

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
REGULAR SESSION

June 21, 2021

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met in person and via teleconference on June 21, 2021, in a regular session with nine members present.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as written.

The Expenditure Report was approved as written.

County Judge Frank Weaver said there was nothing new to report with the Solar Project.

County Judge Weaver introduced Dennis Wells with ACT DataScout to update on the 2021 Property Reappraisal Cycle. Mr. Wells reported the last reappraisal cycle was done in 2016 and that property values were down that year. Total property value in 2016 was \$142 million. So far in 2021, property values are at \$182 million with incomplete numbers on new construction. If property values increase by 25% or more, the next reappraisal will be on a three-year cycle rather than a five-year cycle. If this happens, it will cost the county more than we are currently paying for the reappraisal. This year's numbers are close to the 25% threshold; however, the final numbers will not be available until August 1. Notices to affected taxpayers will be mailed out on July 14th or 15th. The Equalization Board will meet on August 1 to set meeting times and dates to hear appeals. Mr. Wells also explained the appeals procedure.

County Judge Frank Weaver reported that American Rescue Plan Funds were received by the county last week in the amount of \$1,609,847 dollars. These are federal funds issued for COVID relief. He reported that the spending is very structured, and Madison County does not provide services in most of the available categories for authorized expenses. Judge Weaver said that the final rules from the Treasury Department would not be released until August, so it would be best to wait to decide how to spend the funds. New construction is not a qualifying use of the funds. The funds must be dedicated by December of 2024 and spent by December of 2026. The county must return any unused funds to the US Treasury. The interest earned from the funds can be deposited into the County General Fund and used for any purpose.

Judge Weaver reported on the 2019 Audit Report that was recently received from the Division of Legislative Audit. There were three findings listed in the report relating to the EMS Department. Judge Weaver reported that several things were not done at EMS according to audit standards. JP Pattie Shinn asked if these items had been addressed and corrected. Judge Weaver stated that he had spoken to Madison County EMS Director Keith Edmonds and that corrective action had been taken.

Ordinance 2021-5 was presented. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Brent Bryant spoke to the court about the need for additional help in the Madison County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. He compared Madison County's caseload to Washington and Carroll Counties. His office handles prosecution for all Madison County Courts and needs additional staffing due to the "tidal wave" of work caused by the court shut down due to COVID-19. Adult Felony cases rose from 308 to over 700 due to COVID shut down. Mr. Bryant called it a "desperate situation" and asked the Quorum Court for any additional help they could give. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker explained Ordinance 2021-5 would add an average of 16 hours per week for a part-time person until the new budget year. Larry Garrett made a motion to amend the Ordinance to \$8809.68 to allow for an average of 20 hours per week. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. After some discussion, Tamitha Blocker read the amended Ordinance 2021-5. Pattie Shinn motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-5, as amended. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Pattie Shinn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

FILED

JUN 30 2021

TAMITHA BLOCKER
COUNTY AND PROBATE CLERK
MADISON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
BY Tamitha Blocker D.C.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED: Franklin
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: Janell Blocker
COUNTY CLERK

DATED: June 30, 2021