

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT**  
**APRIL 2, 2020**  
**Regular Meeting of April 20, 2020 is Cancelled**

This meeting replaces the regular meeting that is held on the third Monday of the month. The change was due to COVID-19 concerns and the first positive case in Carroll County. Press was notified of the change. The meeting was recorded in audio format and a copy made available to the press (CCN/KTHS). The meeting was held at the Road Department facility at 93 Homestyle Drive, Berryville at 5:00pm. A quorum was present with JP John Howerton and JP Marty Johnson present via telephone. JP Larry Swofford was absent. County Judge Sam Barr asked if JP Matt Phillips would lead those assembled with the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order by Judge Barr at approximately 5:05pm. JP Jack Deaton asked to have the disposition of the Journal Proceedings set aside for the May meeting. There were no changes to the agenda, no public comment, and nothing under Miscellaneous.

In Old Business, an ordinance to provide third party medical services for inmates was once again introduced with JP Deaton making a motion to accept and JP Don McNeely seconding. JP Deaton explained that it had been tabled at the last meeting but was being resubmitted because the bid would have expired before June. He also explained that funds were being pulled from the Sheriff's budget to help pay for the medical service and transferred to the Detention Center's line item. County General funds would also be appropriated to cover the difference. JP Harrie Farrow asked if the Quorum Court didn't do this at this time whether the bid would go up. Sheriff Jim Ross responded that he didn't know but that it would be likely. JP Farrow also wondered if the expense would increase due to COVID-19 and the Sheriff didn't know, but it seemed likely to him. JP Craig Hicks said that he had wanted it tabled before, but felt more comfortable with the situation after discussing it in committee that morning and said that if the County Treasurer and Sheriff were comfortable with it then he was. JP McNeely asked when it would go into effect and the response was May 1<sup>st</sup>. JP Kellie Matt asked if Prosecuting Attorney Tony Rogers was in agreement with the ordinance and he responded that it looked good to him. JP Chuck Olson said that it was a one year contract so it could be re-evaluated next year. The ordinance passed with nine voting in favor and two absent (at that time JP Marty Johnson was unavailable by phone).

In New Business, Ordinance 2007-40 was rescinded and replaced with an ordinance whose language was almost the same. After a move by JP Hicks and seconded by JP Deaton, it was explained that this ordinance goes hand in hand with the third party healthcare plan and companies liked to see an ordinance in place that set co-pay fees for seeing healthcare professionals and prescription drugs. The new ordinance adjusts the fees and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Allgood pointed out to the group that an inmate could not be denied the ability to receive care because they couldn't pay and that provision was in the ordinance. JP Olson asked about what the commissary fund was and a response from Major Jerry Williams was it is an amount that the inmate's family will voluntarily deposit into an account for their incarcerated family member to pay for services. JP Harrie Farrow asked if the \$10 co-pay for prescription drugs was a one time fee and Major Williams said that it was per occurrence. He also indicated that in the event of a medical emergency, the inmate was not charged. The fees were for inmate initiated requests versus an emergency. JP Olson asked about the provision for the Prosecuting Attorney getting the "bill" for the inmate so that it could be added to the fine. The measure passed with a roll call vote. All Justices present and on the phone voted in favor.

A motion by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Olson for an Access Control System upgrade/replacement at the Detention Center bought discussion from JP Deaton explaining that this proposal had been in the Detention Center's 2020 budget request and the committee had

pulled it from their budget in October. He continued with the part-time nurses' salaries would go back to the sales tax fund (3400) to free up money for the project as the nurses would be hired by Turn-Key Health. JP Don McNeely asked what an access control system entailed and JP Deaton responded with an explanation that it took care of the control mechanism for the doors and the intercom system because it was a requirement for the type of indirect supervision that the Detention Center had been approved to utilize. JP Kellie Matt said that she had thought about this since the committee meeting that was held that morning and at the time was in favor, but now felt that the funds might be needed for COVID supplies. JP Marty Johnson who was on the phone seconded JP Matt's comments and thought it needed to be tabled. JP Farrow said that this was not dispensable but was necessary and important in light of the system failures that had been happening. Sheriff Ross was asked to speak on the subject and he reminded that JPs were sent an email several months ago concerning an outage. He said it took their IT person over an hour to get the system to restart. He said the IT person was on the phone with the company and testing several pathways in order to get the system up and had done it at no charge because of the emergency situation. He reminded Justices that the current system has been running 24/7 since the building was put into service and that it had been money well spent. To replace the system with direct supervision type of administration would be costly. JP Hicks interjected with the county not having enough employees to do direct supervision. Sheriff Ross invited Justices to visit any time. JP Marty Johnson said that because of COVID that everyone had to do things they didn't want to and make necessary sacrifices at least for a month. Sheriff Ross responded that they were already working with less in their budget and JP Johnson said that everyone was in a new reality and it needed to be tabled for a month. JP Jack Deaton responded that he agreed with JP Johnson with a lot of what was being said but that it is an emergency situation and if something happened and the system failed, the Detention Center would have to go direct. If manpower was reduced due to COVID then the Detention Center would rely even more heavily on the system so it was important to get it functioning properly now. JP McNeely said that he had toured facilities and he didn't feel there was a choice. JP Kellie Matt said that tax payers were tightening their own budgets and she no longer felt comfortable approving this ordinance. She said she had to ask herself which was more important; the healthcare ordinance or the control access ordinance. JP Deaton reminded Justices that the healthcare ordinance and the control access comes from two different funds and said that the Detention Center sales tax did have excess funds not appropriated and that the fund could spend the money to get this project done. With JP Swofford being absent the roll call vote was eight for the ordinance and two in opposition. The measure passed.

Judge Sam Barr asked if JPs had any comments and JP Deaton reminded Justices that County Clerk Connie Doss had sent out the information on the road tax a few months ago, but reiterated that if it did not pass in November the county would lose \$526K, Berryville \$125K, Green Forest \$48K, Eureka Springs \$64K, and Oak Grove \$8,600. He said that there had been a town hall informational meeting as well. Judge Barr acknowledged Sheriff Ross who once again said that the Sheriff's department was giving up part of their budget to make all of this work and he thanked everyone. The Judge reminded everyone that the road department, too, had given up part of its budget in order to get the road graders. The Sheriff said that there were other projects that needed to get started and that his department would pinch pennies.

Judge Barr entertained a motion to adjourn which was given by JP Matt Phillips and seconded by JP Harrie Farrow. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.