

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS  
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

The Carroll County Quorum Court held their regular meeting on Monday, February 25, 2019 in the Eastern District Courthouse in Berryville. All Quorum Court Members were present. Members, Jaxston Hill & Nathan Edwards, of 4-H were once again in attendance and offered the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Judge Sam Barr at 5:00pm.

QC Member John Howerton made a motion to accept the Journal of Proceedings from the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with a second from Matt Phillips. A vote was taken with all members affirming the motion.

There were no changes to the Agenda nor were there any Public Comments.

City Building Inspector Carl Goines sponsored by JP Chuck Olson came to speak with JPs about existing electrical problems in the Eastern District Courthouse, Berryville. He brought a double outlet attached to a heavy extension cord that was hooked up to the breaker box in the County Clerk's office to demonstrate the situation. Mr. Goines suggested that JPs consider a walk through inspection done by a qualified electrician. The fee would be \$500 and an ordinance would have to be issued for the inspection fee. Conversation ensued concerning why it isn't done yearly, why insurance hasn't caught the problem, and it simply needs to be done. JP Larry Swofford said he would sponsor the Ordinance at the next meeting to have the inspection done at the suggested fee of \$500.

Sam Ward came back to continue the discussion about the need for upgrading the county's radio system. The P25 or AWINS System came about 6 years ago with the Western Ambulance District. The repeaters are no longer made. The county has a high radio frequency demand where it has been known to not allow contact with Dispatch. The county is in the 154-175 frequency range and needs to move to the 700-800 spectrum frequency. Mr. Ward brought figures of two 10 year payouts of \$591,000 and \$588,000 a year to consider. The question of whether grants were available came up with Mr. Ward saying that he has checked but with no success. The upgrade would likely be a mandate within the next 2 years. The project could be a two year project with milestones. JP Craig Hicks asked if the City of Berryville has been consulted as city Chief of Police would likely not want to spend the money. Mr. Ward reiterated that the system was backward compatible. JP Don McNeely didn't want to do any work that would be temporary while it was felt by several JPs that there should be a shared responsibility for infrastructure. The cities of Carroll County do not currently pay support for the towers and are responsible for their own radios. JP Jack Deaton suggested that it was time to brainstorm with other departments, chiefs of police, and mayors. He also thought there should be a buy back or trade in program on some equipment. JPs thanked Sam Ward for his continued work on the project.

There was no Old Business to discuss.

In New Business the following Resolutions and Ordinances were presented:

A motion by JP McNeely and seconded by JP Olson and approved by all members of the Quorum Court was accomplished on a resolution to approve the appointment of Diana Sturtz as a board member to the Carroll County Library Department Board of Trustees #2019-02. A brief discussion as to Ms. Sturtz's qualifications was had before the voice vote was taken.

JP Matt Phillips sponsored a resolution #2019-03 confirming the appointment of Chris Trask to the Eastern Carroll County Ambulance District Commission for a three-year term. JP Phillips moved to approve the appointment and seconded by JP McNeely. Mr. Trask is replacing Joann Griesenhauer who had to step down. Mr. Trask is the retired Fire Chief of Green Forest and a first responder. The motion carried with all approving the resolution.

JP Jack Deaton sponsored resolution # 2019-04 authorizing the County Judge to apply for a grant on behalf of the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District. A motion was made to approve the resolution by JP Deaton for the \$15,000 request for aid via a grant request to the Arkansas Rural Development Commission and seconded by JPs Chuck Olson & Matt Phillips. Discussion concerning the resolution concerned the 69 miles of road that is maintained by HISID.

Ordinance # 2019-08 approving, levying, and amending Ordinance 2018-43 was presented to assess tax for the Bluffs at Jackson Ridge Subordinate Service District for the year 2019. Sponsor Chuck Olson made a motion to approve letting JPs know that this SSD was left off of the original ordinance. JP Larry Swofford seconded the motion and a voice vote approved the ordinance with all JPs voting to approve.

A supplemental ordinance #2019-09 re-approving funding for a project being completed at the Berryville Heritage Historical Museum Community Center Room was next on the agenda. The project included work to be done by Warren Welding but was not started before the end of the financial year so funds for the work reverted back to the County General and had to be re-appropriated for the current budget year. The original ordinance is 2018-33. JP Larry Swofford made a motion to approve with JP Marty Johnson seconding the motion. All JPs approved the measure by voice vote.

Appropriation Ordinance #2019-10 is another where funds from the 2018 budget were not used before the end of the budget year so it was requested for use in the 2019 budget for updating software, training, and equipment upgrades. JP Jack Deaton made the motion to approve with JP Matt Phillips seconding the motion. All JPs approved the measure by voice vote.

A supplemental appropriation #2019-11 amending the 2019 budget ordinance was sponsored by JP Chuck Olson. The appropriation request was for \$50,000 to be placed into the Courthouse Fund (1800-0111-4002) to cover costs of exterior and interior repairs at the Eastern District Courthouse. The motion was made by JP Olson and seconded by JP Deaton. JP Roger Hall asked if some of the funds could be used for the electrical work that will likely be necessary. A voice vote was taken with all approving.

Ordinance 2019-12 is in response to advance payment by the Carroll County Airport for work done due to storm damage. The insurance settlement was received by the county so funds could be disbursed to the Airport in the amount of \$7,000. JP Jack Deaton made a motion to approve with JP Marty Johnson making a second. The motion was approved by all Quorum Court members.

Ordinances 2019-13, 2019-14, & 2019-15 were presented and deal with salary modifications for the departments of Sheriff, Detention, and 911 Dispatch Services. Motions in all three ordinances were made by JP Jack Deaton to approve with JP Olson seconding 2019-13 & 2019-15. JP Matt Phillips seconded #2019-14. Ordinance for the Sheriff's department allowed for savings to the county and was approved by voice vote of all JPs. JP Larry Swofford was concerned with monies reserved for comp time in Detention. Major Jerry Williams spoke from the gallery about this need to due state required staffing and the transitory nature of demands to the department when transportation of prisoners is requested. JP Craig Hicks insisted that nobody knows how to run detention like the department heads that are there. JP Larry Swofford was the dissenting vote with all other JPs approving the measure 10-1. Due to an addition error on the 2019 budget ordinance under part-time salaries in the Department of 911 services, ordinance 2019-15 required an additional \$4,819.25 to be appropriated to that department. Due to salary modifications and the error, did not require the full amount of the addition error. All Quorum Court members approved the measure by voice vote.

Under JP Comments:

JP Chuck Olson said that he has the bids for guttering and roofing repair and will present them to the Budget Committee.

JP Jack Deaton reported that a budget meeting will be set up to discuss JP Olson's bids, the number of supplemental meetings required and appropriate compensation for the extra committee meetings.

JP John Howerton said that he has been attending the Carroll County Airport Commission meetings and can answer any questions.

JP Larry Swofford said the personnel committee didn't want to pit department heads against each other if were asked to be on a grievance committee. Judge Barr said he'd like the grievance committee to be the whole Quorum Court. JP Marty Johnson said any grievances would refer back to the QC anyway. JP Larry Swofford reiterated that the county was an "at-will" employer and that employees had signed that they had read the employee handbook but could still come to the QC if not happy with the outcome of the committee. JP Harrie Farrow expressed concern again about the diversity of the QC bringing comments from several QC members that they felt they could be open-minded as elected officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm with a motion by JP Kellie Matt and seconded by JP Don McNeely. County Judge Sam Barr adjourned the meeting after the vote.