

Journal of Proceedings
Carroll County Quorum Court
March 21, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Quorum Court was called to order shortly after 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance preceded and was led by JP Hunter Rivett. The meeting was audio recorded with two members of the Press requesting a copy as well as a community member of Boone County. The Press had been duly notified of the meeting with two members of the Press present. The Eastern District Courtroom was filled to capacity with overflow into the foyer of the building. Judge David Writer asked that roll call be conducted and that was done. The Quorum Court is still awaiting the appointment by the Governor's office for the vacant JP District 8 position.

The disposition of the Journal Proceedings from the February 21, 2023, meeting was approved with a motion by JP John Howerton and seconded by JP Harrie Farrow. JP Howerton spoke briefly about the ED Judicial Steering Building Committee business saying that the group had met with the three architectural companies and that another meeting would be set to discuss which to recommend to the Judge for consideration. He also said the group would start looking at financing the project. JP Jack Deaton speaking for the Budget/Finance Committee said the group would meet next week to further discuss the road graders.

There was a change to the agenda approved. JP Deaton made a motion to have the Public Comments moved to the "bottom of the agenda" and to limit the public comments to five participants. JP Howerton seconded the motion. JP Harrie Farrow voting "no" giving her reasoning in the JP Comments. The change was approved by voice vote.

Jack Dignan, a student at Berryville and Student Council President, was introduced by sponsoring JP, Hunter Rivett. Jack spoke about education in Carroll County concerning challenges that teachers face with regard to student behavior, collaboration, "tweaking" schedules, and hands on service of parents. He also offered solutions in the way of pay raises, literacy goals, and parenting skills. JP Howerton said that there was a lack of clarity in the system of discipline and a need for uniform consequences. JP Roger Hall said that the universities and colleges don't teach teachers disciplinary skills and JP Deaton offered that we need people in the teaching and medical fields while thanking Jack Dignan for his interest in becoming a teacher.

Carolyn Martin Rogers, sponsored by JP John Howerton, spoke for approximately five minutes before yielding her remaining five minutes to Richard Williams. Ms Martin Rogers spoke to Quorum Court about wind energy not being "green". She spoke of the low benefit of wind energy and the leases being so long (30 years) that the equipment would be long outdated with the blades needing disposed of within 10 years. She said that wind turbines produce only 5% energy. Richard Williams' discussion involved the custody of county roads lying with the County Judge and that the Judge could not under law lease or loan to anyone or any entity. He quoted also that the County Judge was prohibited from lease or loan to other private sector entities. He said that the County Judge has the authority to stop the wind turbines. He also brought up the possibility of closure of the business that carries the land contracts for the turbines asking who would then be responsible for the property taxes on the turbines. Another question raised concerned excavating and mining. Would this be done hydraulically or blasting and how would either method affect the quality of ground water/wells. He said that each turbine would need 14-16 ft in diameter and 45 ft deep. He ended with asking why Carroll County that has the

least amount of wind production in the state. With that the Judge called time and the meeting moved forward. Judge David Writer announced to those assembled that Scout Energy would be holding two public meetings at the Berryville Community Center from 6-8PM on April 11th and April 24th and that he would be present representing any county interests. There was no Old Business.

Under New Business, JP John Howerton made a motion to read the resolution by title only. A second was made and the group approved the motion by voice vote. The resolution approving the appointment of Robert McKenzie to the Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District Board was introduced by title only. There were no comments. The motion was made by JP John Howerton to approve and seconded by JP Matt Phillips.

Next, an appropriation ordinance to replace a water heater for the Eastern District Courthouse was approved. The motion was made by JP Jack Deaton and seconded by JP Bruce Wright. JP Deaton commented that the water heater had started to leak last month. JP Harrie Farrow asked who did the installation and the response was made that Billy Williams, a local plumber, had done the installation.

The last item was also an appropriation ordinance that put budget funds into the health department to replace a heating/air unit as well as work done to restore a sewer lines that had a leak earlier in the month. It was reported during discussions that the heating/air unit that went out controlled the temperature in the room that holds the vaccines and that Curtis Heating and Cooling had done the installation. The road department was also thanked for their role in assisting with the replacement of the sewer lines by doing the dirt work. JP Matt Phillips made the motion to accept and JP Jerry King seconded the motion. It was passed.

JP comments began with JP Harrie Farrow clarifying that she didn't want to limit the public comments to five people and was glad that there were meetings coming up. JP Jack Deaton mentioned again that the Budget Committee would be meeting next week.

Public Comments concerned the wind turbine contracts with Scout Energy. The turbines will be installed on property within JP John Howerton's district. First to speak was Stephanie Gordon-Glassford who spoke of the destruction of property and a drop in land values of 25-30% in areas where turbines were in use. She also spoke of the non-recyclables that the turbines have that use fossil fuels to make.

Mary West, Lampe, MO, asked the question of "Why here?" and felt the Non-Disclosure Agreements were secretive. She said this was a public safety issue and that the electricity would not be staying in this area and that the county must not allow. JP Hunter Rivett said that he represents District 4 versus someone from Lampe.

Arturo Cavillo reported that he has land in that area and did sign a contract. He was in favor of the project and countered Ms. West by saying that no one sneaked in. He also said that this project has been a work in progress for "a long time". He said he left Oklahoma 30 years ago and the "whole country was filled now". JP Rivett also commented that it was a property owner's right of what they do or don't do on their land.

Lisa Price Backs was speaking, she said, on behalf of the NWA Audubon Society who is against wind in Arkansas due to wintering eagles and red tailed hawks. She contended that wind turbines are not "green" and how will damage be mitigated that the turbines will cause. Someone in the crowd said that Arturo Cavillo doesn't live in the area (Ed Martin). A few other people spoke up, but was gavelled quiet by the Judge.

Caroline Russel was the last speaker and said that the turbines were so big and who would clean up any problems and inquired as to what would be leaking into the water source.

She insisted that this situation was everyone's business. JP Hunter Rivett spoke up and said that it was not the job of the quorum court to dictate environmental policy. Property owner rights were to be protected.

With the Public Comment time completed, the Judge reported to the quorum court that he applied for a credit card for the Judge's office making certain functions more efficient. He also reported the information about the 2022 Ford Explorer assigned to the Sheriff's Office that had been totaled in an accident. The county received a settlement for \$27,258.82 after the buy-back for parts of the vehicle (\$8,016.18). It was also reported that a 2013 Tahoe was sold to the City of Alpena for \$500. The Assessor had valued the vehicle at less than \$2,500. The Judge entertained a motion to adjourn which was given by JP Jack Deaton and seconded by JP Roger Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.