

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

Thursday, January 14, 2016
5:30 p.m.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

REGISTRY EVALUATOR
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
WASHINGTON CO. AR

2016 MAY 20 PM 4:07

FILED

- 1.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met in special session on Thursday, January 14, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Judge Marilyn Edwards. She stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss Washington County financial matters.
- 1.2 D. Balls led the Quorum Court in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Gary McHenry, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 1.4 MEMBER ABSENT: Harvey Bowman and Eva Madison.
- 1.5 S. Madison reported that E. Madison was out-of-town on business with her firm.
- 1.6 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, Chief of Staff George Butler, Treasurer Bobby Hill, Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 1.7 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 1.8 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The agenda was adopted as presented.**
- 1.9 TREASURER'S REPORT: Bobby Hill, County Treasurer, addressed the Quorum Court with the December 2015 and yearly financial summaries. He noted that County General had a beginning cash balance of \$14,368,452 and an ending cash balance of \$12,849,838; and both the Road and Jail Funds ended the year with revenues over expenditures. He stated that the total of the County's budget accounts for 2015 began with a cash balance of \$23,020,207 and ended with \$24,233,059.
- 1.10 B. Hill addressed the County share of the 1% sales tax ended 2015 very well with a 10% increase in December over December 2014 with \$589,880 collected and for the year it gained an extra \$367,000 between General and Road. With respect to the ¼ cent Jail sales tax, collections were \$801,766 for December and total for the year was \$600,000 over 2014. He stated that the ½ cent Road sales tax came in at 5% over December of 2014 and ended the year with \$1.3 million and over projections.

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- 2.1 R. Cochran asked about the Employee Insurance Fund showing a large drop to \$1.3 million; to which B. Hill responded that the County paid a good size claim last month, but he had not spoken with Insurance Consultant Nelson Driver further on the matter. R. Cochran requested that B. Hill do so.
- 2.2 COMPTROLLER'S REPORT: Cheryl Bolinger, County Comptroller, addressed the Quorum Court stating that she was still closing out and paying 2015 invoices and once that process was complete, she would have an ordinance in March. She stated that most of the larger bills were in for final payments for 2015. She noted she had looked at all the budgets and they were all in great shape; 2015 was a good year.
- 2.3 REVIEW OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S HOT CHECK FEE ACCOUNT FOR 2015: Prosecuting Attorney Matt Durrett addressed the Quorum Court with his report of the Hot Check Fee Account for 2015. He stated the account started off in January 2015 with a balance of \$71,600.72; had total hot check fees collected in 2015 of \$19,556.95; with total expenses in 2015 of \$16,485.09, for a total account balance on December 31, 2015 of \$75,071.86.
- 2.4 COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT: Report from DEM and Road Department on Recent Flooding in the County - Rick Johnson with the Washington County Department of Emergency Management Office addressed the Quorum Court stating after the floods that Washington County recently had, the county made a declaration for disaster and the Governor came back and declared Washington County a disaster area, which allowed him to request the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to come in. He stated that the county has two different set-ups with FEMA; one called public assistance for cities and counties to look at roads and bridges as well as certain non-profits wherein FEMA did a one-day preliminary disaster assessment (PDA) qualification process. He stated that FEMA looked at seven different sites in the county to meet a certain threshold, which is to meet \$3.57 per capita (approximately \$724,000) in order to qualify for FEMA to come in if the President declares. He reported that the county easily surpassed that in the seven sites that it went to and this further counts our cities with its damages. Once the President makes a declaration for the State of Arkansas, the County will be eligible for FEMA to fix roads and bridges, hopefully, by early February.
- 2.5 R. Johnson explained that the County's other set up is for individual assistance, which he is currently receiving a lot of calls from individuals reporting damage to their homes, driveways, and personal property by flooding. He noted there is no threshold for individual assistance and

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FEMA looked at 43 residences in the County and this is solely at the discretion of the President to declare. Once this is done, he will set up centers where residents can visit with the Small Business Administration as well as FEMA to fill out applications to receive funds for help with their damages. He stated that individual assistance may be a little bit longer as all assessments need to be completed in the State and submitted through the Governor's Office to Washington.

