

Journal of Proceedings  
Quorum Court  
June 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Quorum Court took place at Southern Heights Baptist Church on June 20, 2022, beginning at 5:00pm. Judge Ronda Griffin gaveled those in attendance to draw their attention and the Pledge and Invocation were done by JP Kellie Matt. Notice of the meeting went to the Press with two members present. Also present were the Assessor, County Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector as well as several other county employees and constituents. The meeting was audio recorded with a copy going to two news outlets by request. Roll Call was taken by the Clerk with one member of the Court absent, Matt Phillips. The Journal of Proceedings was approved with a motion from JP Chuck Olson and seconded by JP Harrie Farrow.

Committee reports included JP Olson reporting that bids had been done for the replacement of air conditioning units in the Western District Courthouse. He said that the situation was in the Judge's hands. JP Jack Deaton reported that the radio project was proceeding, but that there were issues with a couple of the towers and that they would have to relocate them due to costs or less than optimal reception. JP Don McNeely reported that the Personnel committee had a recent meeting and he spoke at some length about the issue of deputy vehicles being driven outside the county to homes. He also spoke to the issue of departmental new hires being hired at the same rate as the person who left versus working their way through the ranks. The Judicial Committee report came from JP Craig Hicks who reported that as there hadn't been a quorum, no issues could be decided, but that the priority would go to Dispatch and the building may have to wait.

Changes to the agenda included adds of two resolutions for the Eureka Springs Library by JP Harrie Farrow and Mike McKelvey, OEM, to talk about the recent catastrophic failure at dispatch. Mike would be sponsored by JP Jack Deaton. Public Comments brought Barbara Weems who spoke and had handouts concerning the road condition of County Road 205. The road is listed as a Private Road and therefore, could not be maintained. JP Elect Hunter Rivett had suggested to the property owner to list it as a public road that could then be maintained. It is a dead-end road. Judge Griffin said that she would look into the situation.

Mr. Dennis Wells, Project Manager for ACT (AR CAMA Technologies) was sponsored by JP Don McNeely to speak to the matter of the five year reappraisal process. Most of what the County is dealing with is required by Amendment 79 and reported that notices would go out to property owners July 15<sup>th</sup>. JP Larry Swofford asked whether moving the cycle from a five year to a three-year cycle was a state rule and Dennis said that it was based on a 25% increase in assessments. If there was, the cycle would be three and if not it would be a five-year cycle. JP Kellie Matt asked about freezing the assessed value for those with disability and/or over the age of 65 and those are already in place.

JP Deaton sponsored OEM Director Mike McKelvey to inform the Quorum Court of a catastrophic failure in Dispatch due to a short in an air conditioning unit on the roof. Central Dispatch had what was termed as a "hard crash" due to the short and as there was still electricity in other parts of the building, the generator was not able to take over the function as designed. Also due to the type of crash, the system had to be rebooted in sequence which takes time. Dispatch had been transferred to Eureka Springs and Madison County. Deputies were able to communicate via cell phone and radios. The communications trailer that had recently been

updated and revamped was moved close by and utilized to fill in gaps. Mr. McKelvey had several recommendations to help should there be failures in the future which included stand alone phones and radios dedicated to dispatch, moving the A/C units to their own breaker and keeping dispatch on their own breaker. He said it had been set up incorrectly to begin with and will be corrected which will cost money to get done right. He also said that everyone worked well together to get the job completed as quickly as possible. The process took about 12 hours.

With that, the Quorum Court turned to their new business. Pam Grudek was reappointed to the Equalization Board for a three year term. Her term will expire June of 2025. Road employee, Jerry Finch, was granted vacation pay in lieu of taking time off. The motion was made by JP Hicks and seconded by JP Deaton. JP Duane Coatney was the only “nay”. Another appropriation ordinance was passed with a motion by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Harrie Farrow that will allow funds for the Annex Building to update/replace their access control system on the doors. It was reported that this would allow for the tracking of people coming in and out of the building and was important in light of the amount of money that flowed through the premises. The Detention Center roof bid that had been approved by Judge Griffin required funds to be appropriated for the work to begin. A motion by JP Coatney and seconded by JP Chuck Olson was made and the measure was approved. JP Olson reported that the many year old roof had been in need of this as the County had made recent patches on it so this would replace the existing roof and hopefully would give another 15-20 years of use.

The first of the two added resolutions by JP Harrie Farrow concerned the resignation and approval of members to the Eureka Springs Library Board. The motion was seconded by JP McNeely with JP Farrow reporting that this was added instead of waiting for next month as Katie Zerr has already been serving for about a month. The motion was passed.

The second resolution accepted the resignation and appointment of Eureka Springs Library Board Member to the Carroll County Library Board. JP Farrow reported that the new member had served on the Eureka Springs Board for a while making this person the better choice to serve on the larger Carroll County Library Board.

As there were no JP Comments, Judge Griffin expressed her gratitude for the “good bunch of people” that worked together during the Dispatch failure and she was impressed with how everyone worked together. Judge Griffin adjourned the meeting, but JP Hicks and another JP made motions to adjourn after the fact.