

DEC 13 2021

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
REGULAR SESSION

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JANET SOLOMON COUNTY CL

November 15, 2021

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met on November 15, 2021, in regular session with eight members present. Jack Hudgins was absent.

The 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 updated the court on the Solar Project. Clear Energy conducted a walk-through event on Friday, November 5, to gather necessary information for their solar project proposal to the Quorum Court.

County Judge Frank Weaver informed the court that he had signed the purchase order for the new road graders. The projected arrival of the new graders is sometime in March.

Judge Weaver informed the court that he had only received one proposal for consulting services, and the proposal was from the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (NWAEDD). Judge Weaver stated that he had engaged NWAEDD to assist the county with record-keeping, federal audits, reporting, and the overall administration of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds. The first meeting with NWAEDD will be on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

Judge Weaver updated the court on several projects the county is considering using the American Rescue Plan funds. He noted that he had received quotes for the courtroom technology upgrade, as well as a quote for a backup communications system for the Sheriff's Office and E-911 Dispatching. He also informed the court that an architect recently conducted a walk-through of the County Jail and is currently working on a proposal to upgrade the jail. Judge Weaver also reported that Clear Energy, our solar partner, is working on a proposal to upgrade the courthouse's air quality.

Darrin Henderson with the U of A Cooperative Extension Office gave his annual report to the court.

Madison County Assessor Will Jones presented a reappraisal contract from Arkansas CAMA Technology for approval. The total amount of the contract is \$509,500.00, which calculates to \$8.84 per parcel for the three-year reappraisal cycle. After some discussion regarding the contract, Pattie Shinn made a motion to approve the contract. Sherri Cozad seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. During the contract renewal discussion, Will Jones told the court that he had submitted a retirement application to APERS and that he planned to retire on November 30, 2021. He asked the court to consider appointing his Chief Deputy, Ann Laird, to fill the position.

Judge Weaver informed the court that we had received the 2022 Prisoner Housing Contract from Washington County. The price to house prisoners will remain at \$73.81 per day, and Judge Weaver stated that he had signed the contract.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance 2021-12, an appropriation ordinance. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker explained that the ordinance's purpose was to cover some unanticipated overages in the budget. T.W. Dotson made a motion to place Ordinance No. 2021-12 on its first reading. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-12. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-12. T.W. Dotson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2021-12 was adopted.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance No. 2021-13, an ordinance establishing a Solid Waste Grant Fund. Judge Weaver explained the need to create a separate fund to receive grant funds from the Boston Mountain Solid Waste District (BMSWD). He told the court that the Boston Mountain Solid Waste District has changed how they handle grant funding. They now require all grant funds to be run through the county. He also reported that the county recently sold an old garbage truck at a public auction which had originally been purchased with BMSWD grant funding. The proceeds from the auction will need to be deposited into the proposed Solid Waste Grant Fund. Judge Weaver informed the court that this year's grant cycle had been awarded, and the grant funds will go toward an electrical upgrade at the recycling center. Larry Garrett made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-13 on its first reading. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all court members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-13. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-13 on its first reading. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all court members voted in favor of the motion. T.W. Dotson made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2021-13 on its second reading by title only. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2021-13 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13 on its second reading. Wendy Pettz seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Larry Garrett made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2021-13 on its third and final reading by title only. T. W. Dotson seconded the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2021-13 by title only. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-13 on its third and final reading. T.W. Dotson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2021-13 was adopted.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance No. 2021-14, an ordinance revising Madison County's Health Insurance Policies. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker told the court that QualChoice, the county's current health insurance provider, submitted a 28% increase for the county's group health insurance plan next year. The only other insurance company willing to submit a bid was the Municipal Health Benefit Fund. All other insurers declined to quote. The Municipal Health Benefit Fund submitted a better proposal; however, they require a participation rate of at least 75% of all employees. Currently, we have about a 60% participation rate among employees. Tamitha discussed several measures that the county was considering to help increase participation in the health plan and help mitigate such high rate increases in the future. After a discussion, Pattie Shinn made a motion to place Ordinance 2021-14 on its first reading. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all court members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2021-14. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-14 on its first reading. Wendy Pettz seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all court members voted in favor of the motion. Pattie Shinn made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2021-14 on its second reading by title only. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2021-14 by title only. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-14 on its second reading. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Larry Garrett made a motion to suspend the rules and place Ordinance No. 2021-14 on its third and final reading by title only. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance No. 2021-14 by title only. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-14 on its third and final reading. Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2021-14 was adopted.

Judge Weaver presented Resolution 2021-3, a Resolution Supporting the Establishment of an Income Tax Credit for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers. Judge Weaver stated that the Arkansas Legislature would be meeting soon and may vote on this proposal. He noted that the passage of this resolution would voice Madison County's support of this tax credit for law enforcement officers. T.W. Dotson made a motion to read Resolution 2021-3. Wendy Pettz seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Resolution 2021-3. Pattie Shinn made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-3. T.W. Dotson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor. Resolution 2021-3 was adopted.

County Clerk Tamitha Blocker discussed some needed updates to the county employment policy. After a discussion of each item and tentative approval from the court, Tamitha told court members


that she would update the employment policy to reflect the changes and have the updated policy ready for approval at the December meeting.


County Clerk Tamitha Blocker asked court members for preliminary approval on several budget requests for additional personnel. Tamitha read through the list of requests received, which included: a secretary for the County Judge, an additional dispatcher to help meet jail standards, two part-time assistants in the Prosecuting Attorney's office, an additional truck driver/solid waste operator for the recycling center, paid deputy coroners, and increasing the current part-time assistant position at the E-911 addressing office to a full-time position. Court members voiced approval for the County Judge's secretary position, the additional dispatcher, one part-time assistant for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and the additional truck driver/operator at Solid Waste. Court members opposed the extra part-time position for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, paying deputy coroners, and increasing the E-911 position to full-time.

Judge Weaver informed the court that the 2020 audit was currently underway and would take two to three months to complete.

County Clerk Tamitha Blocker gave an update on redistricting and reported that the Election Commission had a meeting scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2021, to review the redistricting plan for the Justice of the Peace districts. She invited quorum court members to attend the meeting.

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, Madison County Judge

ATTEST: 
Tamitha Blocker, Madison County Clerk

DATED: December 13, 2021