

July 14, 2009

The Independence County Quorum Court met in its regular session on July 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jess B. Carpenter building. Judge Bill Hicks presided. Independence County Sheriff Keith Bowers, Treasurer Linda Foreman, and Deputy County Clerk Tracey Wyatt were present. Members of the Court present were:

Tim Stewart	Larry Nelson
Gary Bridgman	Danny Carter
Deborah Wyatt	Bill Cash
Anne Moore	Waymon Long
Bobby Weaver	Tony Thompson
Margaret Boothby	

The June 8, 2009 regular meeting minutes were discussed. It was noted that there was a typo in paragraph four which needs to be corrected changing the amount to \$100,000.00. It was also decided that the minutes should note that the county should request advice from our county attorney concerning the county's payment of our former employee's funeral expense balance. County Attorney Eric Hance stated that he does not feel it is legally appropriate for the county to pay this. Boothby made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 road committee meeting. Bridgman seconded, noting that there was also a misspelling in these minutes. Motion carried.

Boothby made a motion to approve the June 23, 2009 budget committee meeting minutes. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes of the June 23, 2009 hydro committee meeting were then discussed by the court. Bridgman pointed out that a correction should be made on page two of the minutes. In the fourth paragraph, the first sentence should read, Fletcher stated, "It would be about 70 feet less than Lock 3." Bridgman also noticed that the minutes state that Mrs. Potts was not able to obtain a payment schedule from Citizens Bank. Thompson then stated that he checked with Citizens Bank and found that they had made all their required reports to the county as scheduled. There also need to be a correction to the last sentence in the third paragraph on the third page. The sentence should read, ACA was paid slightly over one million dollars to insure the project. Bridgman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Weaver seconded. Motion carried.

The sheriff's report was handed out. Long praised Bowers for a job well done, stating the numbers on the report look good. He asked about the decrease in warrant fees. Bowers explained that the decrease is due to the district court's new computer system, not the actual number of warrants served. According to

Bowers, the old system charged per each warrant served on someone. The new system charges one fee per person served, even if there are several warrants served on them.

The treasurer's report was also handed out. Treasurer Foreman reported to the court that the county received around \$100,000 last month from the economic development tax. Stewart then praised Foreman for her accurate revenue projections.

The hydro report was handed out.

A report from the Independence County Economic Development Commission was handed out. Mr. Ed Mabry, chairman of the commission, discussed the report with the court. Mr. Mabry's commission is asking for a total of \$233,000 to be divided between three employers in the county. The employers who would receive the incentives are Townsends, Stage, and David Hughes, who will operate a hydroponic produce farm. This could mean an additional 85 new jobs for the county. Townsends would receive \$203,000, Stage \$10,000, and Mr. Hughes \$20,000. Stewart made a motion to approve the \$233,000. Nelson seconded. Motion carried. Three ordinances will be prepared and presented on this matter at the next quorum court meeting.

A road report was also handed out.

There were no citizen comments at this meeting.

In old business, the property on lower Main Street was discussed. Boothby stated that the budget committee recommends that the county purchase property on lower Main. The property would be used for a jail and district court parking lot. She feels there is great need for additional parking. The property will cost the county approximately ~~\$39,000~~ <sup>\$90,000</sup>. There is still \$51,000 left in the fund used to build the jail and the \$39,000 could be taken from this. Boothby made a motion to present this to the full court for approval. Thompson seconded.

In new business, Juvenile Court Judge Lee Harrod asked the court for permission to lift the hiring freeze and hire three officers. These are not new positions. All three are budgeted positions. The county is reimbursed by surrounding counties and the state for the expense of these positions. The county is reimbursed for 60% of this expense. Nelson moved to approve this motion. Stewart seconded. All approved.

Also in new business, OEM Coordinator Glen Willis and 911 Dispatch Supervisor Joy Wilson presented the court with information about Alert Express. Alert Express is an emergency notification system which is being offered at no charge to the county, because the county is in the ACIC network. The system can not only notify residents by phone of emergencies such as dangerous weather conditions, it can also be used to notify specific members of non-emergency situations. Mr. Willis said this system may eventually replace our current weather sirens. The sirens are outdated and replacement parts for the sirens are no longer available. Willis stated that even though the program is free, the county would have some expense for things such as purchasing computers for the system.

Thompson introduced Ordinance 2009-30, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating supplemental county road funds, amending anticipated

revenues; appropriating funds therefore; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Boothby seconded. Motion carried.

Stewart introduced Ordinance 2009-31, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating jail construction sales tax funds into the county general fund/district court budget division, establishing new line-items, amending anticipated revenues; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Moore introduced Ordinance 2009-32, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of transferring funds between line-items, and categories, in the juvenile detention center fund budget; appropriating funds therefore; and, for other purposes for the calendar year 2009.

The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Cash introduced Ordinance 2009- 33, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating supplemental special disaster recovery funds, amending anticipated revenues; appropriating funds therefore; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Boothby seconded. Motion carried.

Bridgman introduced Ordinance 2009-34, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget in the county general fund entitled "Independence County/DWI Court-Pilot Program" with said funds to be derived from a reimbursable fy 2009 highway safety subgrant, amending anticipated 2009 county general revenues, establishing line-items and positions and salaries for the funding period June 1-2009-September 30, 2009, appropriating funds therefore; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Boothby introduced Ordinance 2009-35, which is an ordinance amending ordinance no. 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating juvenile detention construction funds, amending anticipated revenues; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Long seconded. Motion carried.

Stewart motioned that Ordinance 2009-36 be added to the court's agenda. Thompson seconded. Motion carried. Long then introduced Ordinance 2009-36, which is an ordinance authorizing the issuance of a promissory note to provide short-term financing under amendment no. 78 to the Arkansas constitution for the acquisition of real estate property; providing for the payment of the principal of the interest on the note, and prescribing other matter pertaining thereto; declaring an emergency; and for other purposes. The deputy clerk read the ordinance concerning a county shooting range in its entirety. Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Budget matters were then discussed. Judge Hicks told the quorum court that their budget needed some attention. Some of their line-items are in the negative. They agreed to look into and fix.

Judge Hicks announced that the July 20, 2009 budget meeting had been cancelled. Bridgman stated that he spoke with Ms. Sutterfield from the library. She and a library board member plan to be at the next quorum court meeting.

Boothby made a motion to adjourn. Bridgman seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tracey Wyatt, D.C.*  
Tracey Wyatt, Deputy Clerk