

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
DECEMBER 17, 2019**

The rescheduled meeting of the Carroll County Quorum Court was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in the Eastern District Courthouse in Berryville. The meeting was rescheduled due to weather conditions. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation were led by members of the Quorum Court. The meeting was called to order by County judge Sam Barr at 5:04pm and roll call was taken. All members were present with the exception of JP John Howerton. The Journal of Proceedings from the November 18, 2019 meeting were approved after a motion was made by JP Marty Johnson and seconded by JP Jack Deaton. There were no changes to the agenda, no public comments, nor any miscellaneous speakers. There was no old business on the agenda.

Under New Business, a resolution confirming the appointment of commissioners to the Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District was approved. JP Chuck Olson made the motion and JP Don McNeely seconded the motion. There was no discussion other than JP Olson saying that this was a routine resolution. A correction in the resolution was necessary as JP Olson did not change the name in one section to David Jones. County Clerk Connie Doss will take care of the correction before it is signed and recorded.

A resolution confirming Amy Leivan to the Eastern Carroll County Ambulance District Commission was approved with JP Matt Phillips making a motion and JP Marty Johnson seconding the motion. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

A resolution approving the appointment of Nancy Wood to the Carroll County Library Board was approved with a motion by JP Craig Hicks and second by JP Matt Phillips. It was commented that Ms. Wood would be representing the rural area of Western Carroll County for a 5 year term.

JP Larry Swofford made a motion to accept resolution that would approve the 2020 calendar year proportionate share agreement for act 1219 of 2011 State District Court Program for Carroll County. It was explained that the amount of \$16,757.15 was the County's share for District Judges working in the county. JP Matt Phillips seconded the motion and the resolution carried in a roll call vote.

JP Jack Deaton made a motion to allow vacation pay to a long time employee in lieu of taking the time off. It was explained that due to personnel shortage in the Circuit Clerk's office in Western District, it was difficult for the employee to take the time off this year. JP Roger Hall seconded the motion and it was approved.

An Ordinance adopting rules for emergency furloughs in the Carroll County Detention Center was passed after discussion and questions concerning the ordinance. JP Harrie Farrow asked if the hospital was comfortable with this ordinance and was told that they were. She also asked about the danger or risk associated with allow emergency furloughs for ill inmates and Major Jerry Williams with the Sheriff's Department responded that these were inmates who were too ill to be housed in a jail facility. JP Jack Deaton further clarified that the inmate who would be furloughed immediately under this ordinance was too ill to be a risk. The county currently has to provide a detention officer to sit at the hospital which increases comp time. JP Jack Deaton made the motion before discussion to approve the measure and JP Matt Phillips seconded the motion. All JP's present approved the ordinance.

Several checks and payments had been made to the county either as reimbursements for county paid insurances while an employee was out on unpaid leave or through errors in billings. The ordinance on the agenda next would put those funds back into their respective funds and budget line items so that the departments could use the funds to pay subsequent bills. JP Chuck Olson made the motion and JP Craig Hicks seconded the motion. All JP's voted for the ordinance by roll call.

The annual ordinance to approve and levy taxes and millages for tax year 2019 to be collected in 2020 was approved. JP Larry Swofford made the motion to accept and JP Jack Deaton seconded the motion. JP Don McNeely abstained from the vote as he is on a committee for the City of Green Forest. Other than JP Howerton's absence, all the rest of the JPs voted for the measure.

JP Jack Deaton made the motion for the ordinance to establish the Annual Operating Budget for Calendar Year 2020. JP Matt Phillips seconded the motion. There was no discussion or questions and the ordinance passed.

Another annual ordinance was next on the agenda. The ordinance establishes the compensation for all county elected positions. Since it had not been done for several years, the ordinance also sought to include the 2019 salary figures along with the 2020 new salaries. JP Jack Deaton made the motion and JP Marty Johnson seconded the motion. The vote carried with all JPs present voting in favor.

During budget committee meetings, three positions were requested and funds were put into the departments to add the positions. By ordinance the positions needed to be added by the Quorum Court. JP Matt Phillips made the motion and JP Chuck Olson seconded the motion. All voted in favor with the exception of JP Marty Johnson whose spouse works for one of the departments requesting an additional clerk. He voted to abstain. The measure passed for all three positions to be added with the first pay period of 2020.

The annual ordinance to approve the contribution of local matching funds to the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District was approved. JP Jack Deaton made the motion and JP Matt Phillips seconded. JP Jack Deaton said that the NWAEDD helped with rural grants.

JP Craig Hicks made a motion to the ordinance that acknowledges and authorized the county's continued use of certain 1099-Misc contractors under AR Code Annotated 14-14-1202 which is the ethics code for elected officials and governmental employees. JP Jack Deaton seconded. JP Larry Swofford asked County Clerk Connie Doss to give an explanation as to the necessity of the ordinance and she offered to the Court that this had been a year long process to gather information on those employees who also do contract work for the county or were related to someone who did contract work for the county. Contracts for those listed in the ordinance was obtained where appropriate. She also explained that she had caught the situation before the auditors had, but that the auditors were zealous this year and found the situation(s) as well. This ordinance would correct the issue. JP Larry Swofford used his own situation as an example to further explain. JP Harrie Farrow wanted to remove the emergency clause and have it taken to a public meeting. No move was made on either. With JP Marty Johnson abstaining and JP Larry Swofford abstaining and JP John Howerton absent, the motion did pass with remaining JPs voting in favor of the ordinance.

In JP Comments, JP Jack Deaton said that the meetings in January 2020 and February 2020 would fall on Federal Holidays and would need to be moved. He made a motion and JP Don McNeely seconded the motion to move the January and February meetings forward one

week. JP Deaton said this would also give the County Clerk's office more time to finish up the year end process. The January meeting will be moved from January 20<sup>th</sup> to January 27<sup>th</sup>. The February meeting will be moved from February 17<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>. A voice vote carried the change in dates.

JP Chuck Olson told JPs that the hope was that Harness Roofing would be working Christmas week to fix the roof over the Courtroom. JP Don McNeely wanted to thank the Budget Committee for all of the work that they put into the 2020 Budget. JP Matt Phillips added that he also wanted to thank all of the county employees for their work this year.

Judge Sam Barr also added his thanks and appreciation to the hours of work the budget committee put into the budget process. He then entertained a motion to adjourn. JP Matt Phillips made the motion to adjourn. JP Jack Deaton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.