

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

The Quorum Court held their regular meeting at the Road Department located at 93 Homestyle Drive, next to the Kings River Bridge on Hwy 62, Berryville. The meeting was audio recorded and a portable mic system utilized to allow participants to hear better. Social distancing and masks wearing was observed. This was an In-Person meeting. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was done and Judge Sam Barr brought the meeting to order at approximately 5:03pm. Roll call was taken by County Clerk Connie Doss with all Justices being present except for JP Marty Johnson. Among others present were Treasurer Makita Williams, Sheriff Jim Ross, and several members of the public. JP Larry Swofford asked that the previous month's Journal be approved and JP Chuck Olson seconded the motion. All approved with a voice vote. There were no changes to the agenda.

Under public comments, Starlene Lee of the Carroll County Historical Society took the opportunity to inform the Court about the Resolution that was on the agenda as well as work being done on other grants to make improvements to the 1880 Courthouse on the Berryville Square. Johanna Edwards with the Community Group that is also working on the Community Room at the old courthouse spoke about the handicap ramp and apologized for the miscommunication that resulted in additional costs for the ramp. She brought those assembled cookies custom made by her daughter.

In Old Business, JP Harrie Farrow wanted to have a discussion that had been tabled from the previous month concerning how meetings should be conducted going forward during the continued concerns with Covid 19. Judge Barr asked for a vote of the members to have the discussion. It was approved. JP Farrow felt that Zoom wasn't working and wasn't sure what the answer was, but it needed to be a discussion to have. JP Olson said that the meetings could continue to be held at the Road Department shop and liked the face-to-face contact format. He inquired as to if Zoom could be done at the Road Department. County Clerk Connie Doss said that the space was not good due to the metal building and not having good WiFi service. County Clerk Connie Doss did bring up that Southern Heights had offered to have Quorum Court meetings at their church. JP Swofford told the Court that Covid did put a whole new spin and in the past if a member was sick they couldn't vote in person. He felt voting in person was best. JP Deaton said that the Governor's Executive Proclamation made it possible to have remote meetings or even conference calls that were simple to set up. JP Farrow said that meetings by Zoom would make it where no one was absent. She also asked if the Road Department was heated and whether the church building would be big enough. She asked if the meeting place and time could be decided via emails. JP Hicks said that several churches would allow us to use their fellowship halls. He said that Southern Heights did have good internet service and would be comfortable. JP Farrow wondered about whether a place of worship could be used. The discussion continued that voting took place in churches so there shouldn't be a problem. JP Deaton asked to be able to make a motion to see if JP Hicks would ask Southern Heights if the Quorum Court could use their church to have meetings. JP Swofford seconded the motion and all members voted their approval.

Under New Business, a resolution approving the County Judge to enter into a grant agreement on behalf of the Carroll County Historical Society to procure an architectural survey of the county owned 1880 Courthouse on the square was read by sponsor JP Matt. JP Phillips asked if the grant was a 100% grant and it is. JP Farrow asked that the Resolution be revised to and stated for the record to include that it was for the Eastern District Courthouse. A motion was not made to change the wording of the Resolution. A roll call vote was taken with JP Jack Deaton voting "Nay". The remaining nine members voted "Yea". The motion was made by JP Matt and seconded by JP McNeely.

An appropriation ordinance to purchase and install a split unit air conditioner was approved. JP Deaton said that he had not been in favor of the need of additional units for offices, but had learned that due to today's electronic needs, it was necessary in order to keep the equipment cool. The electronics needed to have a separate temperature controlled environment. He also noted that he had priced several and that this would be a reimbursed expenditure because it was being used for the Tax Collector's equipment. A motion was made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Phillips.

Funds received as reimbursement for the March 2020 Primary was approved with a motion by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Phillips. Also received by the Treasurer was funds from employee COBRA payments that needed to be added to the respective departmental line items to balance. JP Farrow asked in the discussion whether the third "Whereas" was correct and it was because there was a discount that the insurance company had taken and funds to balance needed to be transferred from health insurance matching to COBRA to balance. JP Swofford made the motion to accept and JP Hall seconded. The vote passed.

Funds received by the County was also received from an employee who needed to pay for supplemental insurances that could not be deducted from payroll because paid time off had been exhausted and the employee was on extended leave. JP Swofford made the motion to accept the reimbursement to the line item and JP Deaton seconded the motion. The measure passed with no one voting against.

Next, JP Deaton made a motion to adjust payroll amounts for two positions within a couple of departments. JP Farrow asked what the amounts were before the adjustment. No additional funds in the 2020 budgets were needed in either of the departments for the adjustments. JP Olson seconded the motion and the ordinance passed.

Lastly, due to an error in assigning the correct line items within the Personal Services section of District Court West's budget, an ordinance was required to make the correction. The County reimburses the City of Eureka Springs for partial payroll and the expenditures were put in the regular payroll lines instead of the payroll reimbursable line items. JP Deaton said that this situation was a confusing and this was simply the paperwork to clean it up. With the roll call vote, the Court approved the ordinance. The motion was made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Farrow.

JP Comments: JP Howerton brought the Quorum Court up to date on what was happening at the Carroll County Airport. He said that they had entered into an agreement with two people that were both building a large building and leasing the land under the building whereby after 30 years the buildings would belong to the Airport. He said that the Airport had already received the "up front" money for the one building. The Airport was also resurfacing the taxiway and putting in the LED lighting as per their grant agreements. JP Deaton read a statement that the County would not be taking part in the deferral of taxes as per advice from the CPA that the County Clerk's office works with. He also said that the County's Covid time off was still looking good with a couple of departments that were "maxed out".

County Judge Sam Barr thanked everyone for coming and their interest in county business. JP Matt Phillips made the motion to adjourn and JP Kellie Matt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.