

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JULY 31, 2020**

The Quorum Court held their regular meeting at the Carroll County Courthouse, Berryville. This was a rescheduled meeting from the July 20th meeting due to COVID 19 considerations. It was also a hybrid meeting of in-person and Zoom platform video conferencing. Both JP Don McNeely and JP Harrie Farrow attended via Zoom. JP Marty Johnson was absent, and the remaining JPs attended in-person. The meeting was live streamed through YouTube (with reported audio difficulties) and a monitor set up in the lobby with the live stream for public access. The Sheriff's dept., County Treasurer Makita Williams, and Thomas Allgood from the Prosecuting Attorney's office also attended via Zoom. Masks were required and social distancing was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Invocation was offered. Roll Call was conducted at 5:05pm. JP Jack Deaton made a motion to accept the Journal of Proceedings from the June 15, 2020 meeting and JP Larry Swofford made a second. All present and on Zoom agreed to accept the Journal.

JP John Howerton made a motion to add two items to the Agenda. Under Miscellaneous, he wanted to sponsor Robert Anderson of R&R Towing and under New Business, JP Howerton added an ordinance for the renewal of a line of credit that the Airport has through a local bank. JP Swofford seconded the motion and all present were in favor of the changes.

There were no public comments. In Miscellaneous, Robert Anderson of R&R Towing wanted to discuss an incident that he had at a traffic stop during his personal hours. He said that he had been taken off of the business rotation he felt as a result of actions of the stop. JP Kellie Matt asked for documents he may have of the incident and the rules governing how the state/county handles rotation of Towing companies to the Sheriff's dept. He handed JP Matt some paperwork. JP Deaton asked if Mr. Anderson was still on the state list and he said he was. JP Olson asked if a citation was issued and it was. Mr. Anderson said he got out of his vehicle because he feared there would not be social distancing. JP Craig Hicks said that a deputy has ample space to social distance from the person in the vehicle. Major Jerry Williams was asked to elaborate and he said the incident was several month ago before the mask mandate. Mr. Anderson said he also had a witness and video of the incident.

Next Starlene Myers with the Carroll County Historical Society spoke about the current needs at the Old Courthouse building on the square. Among items needed are that the handicap ramp needs to be painted, designated HC parking space, signage, and a 36 in. door & frame with threshold. They have a volunteer who can install the door. They would also like a bathroom in the community room space that they would try to work on grants to accomplish. JP Kellie Matt said that the County should help with the costs. JP Jack Deaton pointed out that in 2017 \$9,000 was appropriated for the ramp and the work did not get done. In 2018, it was appropriated again and still not completed. In 2019, it was done again and with changes that the City of Berryville making changes to the ramp design without consent of the Quorum Court that also cost additional funds to the County.

There was no old business.

In new business JP Howerton made a motion and JP Chuck Olson seconded to approve a resolution that would allow the Judge to apply on behalf of the Carroll County Airport a grant from the FAA that would continue work that is being done and this grant would be for runway and taxiway edge lights. JP Howerton said that this was continuation of current work to improve the Airport facilities and JP Olson said the Airport needed to stay updated and to take advantage of these grants whenever they could. The resolution was approved.

Commissioners at The Bluffs at Jackson Cove needed to be approved for their 3 year terms. Commissioner C. Lewis Jones' initial term had expired in 2019, but he continued to work

on the Commission so he will finish out the term. The other position had remained open during the last year, so Charlie Charlton will begin his 3 year term in August 2020. The resolution was approved after a motion was made by JP Olson and seconded by JP Swofford.

An employee at the Road Department has requested to be paid versus taking time off for the accumulated vacation pay that he would lose if not used. The Road Department did not require additional funds to be appropriated. JP Howerton made the motion to accept and JP Matt Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was in favor of the ordinance.

The next ordinance dealt with funds received by the state and school districts as reimbursements for their share of the primary election in 2020. The funds would go back to the line item of Machinery & Equipment to defray the costs of a ballot printer that had been purchased to help with the November 2020 demand for absentee ballots. JP Jack Deaton made the motion; JP Matt Phillips seconded and the ordinance was passed by all members present.

The Carroll County Fair was granted their \$4,000 request for funds to continue their work of remodeling facilities at the fairgrounds. The grant money needed to be appropriated to its proper line item. JP Howerton made the motion; JP Craig Hicks made the second and the measure was passed.

Circuit Clerk Ramona Wilson requested that funds from her Recorder's Cost Fund be appropriated so she could upgrade/update her computers in both the Eastern & Western District offices. JP Chuck Olson said that this was both important and essential. JP Deaton said that Mrs. Wilson already has more than enough in this fund and that it just needed to be moved to the expense side. JP Deaton made the motion; JP Olson seconded. The measure passed with all present.

Lastly, JP Howerton had added and asked it be approved in principle the renewal of the line of credit that the Carroll County Airport has with a local bank. The current balance is \$10,131.89 as of 7/30/2020. He also says that the Airport has plans moving forward to pay this line of credit off and maybe use funds from the CARES Act that they were given in the spring. County Clerk Connie Doss will type up the resolution for the Judge to sign. JP Howerton made the motion to accept and JP Swofford seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

In JP Comments JP Phillips informed the group that the Health Department finally will be granted funds to do some updating of facilities at the Department. JP Deaton said that tax revenue was in good shape and that Covid 19 absences were up among county employees. JP Olson informed the Quorum Court that the roof on the Eastern District Courthouse had leaked in the corner of the County Clerk's office and the Juvenile Probation's office. He had been told that most of the work the roofing company had to do should be covered under warranty. JP McNeely inquired as to the Judge's health after testing positive and recovering from Covid 19. He also asked if Justices were performing marriages. A conversation ensued about the appropriateness of the conversation. JP Swofford said that JP Marty Johnson had checked with the Association of AR Counties some time back who told him that the position can marry people, but it is not an obligation and had to marry anyone who asked. JP Harrie Farrow told everyone that JP Comments was not the time for questions and dialog. She also asked that the discussion to voting period be slowed down to take into account those members attending virtually.

The Judge commented that he hoped everyone stayed safe and healthy.

Judge Sam Barr entertained a motion to adjourn and JP Matt Phillips made that motion. JP Larry Swofford seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.