

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
FEBRUARY 24, 2020
(amended)**

The February meeting of the Quorum Court was held in the Eastern District Courthouse, Berryville at 5:00pm. Members of 4H group Teen Leaders & Grandview Clubs (C'ara Smith & Phynix McQuiston) were in attendance to lead the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation. The meeting was called to order by Judge Sam Barr at 5:00pm and County Clerk Connie Doss took roll call with all Justices present. The Journal of Proceedings for the previous month's meeting was approved by all with a correction to a name on the last page. JP Jack Deaton requested that an item "g" and "h" be added for the "cleanup ordinance" for the 2019 budget year and a resolution submitted for the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District. Both were added with all voting in favor.

A resolution concerning the assessment of real estate taxes on poultry buildings and equipment was first on the agenda. A motion by JP Larry Swofford and seconded by JP Don McNeely was made. JP Swofford said that the Assessment Coordination Department wanted to raise poultry farm real estate taxes from \$4.50 sq. ft. to \$9 sq. ft. all in one year. AR legislature says that this is not right and told County Assessors to not do this at this time. A similar resolution was passed two weeks ago in Boone County. Ms. Jeannie Davidson, County Assessor, said that she would not raise the taxes unless forced and JP Swofford said that the Quorum Court needed to support her. JP Jack Deaton said that the ACD can't tell Assessor's to raise taxes. JP Harrie Farrow said that she had read the Attorney General's opinion and said that it was basically a suggestion and that the ACD didn't violate any rules. JP Swofford said that we {the County} didn't need to tax farmers any more. JP Farrow asked ~~if the resolution even needed to be passed~~ *why the resolution even needed to be passed when the AG opinion was that Ms. Davidson did not need to raise the tax*, and Ms. Davidson responded that she would rather have everyone behind her. JP Don McNeely brought up the cost of poultry houses doing business and that they had a lot of bills and this increase would be detrimental. JP Swofford reminded everyone that taxes could only be raised 10%, but the ACD was asking for 100%. JP Farrow again *said she was behind Ms. Davidson*, but that the resolution was not necessary and JP McNeely said that this was just a statement letting government know where the Quorum Court stands on the issue. JP Marty Johnson reminded JPs that a resolution doesn't require executive action like an ordinance. JP McNeely said this would be a hindrance on new farms and that "If the feathers quit flying, Carroll County is dead.". A roll call vote was taken with all JPs voting in favor with the exception of JP Harrie Farrow who voted "no".

A resolution was introduced to accept the resignation of Diana Sturtz and the appointment of Teresa Swallow as a board member to the Carroll County Library Department. Mrs. Sturtz through a written resignation stated her last day would be January 6, 2020. Mrs. Swallow will take over the term to expire December 2024. A motion by JP Don McNeely and second by JP Matt Phillips with no discussion brought a vote of all in favor.

The Carroll County Fair Association has requested to submit a grant to continue their work at the fairgrounds. JP Craig Hicks said that this was for continued upgrades. JP Larry Swofford said that the CCFA does an outstanding job and reminded everyone that the Fair Association owns all of the land and buildings, etc.. JP Craig Hicks made a motion to approve and JP Harrie Farrow seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in an all in favor vote.

A motion made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Marty Johnson on the Detention Center hot water dual boiler system ordinance. When discussed, JP Deaton said that the department worked on bids, but only one was turned in and the system was quickly failing on the other side. The one side had already failed some months ago. Under 14-22-106, the County can bypass the bid process due to the health risk of having the other side fail. He said that this was a jail standards issue and had to be done quickly. The ordinance pass with all in favor.

The Health Unit's phone system needs to be replaced. It has been a standing problem for some time as indicated by JP Matt Phillips who has been working with Lisa Holt from the Health Department. HBE won the quote and they will be running new wire for the whole building which is the reason for the additional funds to the line items. JP Harrie Farrow asked the age of the building and Ms. Holt responded that it was about 1998. The phones are original to the building. A motion by JP Phillips and seconded by JP Deaton was made with all JPs voting in favor.

JP Jack Deaton made a motion to accept the ordinance adding funds to the office of Coroner. JP Marty Johnson seconded. The ordinance was in response to additional items needed for the care of the new Coroner's vehicle purchased at the end of 2019. It would also add an iPad and cell phones so as to make the process of paperwork go more quickly when on location. JP Deaton said it was discussed in the budget committee and was expected. He said that Nelson's had been providing services free of charge for years and the county needed to figure out how to make it all work and that with a lease contract pending to be signed would make the arrangement legal. JP Larry Swofford also said that Nelson's has been furnishing refrigeration services and the vehicle. The roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

JP Jack Deaton made a motion with JP Matt Phillips seconding the ordinance that cleans up the 2019 budget. It was discussed that this is an annual ordinance and it's possible that it is longer than last year due to going back to line items. Comp time may have also been a factor and that when the personnel handbook is reviewed that the pay-outs would be quarterly so as not to be on the books all year. The roll call vote was taken with all affirming the ordinance.

The last item was a resolution for the Holiday Island Suburban Improvement District to apply for a grant. The grant would be used for a larger chemical tank that held winter weather road treatment according to JP Jack Deaton. JP Farrow asked what the chemicals were and road department foreman, Jim Kelley, responded that it was salt & calcium chloride. The resolution passed.

Under JP Comments JP Matt Phillips said that Ozark Regional Transit was working on a plan for transportation services for Vets to get to Fayetteville VA. Currently, the service is not available. JP Jack Deaton said that he had received the opinion from Thomas Allgood concerning using the jail tax for the 3rd party medical services in the detention center. The opinion was that as it was not clear in the ordinance, it could not be used. The operative word is "operating". County General will have to be used for this service, but that the detention center's budget would be lowered and put back to the fund as the funds would no longer be needed for that line item. JP Harrie Farrow said that she *and JP McNeely* had attended a recent Berryville Library meeting and the question of the county's contribution to ~~ownership of the new library~~ came up ~~Would it or would it not be county property as private donations built the building.~~ *since the new building would not be a county building but rather under non-profit ownership.* She also said that the Friends of the Library was working toward setting up a 501c3 so that donations could be accepted. JP Swofford reminded everyone that the equipment, books, shelves, etc. all were county property. JP Kellie Matt said that the handicap ramp was finished on the back of the old courthouse on the square. Jim Kelly was asked to speak by Judge Barr to update those in attendance about road projects. He said that the grant for County Road 705 came through for the bridge and that beams & sides were up and the floor would hopefully be poured by Friday, weather pending. It was set to open on March 15th.

Judge Barr entertained a motion to adjourn with JP Matt Phillips making the motion and JP Craig Hicks second. The meeting was adjourned.