget as presented. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 686.2 H. Bowman asked whether participation in these programs has increased over the past year; to which Judge Beaumont stated that their programs have increased by about 80 participants.
- 686.3 S. Madison asked about their food line item; and Judge Beaumont responded that this is used to feed jurors. She added another reason they try to keep jurors at the Courthouse during the lunch hour is to try to keep outside influences down as much as possible that might affect the jury.
- 686.4 In response to a question from L. Ecke, Judge Beaumont stated that they hold Drug Court all day every Monday and have plans to expand. Right now they are holding Veteran's Court once a month on Monday; and she hears family cases spread out through the week.
- 686.5 L. Ecke asked about the law clerk position; and Judge Beaumont explained that they have had this position since Judge Gunn received it in 2009. The current law clerk is a staff attorney that has only been there a year and attorney positions are normally ungraded.
- 686.6 L. Ecke stated that she would hope if she served on a jury that the Judge would feed her lunch because she sees it as her tax dollars at work for her while she is serving her county.
- 686.7 In response to a question from H. Bowman, Judge Beaumont stated that the legal services she is referring to is Ms. Darling. H. Bowman noted that Ms. Darling has some very unique credentials that come along with her experience that he believes contributed to an increase in her salary; to which Judge Beaumont first stated that Ms. Darling is being used also by

the other judges which has been very helpful to have someone to them to have someone they can trust and who is a good attorney. As far as a Drug and Veteran's Treatment Court, Ms. Darling is constantly looking for transitional living places for their individuals in these programs. There are no transitional living areas in Washington County, Ms. Darling traveled to Texarkana and found an establishment run by a lady who is doing great work and they were able to place two of their ladies at that home. She further helped locate a place in Jay, Oklahoma, called CARE where they have three of their young men who can only attend groups, counseling, education, church and work and this has been quite successful for them.

- 687.1 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court IV Budget as presented.**
- 687.2 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court IV Budget was approved as presented.**
- 687.3 Judge Cristi Beaumont addressed the Quorum Court with the Adult Drug Court Transfers Out Budget.
- 687.4 R. Cochran stated that this budget has its own revenue source of \$21,950.
- 687.5 **R. Cochran made a motion that they approve the Adult Drug Court Transfers Out Budget as presented. G. McHenry seconded.**
- 687.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Adult Drug Court Transfers Out Budget as presented.**
- 687.7 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Adult Drug Court Transfers Out Budget was approved as presented.**
- 687.8 Judge Beth Storey Bryan addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court V budget stating that her request is about \$2,000 less than last year. She noted like the other Judges, her jury trials are so unpredictable so they typically ask for much more than they are spending because they may set 25-40 jury trials a year and then end up trying only a handful. On the subject of food, Judge Bryan stated that they pay jurors \$50 a day if they get called to serve, so by feeding them lunch, they can a lot of times make a three day trial a two day trial and that saves the county up to \$600 a day for the extra day.

- 688.1 **R. Cochran made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court V Budget as presented. G. McHenry seconded.**
- 688.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court V Budget as presented.**
- 688.3 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court V Budget was approved as presented.**
- 688.4 Judge Mark Lindsay addressed the Quorum Court with the Circuit Court VI budget.
- 688.5 R. Cochran asked Judge Lindsay to address his food line item for \$10,000; to which Judge Lindsay responded at the beginning of this year his docket changed dramatically as in the past he had been handling about 25% of the civil and criminal case docket, domestic relations and some probate cases. He stated this year he is handling 75% of the criminal cases and 10% of the domestic relations docket and then he still has a few left over probate cases. He stated he had 14 jury trials this year and has the possibility of 11 more before the year is out. He noted last year Judge Storey had the same docket with a total of 17 jury trials and he is sure to go over that which is why he is over budget.
- 688.6 R. Cochran noted that the food to the juror fees is very much in line to the other Judges; to which Judge Lindsay stated all of the reasons the other judges gave for keeping jurors at the Courthouse over the lunch hour would apply to a criminal jury and in a criminal case, he believes it is even more important to make sure that the jury is not tainted by any outside influence.
- 688.7 **R. Cochran made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court VI Budget as presented. B. Pond seconded.**
- 688.8 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court VI Budget as presented.**
- 688.9 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court IV Budget was approved as presented.**
- 688.10 E. Madison reported that Judge Taylor could not be at the meeting so she would present the Circuit Court VII budget in her absence. Judge Taylor had told her she was flat on her costs, slightly down, and that she could return next Monday to answer any questions if need be.