- 3.1 Report from Road Department - Charles Ward, County Road Superintendent, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he had the completed cost numbers for Stonewall and Molly Wagnon Bridge. However, he grabbed the wrong file, and can only give rough numbers at this time. He stated Stonewall Bridge costs were somewhere around \$634,000 to complete, and Molly Wagnon Bridge is somewhere around \$450,000 to complete. He stated that Molly Wagon lacks a few welds and inspection and Stonewall Bridge lacks some touch-ups and painting to be completed.
- 3.2 C. Ward reported on road damage, stating that the County had some washouts, but nothing unexpected; it looks like FEMA will help repair the low-water bridges with considerable damage. He stated that the Road Department has been putting some gravel down, repairing any washed-out spots, and replacing any damaged or clogged culverts, for which a record is being maintained for FEMA purposes.
- 3.3 Brad Phillips, Assistant County Road Superintendent, reported that the Road Department is also working on the Dye Creek Bridge located in the northern part of West Fork, but is waiting on FEMA to help it out. Otherwise, he does not know how the bridge will be repaired.
- 3.4 C. Ward noted that half of the Dye Creek Bridge is actually in West Fork, who will hopefully help with its portion of the bridge. He noted that FEMA will award the money to the County to repair it, but West Fork would have to pitch in on its portion.
- 3.5 A. Harbison stated she visited the Dye Creek Bridge, which is in her district, and noted that water is washing all gravel out from under the bridge. She stated that this is a short cut for a lot of residents and closing it causes inconvenience, but it did need to be closed.
- 3.6 C. Ward noted that the reason the bridge was closed was because it could collapse under the weight of an emergency vehicle.

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- 4.1 Judge Edwards stated that it was her decision to close the Dye Creek Bridge after receiving numerous calls from people talking about the danger it posed. She stated there is another way in and out of this area and she would rather have residents drive five extra miles than to have someone drown. She noted with the amount of rain the county had, the county roads held up well and she commended the Road Department employees for the fine job that they have been doing.
- 4.2 L. Ecke stated that the press did give the Washington County Road Department a pretty good review compared to the other counties around Northwest Arkansas and congratulated it for a job well done.
- 4.3 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Authorizing The County Judge To Enter Into A Contract For Services With The Association Of Arkansas Counties**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance that is on first reading.
- 4.4 R. Cochran stated that this is something that every year the County contracts with the Association of Arkansas Counties, noting that the County budgeted \$5,874 to pay for this membership. This allows the County to be in the Workman's Compensation Program and provides legal assistance, which is a bargain for the County as opposed to the open market.
- 4.5 **R. Cochran made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading by title only. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 4.6 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Authorizing The County Judge To Enter Into A Contract For Services With The Association Of Arkansas Counties**, by title only.
- 4.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on third and final reading by title only. B. Pond seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 4.8 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Authorizing The County Judge To Enter Into A Contract For Services With The Association Of Arkansas Counties**, by title only.
- 4.9 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. J. Maxwell seconded.**

- 5.1 Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 5.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 5.3 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2016-01, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 379**
- 5.4 AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING REVENUES TOTALLING \$1,679,690 IN VARIOUS FUNDS; AND APPROPRIATING \$1,679,690 FROM VARIOUS FUNDS TO VARIOUS BUDGET LINE ITEMS FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Revenues Totaling \$1,679,690 In Various Funds; And Appropriating \$1,679,690 From Various Funds To Various Budget Line Items For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 5.5 R. Cochran explained that this was an ordinance for the Court to work on the County's various grants and is like a rollover into the New Year. He stated in his years on this court this was the largest rollover of grant funds and it really sets out how important the County's Grant Department is. He commended the department on the great job it does saving our taxpayers a lot of money.
- 5.6 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 5.7 S. Lloyd noted a couple of scrivener's errors in the ordinance and it was pointed out that corrections could be made without a motion.
- 5.8 Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 5.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 5.10 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 380

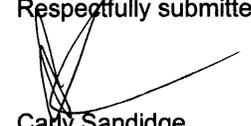
- 6.1 AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS/RECYCLING-TRAINEE PERSONNEL SLOT AND REALLOCATING MONIES WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Creating An Environmental Affairs/Recycling - Trainee Personnel Slot And Reallocating Monies Within The Environmental Affairs Budget In The General Fund For 2016**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 6.2 R. Cochran explained that this was an ordinance creating a personnel trainee slot.
- 6.3 Chief of Staff George Butler explained that Environmental Affairs Director Sophia Stephenson's last day was January 29 and a replacement will need to be hired; and because of the savings in salary, there will be a period of time when this new hire will train with Sophie for a couple of weeks. This ends up being budget neutral.
- 6.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 6.5 Sophia Stephenson addressed the Quorum Court stating that she has really enjoyed her time working for Washington County as it has been a great experience.
- 6.6 Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 6.7 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 6.8 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2016-03, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 382**
- 6.9 OTHER BUSINESS: T. Lundstrum reported that he had a long telephone conversation with Harvey Bowman today and he is doing very well, walking about a mile a day and may be able to hold off another six months before doing the other kidney. He further stated that he should be home from the hospital in the next day or so.

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7.1 CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no citizen comments made

7.2 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter