

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JANUARY 27, 2020**

The first meeting of the year for the Carroll County Quorum Court was held on January 27, 2020 at 5:00pm in the Eastern District Courthouse in Berryville. Members of 4H were present to lead the group in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Arley Birchfield from the Grandview Club led the Pledge and Matti Walker of Farewell and the Teen Leadership Club led the Invocation. Carroll County Judge Sam Barr called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and asked County Clerk Connie Doss to do roll call. All Justices of the Peace were present. JP Chuck Olson made a motion to accept the previous month's Journal of Proceedings and JP Don McNeely seconded. With no objections, the Journal was accepted. JP Don McNeely requested to have Item "A" – a Resolution to accept the resignation of Diana Sturtz and appoint Teresa Swallow as a Carroll County Library Department Board member was pulled because the Board had not met yet to accept Ms. Sturtz's resignation. It should appear on the February agenda should the Library Board request. JP Jack Deaton asked to have a resolution added as Item "E" – A Resolution to Approve the County judge of Carroll County to Apply for an Arkansas Rural Community Grant for the Purpose of Constructing an Equipment Shed. Both items were approved as changes by showing of hands. There were no public comments.

Under Miscellaneous, Ms. Barb Weems, the Co-Founder and current Director of the Purple Flower and sponsored by JP Harrie Farrow brought the Quorum Court up to date on what has been happening at the Purple Flower. The Purple Flower is a domestic violence advocacy center and was founded as a grass roots effort in 2014. In 2019 the center served 100 victims and has four part-time employees that are paid in part through a VOCA Grant that they received. Their empowerment model of advocacy is there to support victims versus telling them what they should do. The center has a hot-line phone, emergency transport, housing support (but is not a shelter of their own), court advocate, and is working on partnering with NWA Shelter in an effort to serve a broader area. They are also working on a bi-lingual partnership to assist the underserved population of the county. JP John Howerton asked if the group was 100% privately funded and while it was at the beginning, the VOCA grant was the first Federal grant that had been received and that it is a renewable grant if certain criteria and standards continued to be met. JP Harrie Farrow asked about the relationship between the Purple Flower and law enforcement. Ms. Weems said that she had had a meeting with Sheriff Ross and Major Jerry Williams recently that went very well. JP Don McNeely asked how they gauge success and the response was it was a matter of perception.

In Old Business, a continued discussion concerning medical care for the Detention Center ensued. JP Harrie Farrow gave the Justices a brief review and update on what has been discussed in previous meetings. JP Deaton asked attorney Thomas Allgood with the Prosecuting Attorney's office his take on the situation. He told everyone that he had not gotten an Attorney General's opinion yet and that there was currently not one on the books concerning if the sales tax money that takes care of the operation of the facility could be used to fund a third party company that provides medical care to inmates. JP Deaton had voiced the concern due to the wording of the ordinance and subsequent ballot vote and that if sales tax funds could not be used for this purpose than the funds would have to come from County General. JP Larry Swofford inquired about whether the county would be saving any money through this initiative and JP Deaton thought it was almost even money. JP Harrie Farrow thought the savings would be in potential lawsuits and liability. The current doctor is a volunteer and it was said that the vendor would carry the responsibility versus the county. JP Larry Swofford agreed with the need, but did not agree that the county would have no liability. JP Don McNeely said that Rainwater said that counties needed to get out of the healthcare business and JP Farrow reiterated that the county would be more liable if we didn't do something. JP Deaton said that this situation was in the planning stage and that bids would need to be procured before an ordinance to fund could be

done. JP Howerton agreed that it was time to get bids. A motion by JP Harrie Farrow for the Sheriff to get bids was seconded by JP Swofford. All were in favor.

A motion to accept an ordinance approving the forgiveness of a debt established by Ordinance 2012-9 to purchase a leasehold interest in land adjacent to the airport was made by JP Olson and seconded by JP Deaton. JP Olson said that the \$7,004 debt forgiveness was part of the budgetary planning process and JP Farrow added that this was in lieu of adding more to the Airport's budget for 2020. A voice vote was taken with all JPs voting in favor of accepting the ordinance.

The Western District District Court requested additional funds to have a bailiff for court days. It was explained by JP Matt that Judge Dale Ramsey had not had a bailiff on certain days for a number of years and that there was a need due to safety issues. The motion was made by JP Kellie Matt and seconded by JP Phillips. All JPs approved the measure by voice vote.

JP Jack Deaton made a motion that was seconded by JP Marty Johnson to accept a supplemental appropriation ordinance putting reimbursed funds back into certain line items. Funds included reimbursements for COBRA, insurance premiums paid by employees on unpaid extended leave, election commissioners' meeting pay reimbursements for off-site training, a refund for a check cashed by another business that had to be returned, and a refund for previously purchased equipment in the County Clerk's office that was returned. A voice vote approved the measure.

The added resolution for the County Judge to apply for a grant on behalf of the Road Department was approved after a motion was made by JP Marty Johnson and seconded by JP John Howerton. JP Jack Deaton said that this would be a pole type shed for the county road department to park trucks that had been loaded in advance to keep certain materials dry before it was used (ie: salt for snow removal). It was also said that the "in-kind" part of the grant requirements would include the land work necessary to situate the building. The expected cost would be \$30-40,000.

JP Comments included: JP Kellie Matt mentioning that the Purple Flower does take cash donations. JP Marty Phillips {Johnson} requested a change to his contact information. JP John Howerton gave a quick update on the Carroll County Airport and its need to rent land to construct more hangars which was in negotiations, completion of the Master Plan which is done every 10-15 years, and that the survey that was being done by the FAA would likely recommend that the airport acquire more land. JP Jack Deaton said he would be attending an informational meeting in Harrison, AR concerning the renewal of the half-cent sales tax and if not renewed the county alone would stand to lose about \$526,000 in funds. This would be on top of what cities would lose. JP Marty Johnson requested to be removed from his obligation on the Personnel Committee because his spouse was a county employee. The request was granted. JP Chuck Olson told JPs that the bids for the boiler for the Detention Center would be opened on January 31st and that the budget and facilities committees would need to meet. The Judge's comments included the list of committee appointments which brought a couple more needed changes. He mentioned the purchase of a vehicle that was felt to not be in compliance with purchasing rules and audit guidelines. JP Jack Deaton made a motion to adjourn and JP Matt Phillips seconded. The meeting was adjourned.