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- 689.1 C. Bolinger stated that Judge Taylor is excellent at watching her budget and expenditures.
- 689.2 **B. Pond made a motion that they approve the Circuit Court VII Budget as presented. The motion was seconded.**
- 689.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Court VII Budget as presented.**
- 689.4 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Circuit Court VII Budget was approved as presented.**
- 689.5 Denny Hyslip, Washington County Public Defender, and Leanna Houston, Chief Deputy Public Defender, addressed the Quorum Court with the Public Defender's 2106 budget. D. Hyslip addressed Personnel Services stating that they are requesting \$40,000 more, noting that a few months ago the court approved a part-time position which they have moved into a full-time position. He stated that they requested \$25,000 for the part-time budget as opposed to \$48,500. Otherwise, he stated that they are asking for about a \$20,000 increase of which \$8,700 is for computer equipment.
- 689.6 S. Madison asked who they were buying food for; to which L. Houston responded that this is to have water and coffee in that office for clients or police officers. She stated she has done things in the last year to try to reduce the amount and instead of using a service that brings the supplies to them, they go to Sam's themselves and they do not use styrofoam cups anymore. Further, she stated that they have a filtering system for their water.
- 689.7 A. Harbison noted that their Telephone/Fax line item went down from \$1,500 to \$50; Other Professional Services is up \$500; Cell Phones is up \$200; and Internet Connection is up \$900; to which L. Houston responded that Professional Services is when they have to get a transcript for part of their trials, is constitutional and required. As Judge Lindsay reported, they are having more trials with their case load increasing by 100 a week since August, and with all of that there are more expenses that they are required to follow through on in Professional Services. L. Houston stated that their attorneys all have their own private cell phones that they use for personal needs, but some of this is the case software management with a lot of it done on their cell phones or I-pads and this is so they can use or access that when they are outside the office, at the Jail, arraignments, or in court.
- 689.8 A. Harbison asked about the Travel line item that is up \$500; to which L. Houston responded their attorneys do not charge the County when they go

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to the Jail several times a day or make local trips, and these are expenses for when they have to travel out-of-town. L. Houston further stated that Meals and Lodging is at \$500 and Common Carrier is up \$500 due to continuing education which is required and they are behind on.

- 690.1 A. Harbison stated that they are up \$200 on Leased Machinery and Equipment; to which L. Houston responded that they are currently looking into renegotiate their copier lease and their copying is more due to increased case load and the need to make copies of discovery for the entire team.
- 690.2 A. Harbison noted that \$3,800 for Dues and Membership; to which L. Houston stated that also includes their research contract with Lexus and their cost is going up.
- 690.3 A. Harbison pointed out that practically all of the other departments kept their budgets flat while the Public Defender's Budget shows several line items increased by a few hundred dollars; to which L. Houston stated last year they worked hard to cut their budget by \$13,000 and they have found this year it is very hard to take the extra caseload that they are assigned to take and they need to do things right.
- 690.4 R. Cochran stated since they did move one of their employees from part-time to a full-time position to allow them to accomplish the work they needed to do in a work week and keep on top of the cases, he was surprised to see a part-time salary in their budget; to which L. Houston replied that this is for their law clerk that has always been in their budget who works between 10-15 hours a week and they are paid \$10 an hour, and they spend a lot of their time at the Prosecutor's Office copying discovery.
- 690.5 S. Lloyd noted that their General Supplies has increased by \$3,500; to which L. Houston stated a lot of it is the printer ink and copy paper and it was adjusted to what their costs were this year.
- 690.6 S. Lloyd asked about the difference between the Travel Line Item and the Mileage Line Item; to which Cheryl Bolinger stated the Travel Line Item is for in flight insurance, baggage and parking fees, extra charges not specified for fuel, vehicle rental, or toll fees.
- 690.7 **S. Madison made a motion that they approve the Public Defender Budget as presented. R. Cochran seconded.**

