

Journal of Proceedings
Quorum Court
May 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Quorum Court was held on Monday, May 16, 2022, at Southern Heights Baptist Church, Berryville, AR. Notice went to the Press with one member of the Press present. There were also present several elected officials, department heads, candidates, and the public. The meeting was audio recorded with a local radio station requesting a copy of the recording. The meeting was called to order by Judge Griffin at 5:05 pm and asked for roll call. Roll Call found all members present except JP Jack Deaton and JP John Howerton. JP Larry Swofford made a motion to accept the Journal of Proceedings from the April 28th meeting. A second was made by JP Don McNeely with a voice vote acceptance.

JP Chuck Olson reported in Committee Reports that the Building Committee would be looking at bids for the air conditioning units in the WD Courthouse that were failing. JP Don McNeely with the Personnel Committee said that they are continuing their review of the Employee Handbook. There were no changes to the agenda nor Public Comments.

The first of the sponsored speakers was Suzie Bell with Echo. She reported once again about homelessness in Carroll County but admitted that the PIT study did not get to Green Forest. Sixty families, according to their findings, were confirmed homeless and that the problem was increasing. There was no shelter in Carroll County, but there are in Harrison and Washington County. She and her partner, Dr. Dan Bell, reiterated that American Rescue Plan money could be used for housing. Several Justices asked relevant questions to the topic.

Chris Cochran, Administrator of the Health Unit gave statistics and information on the many programs that are offered at the Department including WIC, Environmental services (septic systems), family planning, vaccinations clinics, etc.. She reported 898 activities in 2021 with 165 dealing with septic tank inspections. She also reported that the Health Unit would take part in the car seat give-away to be held at the Community Center. It was recommended that the County may want to add their link to its website.

Suelyn Fry with CERT gave a brief history of how and what CERT is. President Bush started the program in 2002 after seeing how communities helped one another after 911. She also reported that Mary Lou Harp brought the program to Carroll County. Ms. Fry said that everyone goes through a 5 week training program and then have quarterly meetings.

Melisa Curtis with SORT also gave a brief report about their group. She reports they have 24 members who meet one time a month for training and once a month as an organizational meeting. She said that Jack Deaton and Jim Kelley started the group and they are an all volunteer group. She also thanked the Court for the improvements that have been made to the building with a Justice responding that a lot of the work had been done by volunteers, too.

In new business, the resolution confirming the appointments of two members to the Eureka Springs Library Board was approved with a motion by JP McNeely and second by JP Harrie Farrow. There was no discussion.

An ordinance to establish a fund for funds received by the Treasurer also passed with no discussion. JP Larry Swofford made the motion and JP Craig Hicks seconded. An ordinance to appropriate funds for the Western District Courthouse was passed with a motion by JP Matt Phillips and seconded by both JP Olson and JP McNeely. JP Phillips explained that the funds had been appropriated in 2021, but that work did not begin until 2022. It was also noted that the air conditioner had failed and that the fans would help in the Circuit/County Clerks' office.

The Carroll County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan had costs when looking back at the original paperwork done a few years ago it was discovered. As a result, funds needed to be appropriated to pay the invoice from the NWAEDD. The \$25,000 less NWAEDD's portion fee would be returned to the County. A motion by JP Swofford and seconded by JP Phillips was approved by the Court.

Lastly, the Quorum Court approved with a motion from JP Hicks and seconded by JP McNeely, new travel expenses rules for the County Employee Handbook. JP Hicks offered examples of why the updated policy was necessary and said that this keeps everyone accountable.

There were no JP comments and the Judge thanked everyone for their attendance. With that JP Matt Phillips made a motion to adjourn with JP Roger Hall motioning for a second. The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.