

MADISON COUNTY QUORUM COURT
REGULAR SESSION

FEB 02 2021

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
FOR RECORD IN MY OFFICE AND RECORDED
IN MC BOOK 10 PAGE 1273
Tamitha Blocker
Robin Watson COUNTY CLERK
D.C.

January 18, 2022

6:00 PM

The Madison County Quorum Court met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, in a regular session with all nine members present.

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.

Judge Frank Weaver announced the U.S. Department of the Treasury had released the final rules for the American Rescue Plan Funds. The changes in the final rules were discussed, including that the funds may now be used for new construction, possibly for a new jail.

Judge Weaver welcomed Ray Eaton with the Mount Olive Water Association. The Mount Olive Water Association requested funding assistance from the county through the American Rescue Plan Act for the Southern Madison County Water System Extension Project. Mr. Eaton gave a history of the project and explained that the funding assistance would help the association receive grant funding from the USDA to complete the project. After some discussion, Pattie Shinn made a motion to pledge \$150,000 toward the project, and the motion died for lack of a second. After more discussion, the justices agreed they would like more time to consider the matter. Devin Glenn made a motion to table the discussion, and Jack Hudgins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Judge Weaver and Madison County Sheriff Rick Evans updated the court on the prisoner housing contracts that have been negotiated with Newton and Lafayette counties. Sheriff Evans reported the availability of five beds at Newton County, fifteen beds at Lafayette County, and ten beds at Carroll County. He also said that Logan County had agreed to house some of our prisoners if beds were available at their jail. These counties have all agreed to house our prisoners at a lower daily rate than we had been paying at Washington County. Justices discussed the possibility of adding a couple of deputy positions with the anticipated savings, but no action was taken.

Judge Weaver introduced Jim Langford, Mike Kelly, and Robert Barrett with South Build, LLC, a construction firm specializing in the construction of rural jails. Jim Langford gave a video presentation to the court about their company and their services. Mike Kelly explained how their work sessions were conducted and talked about other jails in Arkansas they had built over the past several years. Both gentlemen fielded several questions from the court.

Judge Weaver stated that it was once again time to elect a representative to the Arkansas Association of Quorum Courts. T.W. Dotson volunteered to serve in that capacity again this year. Luke Dotson made a motion to appoint T.W. Dotson to serve as the representative. Pattie Shinn seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

Judge Weaver asked the court to confirm his appointment of Ashton Fitchpatrick to the Madison County Library Board. Pattie Shinn made a motion to confirm the appointment, and Devin Glenn seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Judge Weaver announced a proposed update to the Madison County Employment Policy. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker said Captain Russell Alberts with the Madison County Sheriff's Department had approached her about a possible change to the wording of the catastrophic leave policy. Captain Russell Alberts addressed the court about a newly hired deputy who was required to quarantine due to Covid-19 but did not receive pay because he had not been here long enough to accumulate sufficient PTO hours to cover his absence. The current catastrophic leave policy states that an employee must be absent 30 days before being eligible to receive a PTO donation from another employee. After some discussion, the court agreed to remove the 30-day absence clause.

County Clerk Tamitha Blocker said the wording of the policy would be changed and presented at next month's meeting.

Judge Weaver introduced Ordinance 2022-1, an appropriation ordinance. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker explained that the ordinance's purpose was to cover some unanticipated overages in the 2021 budget. T.W. Dotson made a motion to read Ordinance 2022-1, and Larry Garrett seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. County Clerk Tamitha Blocker read Ordinance 2022-1. Larry Garrett made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-1, and Pattie Shinn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion. Ordinance No. 2022-1 was adopted.

Judge Weaver thanked Eric Judy for his service on the Madison County Youth Baseball Board and read Mr. Judy's letter of resignation to the court.

With no further business, a motion was made by Larry Garrett and seconded by Matt Cleaver 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: January 31, 2022