

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
Carroll County Quorum Court
March 21, 2022

The Quorum Court met on Monday, March 21, 2022 at Southern Heights Baptist Church located on 221 South. The meeting was called to order by Judge Griffin at 5:00pm with JP Matt Phillips leading the group in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Notice was sent to the press with one member of the Press present. The meeting was audio recorded and a copy sent to a requesting member of the Press and has been made available as with all recordings on the County's website. Also present were Prosecuting Attorney Tony Rogers and Deputy Prosecutor Steven Simmons along with Assessor Jeannie Davidson, Collector Vicky Hopper, and Treasurer Makita Williams. Judge Griffin asked for the Roll Call which County Clerk Connie Doss did finding JP Craig Hicks absent. All other members were present. A motion by JP Larry Swofford and seconded by JP Jack Deaton were made to accept the Journal Proceedings from the previous meeting. The voice vote approved the Journal.

JP Harrie Farrow offered during Committee Reports that she would be attending the next Ozark Regional Transit meeting and to look at their facilities. JP Chuck Olson reported that work had begun on the front of the Eastern District Courthouse. There were no changes to the agenda nor public comments.

With that the meeting moved to sponsored reports. District Judge Dale Ramsey sponsored by JP Deaton updated the Court on his role with respect to the four courts that he manages. Those are Huntsville, Berryville, Green Forest, and Eureka Springs. His busy clerks has seen a 75% increase in charges from 2019-2021 with the courts having collected fees in 2021 of \$1.072K. He also noted that Eureka Springs especially was dealing with facility challenges due to room constraints. He also reported that the Berryville Court had upgraded their security and added bullet-proof glass to protect all concerned after several incidents. He said that he didn't need staffing at the moment, but wanted to look at this with the next budget and again stressed that the current facilities in Eureka Springs and Berryville were no longer adequate.

Treasurer Makita Williams was next to speak reporting that her office had nothing to report other than the installation of the new security camera system was done and that the next American Rescue Plan Act installment would be in May.

Collector Vicky Hopper reported that collections were already at \$2.1M collected for the year and that a new employee had been hired making them fully staffed. She also brought up the issue of delinquent taxes. The issue of those taxes was questioned by JP John Howerton and County Clerk Connie Doss mentioning the program that the AAC has for collection of those taxes saying she would get with Ms. Hopper about the program.

Assessor Jeannie Davidson reported that this was a reappraisal year and it had been five years since the last one. She also mentioned that it was highly possible that Carroll County would be placed in a three year reappraisal cycle. She said due to high home sales the likelihood of a 40% increase in assessed values was very high. This would also include personal property as the sale of trucks especially had gone up a great deal. There was a good amount of new construction in the county with people moving in from out of state. She reported that she was also responsible for 911 readdressals. Ms. Davidson fielded several questions from the Court.

With no Old Business, the proceedings moved to New Business with a resolution reappointing a member to the Carroll County Airport Commission. The member, Chase

Tressler, will serve a 7 year term. JP John Howerton made the motion to approve with a second from JP Larry Swofford. The Roll Call vote was unanimous. There was no discussion.

A Resolution confirming the appointment of Melissa Casey was also approved after a motion by JP Matt Phillips and second by JP Larry Swofford. Ms. Casey would be replacing Jason Tennent when his term expires on July 1st.

Silver Summit also had an appointment of a new member to its Board of Commissioners. JP Harrie Farrow questioned the reasoning for the resolution not having a term specified with Clerk Doss responding that Silver Summit and a couple others had in the original ordinances that the members were appointed by the Judge and would serve at will until the Judge either removes the member or the member resigns which was the situation with the new member in this case. The motion to approve by JP Chuck Olson and seconded by JP Duane Coatney was made with the Justices approving the resolution.

A proposal for an extended service plan for the Zetron equipment at Central Dispatch was next on the agenda. JP Matt Phillips had explained after he made a motion to accept the appropriation of \$8,706.20 and seconded by JP Jack Deaton that he thought this to be a renewal of a current service plan. It was also thought to be a 5 year renewal. (The Proposal # 6334 states it is for the period of 3/1/2022 to 2/28/2023.). The Roll Call vote carried.

Lastly, the annual "cleanup" ordinance was approved with a motion by JP Jack Deaton and second by JP John Howerton. JP Deaton felt that there were more adjustments that Clerk Doss had to make with the 2021 budget cleanup and felt the ordinance was coming to them later than the previous year due to Clerk Doss's busy schedule.

Under JP Comments, JP Deaton urged departments to watch their budgets. JP Farrow brought up the problem of affordable housing in the county. She recently suffered the loss of her home in a fire and is experiencing the "very real problem" of affordable housing and in her district. JP Don McNeely also brought up affordable housing in that others take care of the need as they have in Green Forest with JP Roger Hall echoing similarly until Judge Griffin reminded everyone that JP Comments should not involve discussion.

Judge Griffin reported that the 2020 Audit report had been received by her office and commented that they said that recordkeeping was better than in previous years. She also noted to the Justices who sponsored resolutions for Boards and Commissions that those board members had ten days to be sworn in and asked if the JPs would follow up to get that done. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm with JP Matt Phillips making the motion and JP Duane Coatney seconded.