

MAY 09 2022

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT REGULAR SESSION

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED FOR RECORD IN MY OFFICE AND RECORDED IN COURTBOOK 10 PAGE 24-25 Tamitha Blocker COUNTY CLERK April 18, 2022 D.C. Shonice Easterling, D.C.

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met on Monday, April 18, 2022, in a regular session with eight members present during roll call. Luke Dotson arrived shortly after the meeting began.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The Expenditure Report was approved as presented.

County Judge Frank Weaver called the meeting to order. The first item of business was Ordinance 2022-9, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a solar energy performance contract. Judge Weaver introduced Skip Woessner with Clear Energy. Mr. Woessner distributed a project cash flow chart with a total project cost of \$732,542.00. Mr. Woessner explained that this amount is less than the original estimate due to a reduction in the size of the solar array and the removal of some HVAC units. He also reported that the interest rate had been locked in at 2.94%. Mr. Woessner fielded several questions from the court. Pattie Shinn made a motion to put Ordinance 2022-9 on its first reading, and Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-9. After some discussion, Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-09, and Devin Glenn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Pattie Shinn made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance 2022-9 on its second reading by title only. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-9 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-9, and Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Larry Garrett made a motion to suspend the rules and put Ordinance 2022-9 on its third and final reading by title only, and Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-9 by title only. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-9, and Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Ordinance 2022-9 was adopted.

Judge Weaver welcomed Levi Fitch with Telogix to address the court about potential emergency services communications upgrades utilizing FirstNet Emergency Services Technology. Mr. Fitch explained that the FirstNet Federal Communications Program was created by the 9-11 Commission to improve communication between law enforcement and other emergency services. It is a cellular network for government and emergency services workers only. Mr. Fitch stated that he and Captain Russell Alberts of the Madison County Sheriff's Office drove to the worst spots in the county where cellular and radio communications do not work. Mr. Fitch reported that FirstNet's mega range antennas cover approximately 80-85% of the county. Madison County Sheriff Rick Evans stated that only 60-70% of the county currently has coverage. Mr. Fitch explained that federal law requires FirstNet Communications to be restored to service in an emergency before any other communications providers. The total cost for equipment to cover the Sheriff's Department, EMS, DEM, the County Judge, and the Road Foreman would be \$88,500. In addition, each device has a \$40 monthly charge. However, the devices would replace our current hotspots, which also cost around \$40 per month for each line. The cost of purchasing two FirstNet mega range antennas for eleven of the county's volunteer fire departments, not including the two municipal fire departments, would be an additional \$92,400 and a monthly fee of \$40 per device. The volunteer fire departments would pay the monthly fee. There was a lengthy discussion about how the fire departments would benefit from this technology. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker said it was important to note that the E-911 mapping system utilized by our dispatch has changed to an internet-based system that requires reliable internet service out in the field. The court asked that the matter be tabled until more information could be obtained from the volunteer fire departments.

Judge Weaver informed the court that the Houston property on Highway 412 was under contract and no longer available for purchase to build a county jail. Judge Weaver further reported that he had spoken with attorneys at the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC) regarding purchasing

land from family members of the quorum court. AAC advised that purchasing the Kay Coger property and the Duane Glenn property would be prohibited under A.C.A. 14-14-1202. Judge Weaver asked the court to grant him the authority to negotiate potential properties before bringing them to the quorum court for approval. He also asked for authority to engage a realtor or buying agent if he felt it was necessary. Larry Garrett made a motion to authorize Judge Weaver to negotiate potential property and engage a realtor or buying agent. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, eight members voted in favor of the motion. Matt Cleaver voted against. Motion passed.

T.W. Dotson reported on the recent Arkansas Quorum Court Association meeting that he had attended. Some of the highlights he felt were important to Madison County included a handout containing the current jail laws, information regarding pharmaceutical grants from the opioid lawsuit that are available for 501(c) 3 organizations, an increase in the juvenile probation officer grant, and stipends for sheriff's deputies. He also informed the court that the state had raised the amount they pay toward housing state prisoners to \$40 per day. He also noted that it was reiterated at the meeting that quorum court members could no longer participate in meetings by phone. AAC also advised each county to video record all quorum court meetings to comply with state law.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance 2022-10, an appropriation ordinance to appropriate funds to pay invoices for the recent South Build work session for the design of a jail. Pattie Shinn made a motion to read Ordinance 2022-10, and Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-10. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-10, and Wendy Pettz seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2022-10 was adopted.

Larry Garrett requested work to begin again on the subdivision ordinance. Judge Weaver said he would try to set that in motion again.

With no further business, a motion was made by Larry Garrett and seconded by Pattie Shinn to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: Frank Weaver
Frank Weaver, Madison County Judge

ATTEST: Tamitha Blocker
Tamitha Blocker, Madison County Clerk

DATED: May 6, 2022