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- 691.1 S. Madison added that she would like to editorials that she thinks that the employees in the Public Defender's Office should be reimbursed for their mileage; to which R. Dennis agreed.
- 691.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Public Defender's Budget as presented.**
- 691.3 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Public Defender Budget was approved as presented.**
- 691.4 Matt Durrett, Washington County Prosecuting Attorney, addressed the Quorum Court with the Prosecuting Attorney budget, stating there has been a revised budget as there was an error. Instead of his budget increasing by only \$42, a large portion of the \$7,000 he requested was left out for additional part-time salaries. There are three major areas in which he is requesting increases; the salaries for part-time goes to their five law clerks that are currently paid \$10 an hour and he would like to see this increased to \$12 an hour so they can be competitive. He noted that they have been at \$10 an hour since 2006 and since they have had a problem retaining good law clerks, they did some inquiring and discovered that the range is from \$12 to \$20 an hour. M. Durrett stated that he has requested an additional \$2,000 for training, noting they have 16 lawyers on staff and they have to have continuing education and usually go to the Prosecutor Coordinator who holds biannual seminars at \$125 per person. He stated that they also have training for their support staff that the Prosecutor Coordinator's Office puts on and anyone licensed to run criminal histories has to have yearly training. He stated that he is also requesting an increase in mileage because it is up with roughly 35 employees going back and forth to JDC and other facilities, as well as traveling to Madison County, etc.
- 691.5 R. Dennis asked why M. Durrett is not asking for a pay increase to \$14 an hour for his law clerks in line with private law firms; to which he responded that he would like to increase them a lot more, but he understands there are budget constraints. R. Dennis stated that he is shocked that they are paid so little and would advocate for \$14 an hour.
- 691.6 **R. Dennis made a motion to approve the Prosecuting Attorney's Budget as presented. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 691.7 **R. Dennis made a motion to amend the Prosecuting Attorney's Budget, granting \$4 an hour raise for their law clerks. R. Cochran seconded.**

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- 692.1 E. Madison stated her concern with this is that any raise they give the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office will come back and ask for, as they should. She stated she would support the \$4 an hour raise, if they can figure out the impact from the Public Defender's Office.
- 692.2 E. Madison addressed the Prosecuting Attorney as well as the Public Defender, stating that their employees should be paid for their mileage around town and further, they have a lot of county pool vehicles that could possibly be used for simple trips around town.
- 692.3 A. Harbison stated that they have a lot of county employees who want a raise and she will support the \$2 raise, but cannot support the \$4 raise.
- 692.4 J. Maxwell commended M. Durrett for his proactive due diligence, and he appreciates his reserve for asking for \$12 an hour which he is 100% in favor of. He stated that he is not really opposed to the market value of \$14 an hour, but his question is how far that \$4 an hour raise would go across the county in order to treat everybody fairly.
- 692.5 T. Lundstrum stated that he knows they have not had a raise since 2006 and wishes they had asked for a raise in 2007 because these law clerks do not get picked up in the annual raises they are giving the other employees. He noted with the \$2 an hour increase, he is asking for a 20% increase which makes the \$4 an hour increase a 40% increase. Although it really goes against his conservative values, he will support the \$2 an hour raise.
- 692.6 County Attorney Steve Zega suggested that R. Dennis break up his motion into an amendment to the budget and then make a separate motion to pass the budget as amended; and R. Dennis stated he would be glad to do so.
- 692.7 L. Ecke stated she will support the \$12 an hour and would like to visit a further increase later on and the use of the county vehicles and/or mileage.
- 692.8 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to amend the Prosecuting Attorney's Budget, increasing the law clerk salaries by \$4 an hour.**
- 692.9 VOTING FOR: S. Madison, R. Cochran, and R. Dennis. VOTING AGAINST: J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, B. Pond, D. Balls, H. Bowman, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and E. Madison. **The motion failed with three members voting in favor and ten members voting against the motion.**

