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HEADINGINDEPENDENCE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

May 14, 2007

The Independence County Quorum Court held its regular session on Monday, May 14, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. in the Jess B. Carpenter Building. Judge Bill Hicks presided. County Clerk Karen Wooldridge and County Treasurer Linda Foreman were present.

Members present were:

Tim Stewart	James Darmstaedter
Karry Phillips	Robert Cuzzort
Deborah Wyatt	Mike Hatfield
David McIntosh	Bill Cash
Orville Arms	Charles Barnett
James McLean	

Stewart made a motion to approve previous meeting's minutes. Arms seconded. Motion was approved.

McIntosh gave the parks and recreation meeting report. Barnett made a motion to approve minutes. Stewart seconded. Motion was approved.

McLean gave the report for the law enforcement meeting stating that an agreement between the Sheriff and Mayor of Cushman had been reached in regards to the town marshal's pay and use of vehicle. McIntosh made a motion to approve. Hatfield seconded. Motion carried.

Judge Hicks told the court that they would find copies of the Interlocal Meeting Minutes in their folders. Barnett asked if our two members were not present at the meeting. McLean stated that he was out of town and Cuzzort stated that he did not get the message. Hicks stated that this was due to a lack of communication.

Barnett gave the report on the budget and solid waste meeting held on May 3, 2007. He stated that there was a shortfall in the solid waste budget and the primary concern is making it through the year. Barnett had recommended that the quorum court cut sales tax from four other budgets (County General, Recreation, Law Enforcement and Solid Waste). At this point Judge Hicks stated that he would like to jump ahead to Ordinances 2007-22 and 24. Phillips stated that they needed to discuss this first. Phillips asked what the projection for the next three months was. Barnett stated that County would be behind \$415,000.00 and run out completely in solid waste budget in eight months, not being able to operate in that last four. Phillips stated that he thought they needed to look at this on a month to month basis. Barnett stated that the budget was out of whack with having one line-item over already. McLean stated that he could not support any remedy that will cut law enforcement. Cuzzort asked how does the savings figure into this. Hicks stated that compared to March 2006 and March 2007 after taking out cost of labor of \$8,000.00 for March, savings would be \$44,000.00. Phillips asked the real net. Barnett did not know. Phillips said that he wanted to wait and look at numbers a little longer. McIntosh asked if the contract with I.E.S.I. had building steps. Eric Hance answered yes. Phillips asked if County had an emergency fund. Barnett stated that the county had reserve and contingently fund. Phillips made a motion to carry over to next meeting and allow the clerk to pay bills. Arms seconded. Eric Hance stated that this could be a problem paying when there were no funds. Phillips then restated the motion to table until next month, and to pay the bills out of the reserve fund until next month. Arms seconded. Motion was passed.

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The sheriff's report was handed out. County Treasurer handed out the treasurer's report stating that sales tax was about 5% below on year to date.

In new business, Judge Choate spoke to the court regarding the case load in Juvenile Court and the need for additional help in Cleburne County. Phillips asked what the cost would be for the County. Judge Choate stated that about \$16,000.00 if no funding was found. After one year the state would kick in and the amount would be around \$8,000.00. He stated that he was not asking for anything tonight but would like to be heard at the next meeting.

Cuzzort introduced Resolution 2007-12, a resolution declaring a vacancy in the office of constable for Ruddell Rural Township in State of Arkansas. The clerk read the resolution in its entirety. McLean asked if the Judge would appoint someone for the vacant position. Hicks stated that the Clerk would send a declaration to the Governor's Office and he would be the one to appoint someone. Darmstaedter seconded. Motion carried.

Cash introduced Resolution 2007-13, a resolution authorizing the Independence County Judge to submit an application to the State of Arkansas Department of Rural Services for a grant on behalf of the Independence County Fair Association. The clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Stewart introduced Ordinance 2007-18, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-48 and the annual budget for 2007, as amended, for the purpose of transferring funds between line-items, categories and budgets in the County General Fund, Child Support Fund, Senior Citizens Fund and County Clerk Cost Fund, establishing new line-item; appropriating funds therefore; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2007. The clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Arms seconded. Motion carried...

Hatfield introduced Ordinance 2007-20, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-48 and the annual budget for 2007 for the purpose of appropriating supplemental funds to the County General Fund, establishing new line-items; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2007. The clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. McLean seconded. Motion carried.

McLean introduced Ordinance 2007-21, an ordinance amending Ordinance 2006-48 and the annual budget for 2007 for the purpose of appropriating supplemental funds to the Grant Fund with said funds to be derived from a matching grant program entitled "The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998"; and for other purposes for the calendar year 2007. The clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Darmstaedter introduced Ordinance 2006-23, an ordinance amending ordinance 2006-48 and the annual budget for 2007 for the purpose of appropriating to County General, Newark Metro Budget; establishing a new line-item, and for other purposes for the calendar year 2007. The clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Cash seconded. Motion carried.

Judge Hicks stated that the unlimited local calling service from Oil Trough and Batesville was one step closer? Without further announcements, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Wooldridge
Independence County Clerk