

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

March 10, 2009

The Independence County Quorum Court met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Jess B. Carpenter Building. Judge Bill Hicks presided. County Treasurer Linda Foreman and Deputy County Clerk Tracey Wyatt were present. Members of the Court present:

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

A motion was made by Moore to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 regular meeting. Long seconded. All members voted yea.

A motion was made by Thompson to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 Law Enforcement meeting. Sheriff Bowers reported that his office is working on reducing comp hours. The court decided to further discuss this issue next month. The motion was seconded by Cash. All members voted yea.

Long made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 Solid Waste Committee meeting. Bridgman spoke about the meeting at which trash fees were discussed. The committee discussed possible exemptions on things such as unoccupied houses. He also mentioned the fact that this solid waste matter had been studied and discussed for more than a year and a half before the \$5.00 monthly fees were assessed. Bridgman informed us that there are strict state guidelines concerning trash collection and disposal. According to Bridgman, state law forbids a person from burning, burying, or illegally dumping their own trash. Nelson seconded the motion. All members voted yea.

The Sheriff's report was handed out. Sheriff Bowers again answered questions about comp time and about adding an additional deputy in the metro division of the Sheriff's budget.

The Treasurer's report was also handed out.

There were several citizen comments, all concerning the trash fees.

Mr. Ron Erwin of Newport Road praised the county for the good job it does. He does have a problem with the trash fees. He has several rent houses and doesn't feel he should be responsible for the trash fees on these houses. Some of his renters receive rental assistance through HUD and he would not be able to simply raise these people's rent \$5 a month.

Mr. William Coe of Coe Lane stated that he feels the current fees are unfair. Mr. Coe feels that the fees should be based on a person's assessed property

value. He also mentioned a possible vote on a tax increase to fund trash pick up.

Ms. Darlene Hutson of Harmonthown Road told the Court that the county is unable to pick up her trash, but she is still being billed.

Ms. Iola Rutledge of Community Drive objected to her mother receiving a trash bill, because her mother's house is presently vacant.

Ms. Dianne Collins of North Heights Avenue stated that she received a county trash bill on a rent house which is outside the city limits of Batesville. She also pays the city for trash pick-up at this address. Judge Hicks told her that she should not be paying for city trash service if the house is not in the city limits. He advised her to contact the city. She also asked how the county will enforce the trash fee tax. Judge Hicks stated that Arkansas law allows the county to place the unpaid fee on property owners' tax statements.

Mr. Bill Hoskins of Bethesda Lane told the court he feels the \$5 monthly trash fee is a bargain. He feels it would be beneficial to the county to educate the public on the trash problem. He also encouraged recycling. Recycling will not only help with the trash problem, but it will create revenue for the county.

Mr. Don Hawkins of Hardin Lane asked the Court if renters would have to pay the trash fee. The Court told him renters are not billed.

Mr. Mike Watkins of McHue Road told the Court that he carries his trash to the business he owns and does not use the county trash service at his home. He doesn't feel like he should have to pay the county trash fee.

After the citizen comments, a Solid Waste Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 6:00.

Thompson introduced Resolution 2009-03, which is a resolution authorizing the County Judge and County Clerk of Independence County, Arkansas to enter into a construction contract with Stonebridge Construction, LLC of Jonesboro, Arkansas. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Cash seconded the motion. All members voted yea.

Stewart introduced Ordinance 2009-10, which is an ordinance amending ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of reestablishing a fund in the books of the county and a budget division entitled "UACCB Child Care Project Fund", anticipating and appropriating funds therefor; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Nelson seconded. All members voted yea.

Cash introduced Ordinance 2009-11, which is an ordinance adopting the 2009 amendment to the interlocal agreement on law enforcement between the City of Batesville and Independence County, Arkansas, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Boothby seconded. All members voted yea.

Moore introduced Ordinance 2009-12, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, County General fund, as amended for the purpose of establishing an additional deputy position in the Sheriff's Department metro division budget, appropriating salary and match therefor; amending anticipated revenues, for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Nelson seconded. All members voted yea.

Carter introduced Ordinance 2009-13 which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of transferring funds between line-items and categories in the County General fund; appropriating funds therefore; and establishing new line-item; for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Thompson seconded. All members voted yea.

Bridgman introduced Ordinance 2009-14 which is an ordinance authorizing and directing the Independence County Tax Collector to be included on the 2009 tax statement and each year thereafter a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) voluntary contribution for the Desha Volunteer Fire Department annual dues and to collect the contribution in 2010 and subsequent years and for other purposes. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Wyatt seconded. All members voted yea.

Wyatt introduced Ordinance 2009-15 which is an ordinance authorizing and directing the Independence County Tax Collector to be included on the 2009 tax statement and each year thereafter a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) voluntary contribution for the Pleasant Plains Volunteer Fire Department annual dues and to collect the contribution in 2010 and subsequent years and for other purposes. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Thompson seconded. All members voted yea.

With no further business, Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Bridgman seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Wyatt, D.C.

Tracey Wyatt, Deputy Clerk