- 693.1 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Prosecuting Attorney's Budget as presented.**
- 693.2 VOTING FOR: S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, B. Pond, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and E. Madison. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The Prosecuting Attorney's Budget was approved as presented.**
- 693.3 Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger addressed the Quorum Court with the District Court Budgets, explaining that the County pays for half of the salary of the District Judge and one Court Clerk in each District. She stated that their salaries are set by the District Courts which the County has no say in.
- 693.4 **R. Cochran made a motion that they approve the District Court Budgets as presented. H. Bowman seconded.**
- 693.5 J. Maxwell stated he noticed that there are several of these, in Fayetteville, Springdale, and Elkins particularly there is a large disparity in what was spent in 2012 and 2013 and the actual expenditures for 2015 and what is being requested for 2016.
- 693.6 C. Bolinger stated that the second quarter would have been paid in July and this just went through June because it is paid quarterly. She stated that they just list whatever they think the salaries are going to be, but present the actual salaries to her quarterly and then they pay half of that amount. She added that they are within the range of what is allowed by law.
- 693.7 E. Madison stated the State Legislature sets the salaries for these Judges and that is why there is so much variation from year-to-year. She noted that effective in the 2017 Budgets, these salaries should go away because all of these courts are converting to state funded courts if the Legislature sees fit to fund what they have arranged.
- 693.8 Judge Edwards pointed out every time the State takes something over; it comes out of their County turn back.
- 693.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the District Court Budgets as presented.**
- 693.10 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The District Court Budgets were approved as presented.**

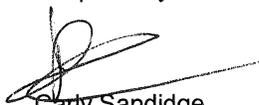
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- 694.1 S. Madison stated she is feeling very badly about giving the Prosecuting Attorney's law clerks a raise from \$10 to \$12 an hour and if the Public Defender has law clerks working for \$10 an hour, that is an embarrassment to this County.
- 694.2 L. Houston from the Public Defender's Office stated that the law clerks in both offices have not had a raise in over ten years. She stated if they increase their three law clerks salaries to \$12 an hour, it would increase her budget by \$4,000.
- 694.3 **S. Madison made a motion to give the Law Clerks in the Public Defender's Office the same \$2 raise as the Prosecuting Attorney's. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 694.4 R. Cochran stated that he was going to suggest that they get all of the information regarding salaries for all of their law clerks together and consider all of that at their next meeting.
- 694.5 T. Lundstrum stated that they may be opening up a can of worms with this and he would also like to know how many clerks they are paying \$10 an hour in the other departments that will need to increase their wages as well.
- 694.6 E. Madison stated these positions are almost identical for the kind of work and qualifications they bring to the job and they probably recruit from the same pool. She stated she doubts they will find jobs like this anywhere else in the County and these are ungraded positions outside of the JESAP (Job Evaluation/Salary Administration Program) that miss normal raises that are given. She does not believe they can pass the raise for the Prosecuting Attorney and then leave it undecided for the Public Defender's Office. She said if L. Houston is confident that \$4,000 will cover these raises, then they need to go ahead and do this.
- 694.7 A. Harbison stated that they have a budget to think about; the Public Defender's Office did not come to them and ask for these raises; and she wants to be fair as well, so she would suggest that they vote on this later to give them time to think about it.
- 694.8 J. Maxwell stated that he concurs with R. Cochran and A. Harbison on using some wisdom to see how far this expands; however, they have already started so he will support it because he sees the similarity in positions and equality.

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- 695.1 B. Pond stated that everything they have voted on so far is tentative and the next time they meet they will have numbers to review, but he stated that he will vote in favor of this tonight.
- 695.2 S. Zega stated that these folks are all at least second year law students and the only three offices in this county that would hire a law clerk are the Prosecutor, Public Defender and County Attorney and he does not have a law clerk, so he believes the court has heard from everyone who has a law clerk tonight.
- 695.3 R. Cochran stated that they need to add the accompanying benefits to the pay increase to the motion.
- 695.4 **S. Madison made a motion to amend her motion including benefits. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 695.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to give the Law Clerks in the Public Defender's Office the same raise as the Prosecuting Attorney's Law Clerks with accompanying benefits.**
- 695.6 **VOTING FOR: S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, B. Pond, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and E. Madison. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The Law Clerks in the Public Defender's Office will receive the same raise as the Prosecuting Attorney's Law Clerks with accompanying benefits.**
- 695.7 **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** There were no citizen comments made.
- 695.8 **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge  
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter