

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
APRIL 15, 2019**

The Carroll County Quorum Court held their regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019, in the Eastern District Courthouse in Berryville. All Quorum Court members were present. Matti Kate and Katelyn Rexwinkle, members of 4H, offered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Judge Sam Barr at 5:00pm and roll call was taken.

The Journal of Proceedings was approved with the amendment of the word “hanger” versus “terminal” in relationship to the discussion concerning the Carroll County Airport. County Clerk Connie Doss made the correction.

A couple of changes to the Agenda were made. An Ordinance creating the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Advisory Committee was added by Chuck Olson as item E under New Business and Jack Deaton added an item G under New Business for an ordinance creating the PSAB (Public Safety) Advisory Board pending the outcome of discussion under Item F. Members agreed and the items were added and the Agenda revised.

Under Public Comments, Albina Link was happy to be alive in large thanks to the radio/dispatch systems in place in Western District and would be supporting an upgrade to the radios countywide.

A citizen from County Road 905 told Quorum Court that a road grader is only as good as its operator and that training of grader operators was necessary.

Richard Williams spoke about the speed of trying to get the radio sales tax done and said that a sales tax was not the only way to fund the radio system. The County should be looking at other funding option.

Vonda Moore with Mercy Hospital updated the QC members about happenings at the hospital. An information sheet was handed out and gone over with information about new physician hires as well as the need to replace hospital board member Harley Barnum whose term ends July 1, 2019. They will be looking for a replacement preferably from the Holiday Island area as that is where Mr. Barnum resides. Cody Qualls also spoke in response to the question posed concerning the re-opening of the Green Forest Clinic due to lost coverage of a physician. The clinic is back up and running. The hospital looks to expand services with the help of the Mercy hospital in Rogers, AR.

Ordinance (now 2019-23) was passed with Matt Phillips making a motion to approve and Jack Deaton seconding the motion.

Ordinance (now 2019-24) corrected a typographical error in the 2019 budget ordinance. Jack Deaton made a motion to approve with Chuck Olson seconding the motion. A vote of members approved the measure.

Ordinance (now 2019-25) put funds received by the County for recycled items back into the respective departments. The ordinance is in response to County Judge Court Order 2019-10 & 11. The departments include Road (2000), Detention (3018) & 911 Fund (3020). Matt Phillips seconded the motion made by Jack Deaton. The measure passed with all voting in favor.

Ordinance (now 2019-26) put insurance claims funds back into the Sheriff's department in order to purchase a new CID unit. Again, Matt Phillips seconded a motion made by Jack Deaton to approve the ordinance. A vote of the members approved the measure.

Ordinance (now 2019-27) concerns the committee required by the County Judge for the Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank. Chuck Olson made a motion to accept the ordinance with Jack Deaton seconding the motion. A vote was taken with all members accepting the ordinance. The Judge will appoint the members as per the ordinance and a resolution to accept the committee members will be forthcoming.

Item F Discussion concerns the proposed Public Safety Sales Tax to pay for upgrading/updating the County's radio system to digital. JP Jack Deaton began the discussion by offering four options. 1. Do nothing/Bandaid approach – fix as we go, 2. Go to next stage analog which is less expensive but will only get us a few years of reliable service, 3. Go digital which leaves out the Fire departments because they all have analog. 4. Sales Tax where the County would reserve the licensing while the work was being completed. The licensing can be held for a period of up to 5 years. Sam Ward will check to be sure there isn't a fee associated with reserving the license, but JP Deaton didn't believe there was. The Sales Tax would have a short term 4 year Sunset Clause. There would be no new towers, however the equipment on the towers would be replaced as well as new facilities being built at some towers due to the deteriorated condition of current facilities. All older equipment would be kept running until the new equipment was completely installed and tested. The sales tax would include radios for all of the fire & police departments (within quantity reasonableness). JP Deaton went on to explain that the first phase already completed a while back was to update Central Dispatch. Election could happen in March to go along with the Primary and the QC would have 120 days from the date of the resolution/ordinance to have the measure put on a ballot if it was decided to move forward. It was reiterated that this is a community project and forming a committee with the people that used the equipment on a regular basis was a good idea. Chuck Olson said the current equipment is old and getting harder to replace. It is fast becoming not the County's choice to do nothing. Harrie Farrow asked if the radio report that was handed out last month was done by a person that would have a vested interest in which system the County chose. The response was that the gentleman is retired and volunteered the time. It was also noted that the report did not endorse any particular company. Ms. Farrow also asked if the County had a "Plan B". The question of the consolidation of 911 systems was also brought up again with John Howerton expressing that these were questions for the committee to address. Craig Hicks was approving of the idea of a committee but expressed the thought that the County should exhaust all other avenues to fundraise before going to a sales tax. One of the JP's said that 1.8 million will get the County 3 years down the road but 6 million in a sales tax will get the County 15 years or better. Marty Johnson asked if the upgrades required were mandated. Chuck Olson said the issue was radio frequency quality and quantity. Both FEMA and the State has recommended the P25 systems. Kellie Matt brought up Act 66 with the 911 consolidation and whether the County would get funds from this. Marty Johnson asked whether the County could consolidate with another county to share costs. Harrie Farrow thought there should also be a QC committee as well as the Advisory Board being proposed by Jack Deaton. Larry Swofford expressed the thought that the state couldn't mandate the county to do any upgrades if the County didn't have the funds to pay for it (IE: unfunded mandates). Mr. Swofford was okay with the committee idea. Harrie Farrow said the ordinance did not specify a clear ~~number~~ balance nor did the ordinance have an expiration date. Jack Deaton said the ordinance said members would serve for 2 years. County Judge Sam Barr allowed Richard Williams from the gallery to ask a question as to why did the QC think they needed an ordinance every time a committee was needed. Jack

Deaton made a motion to create the Public Safety Advisory Board and Chuck Olson made a second. A vote was taken and all agreed. This is now Ordinance 2019-28.

Under JP Comments: Jack Deaton said that the Budget/Finance & Buildings committees met before the QC meeting and he updated everyone on the \$50,000 appropriation that is being spent to update the Eastern District Courthouse building. Scottie Collins, maintenance/custodian was doing the electrical work that the electrician said needed to be done, but that some of the work was going to have to be done by the electrician. The electrical work in the County Clerk's office was also going to be started. The remaining work in the County Clerk's office would be done over the course of the summer and approved in pieces.

The Judge read several statements that include the orders for the recycling and subsequent funds received for the Road, Dispatch, and 911 departments. The County received the audit findings from the AR Legislative Audit and he read their findings and his response as well.

The County Judge asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting with Marty Johnson and Kellie Matt making those motions. The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

NOTE: Road Department Foreman Jim Kelley handed the Quorum Court members an update on road work being started, in process, and being finished in the County. Also, the Judge's response to Legislative Audit is included in the file for this QC meeting.