

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
MARCH 30, 2020
Emergency Meeting**

An emergency meeting of the Quorum Court was convened at 93 Homestyle Drive, Berryville aka Carroll County Road Department facility at 5:00pm. The meeting was held at this location as it is large enough for Justices and other attendees to practice social distancing in the wake of the COVID-19 health emergency and temperatures were checked. The meeting was audio recorded. All Justices with the exception of Marty Johnson, Roger Hall, and John Howerton were present. A quorum was declared with eight of the eleven members present. Road Department Foreman Jim Kelley was asked by County Judge Sam Barr to lead the group in prayer and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm and roll call was taken.

A change in the agenda was approved and item “D” was added that concerned contracted healthcare for the Detention Center inmates. Also present was Prosecuting Attorney Tony Rogers and Chief PA Craig Parker who inquired as to whether the change in the agenda was necessary and JP Harrie Farrow said that medical coverage was important. PA Rogers suggested that meetings needed to be “tight” right now and stick to what was on the agenda and not have items on the agenda that could wait.

A revised ordinance concerning county leave during the COVID public health emergency was passed. Chief PA Craig Parker asked if the amendment that he had sent to the Judge’s office was the one that had been passed and it was discovered that it was not. A motion was made by JP Harrie Farrow and seconded by JP Chuck Olson to amend the previous decision to the corrected ordinance. The difference between the two ordinances was in how the paragraphs were numbered. No language was changed but Chief PA Craig Parker did explain how changing the paragraph numbers allowed for Sunset clauses to be in their proper place in the ordinance and then what was covered first under FMLA and then under when the Governor declares the emergency. Justices asked that a copy be sent to them of the amended ordinance and all were amenable to the explanation. A vote was taken with all present accepting the amended document. This ordinance will supersede the previous ordinance 2020-11.

The Department of Emergency Management made purchases of masks and supplies that may be needed in the coming weeks to get distributed to first responders and other county health professionals in the field as explained by JP Deaton. He had made a motion to accept the ordinance with a second from JP Swofford. The ordinance was accepted through a roll call vote.

The County nor the Road Department could no longer afford to lease road graders as explained by JP Deaton. He spoke briefly about the fact that the graders for auction discussed at the previous meeting had been pulled from the auction because they weren’t getting the price they were seeking. This meant that Road Foreman Jim Kelley had to begin again with searching for graders that are in good condition with low hours and with some warranty. He was able to locate eight graders and John Deere financing at 2.25% for 60 months. With some belt tightening as explained, the road department could go with a purchase option. JP McNeely said that he spoke with someone who said that if taken care of a machine could go 25 years. With that a roll call vote was taken with the motion made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Matt Phillips.

Item “D” is an ordinance that was added by JP Deaton. The ordinance concerns the need for a third-party medical provider to take care of the inmates at the Detention Center. A motion

was made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Farrow. In discussion it was explained that two bids had been procured and the funds to pay for this would have to come from County General versus being able to use the sales tax fund. JP Deaton continued with the Sheriff's department needing to squeeze funds from their budget to pay for this service. JP Swofford asked if there would be a cost savings by going this route. There was no answer. JP Chuck Olson inquired about the two part-time nurses on staff in the detention center and using that money. The nurses are paid from the sales tax and those funds could not be transferred to County General to pay for the service. JP Craig Hicks made a motion to table the issue until June. JP Larry Swofford seconded the motion and said that if the county didn't know what kind of money was coming in then it wouldn't be wise to do this until it was known it could be paid for. JP Farrow said that the medical coverage was important and the county would be held liable if the county didn't have adequate healthcare and there was a COVID-19 outbreak. JP Olson asked if there was medical insurance on the inmates and Sheriff Jim Ross responded that there wasn't. Treasurer said that inmate were charged or banked a certain amount in fees to take care of any health issues that may arise. Major Jerry Williams said that there was a co-pay that is in effect by ordinance. JP Farrow asked if there was any COVID coverage on any level (governmental) and Judge Barr said there wasn't. JP Swofford said he didn't want to approve an expenditure for something that couldn't be paid for later. Judge Barr brought the Court back to order by asking for a voice vote to be taken. Judge Barr then asked for a roll call vote and all Justices, except JP Farrow, voted to table the ordinance.

Under JP Comments Matt Phillips read a message from Health Department Director Lisa Holt letting Justices know that there were still no known cases of COVID-19 in Carroll County. She said that Judge Barr would be the first notified, then the Mayor if the person affected lived in a city. She again reminded everyone to limit exposure. The question was asked if the county was receiving any support from the state. JP Deaton responded that only counties that have cases are receiving any funding from the state. JP Kellie Matt asked if the hospital was ready and JP Matt Phillips said that the health department and hospital were working side by side. JP Don McNeeley asked if the ordinance about inmate healthcare had been tabled until June and it was confirmed by Justices.

JP Matt Phillips made a motion to adjourn and JP Kellie Matt seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40pm.