

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
CARROLL COUNTY QUORUM COURT
FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Carroll County Quorum Court was held at Southern Heights Baptist Church, located at 279 Highway 221 S., Berryville at 6:00pm. Notice to the press was made and the meeting was audio recorded. One member of the press was present and two copies of the recording were sent to those of the press that requested. Thomas Allgood from the Prosecuting Attorney's office was present. Judge Sam Barr asked JP Don McNeely to lead those assembled with the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Judge Barr called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. County Clerk Connie Doss called the roll call. JP John Howerton was absent and position JP4 was still vacant pending an appointment from the Governor.

The Journal Proceedings from the January 25, 2021 meeting was approved. JP Matt Phillips made the motion and JP Roger Hall seconded the motion. There were no Committee Reports other than JP Jack Deaton saying that the Budget Committee meeting that had been scheduled for the previous week had been cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled for Monday, March 1, 2021 at 5pm. The meeting is to be held at Southern Heights Baptist Church. JP Deaton also requested to add a resolution as letter "j" which was approved by the Quorum Court. There were no public comments and Officer Jeff Heinzl who was to speak to the Quorum Court to update the JPs on matters at the Sheriff's Department was unable to do so due to illness. He would be rescheduled. There was no Old Business.

In New Business, there were three Resolutions all concerning grant applications. The Quorum Court moved to read the resolutions by title only for expediency. The motion was made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Matt Phillips. The first was for a grant to remodel the Carroll County Health Unit. JP Deaton made the motion to accept and JP Matt Phillips seconded. It was passed. The second resolution concerned a grant for broadband service to our rural areas of the county to be done by a local provider if the grant was awarded. The motion was made by JP Deaton and seconded by JP Hall. The third was letter "j" and it was a similar resolution but for the county to co-apply with Windstream to upgrade fiber optic services to the County. The motion carried with JP Deaton making the motion to approve and with JP Hall's second.

An ordinance to transfer funds received from the CARES Act was approved. The motion was made by JP Larry Swofford and seconded by JP Deaton. JP Deaton told the Justices that the Budget Committee had done a great deal of work on this in trying to decide what was needed. JP Harrie Farrow asked if the funds received were for costs incurred and JP Deaton clarified that it was indeed for costs already incurred with it mostly being in the way of salaries for front-line law enforcement.

The next ordinance appropriated funds to the 2021 Budget for work that had started in 2020, but was not yet completed. JP Deaton said that the upgrades have been built and Central Dispatch was waiting for the installation. He also mentioned that additional funds in the ordinance would pay for antennae work and repairs to a tower that no one wanted to climb

because there were several rungs missing on the ladder. JP Deaton made the motion to approve and JP Phillips seconded. The measure passed.

Next was an ordinance adding a part-time maintenance person for the county buildings and the funding for the position. JP Chuck Olson who made the motion to approve said that there was an apparent need. JP Don McNeely who also serves on the Personnel Committee seconded the motion. It was approved. Because of the addition of the P/T maintenance person, the next ordinance amended the hours of the custodian from 80 back to 70 hours per pay period. County Clerk Connie Doss clarified JP Olson's comments surrounding the ordinance. JP Swofford made the motion to accept and JP McNeely seconded. The ordinance was passed. No funds were removed from the line items for the decreased hours approved as it would affect three departments that share the cost of the position.

Judge Sam Barr had requested a drawing of work that was being suggested to the front of the Eastern District Courthouse. Funds to pay for the drawings plus adding money to the Western District Courthouse Maintenance budget for use by the newly created position was approved after JP Deaton and JP Phillips made the motion to accept. Work was also being done to add a flag pole light since the flag could no longer be taken down every evening.

The Carroll County Historical Society had applied for a grant and received the funds. The \$5,250.00 would pay for architectural drawings that could be used to obtain further grants to help with repairs to the historic 1880 courthouse on the Berryville Square. The ordinance appropriates the funds to line items for use. JP Phillips and JP Swofford made the motion and second and the ordinance was passed.

Lastly, JP Olson sponsored an ordinance that would add the Mennonite Disaster Service Search and Rescue Team as recipients of \$1,000 annually to help maintain their watercraft that is made available to the County whenever needed for emergencies. JP Swofford commented that this was money received by the State and if not used was returned. He also said that it was a good cause. JP Phillips said that this would be on top of the funds the group receives through Grants & Aid. JP Deaton gave a bit of history saying that Holiday Island was the first group to receive this funding and then the others were added. He also thought that an interdepartmental agreement was needed to ensure that the boats were available when needed. JP Olson also stated that Grassy Knob Fire has been involved in several rescues.

JP Comments: JP Phillips thanked the Road Department for their efforts during the recent snow storms that swept through the County. He also said that the Ozark Regional Transit meeting that he was to attend had been rescheduled and he will be attending. JP Olson said that a bid packet was being put together to garner bids to replace the roof on the Detention Center. JP Deaton pointed to a list of expenses that Road Department Foreman Jim Kelley put together for the Quorum Court. JP Deaton said keeping roads cleared was expensive. JP Kellie Matt made the comment that as a business owner on the Berryville Square she has noticed on several occasions where County vehicles are "flying through" the stop lights on the square and felt it was a danger. JP Hicks said that inquiries should be made with that department and asked if they

were running with lights on and the response from JP Matt was that sometimes they were and sometimes not.

With that, Judge Sam Barr reported on the annual report from the Arkansas Legislative Audit. The 2019 report showed no reportable infractions. He thanked everyone for attending and entertained a motion to adjourn which JP Phillips gave and JP Farrow seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th, 2021.