

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Stewart
Nelson 2nd

10-0

September 16, 2009

The Independence County Quorum Court met in its regular session on September 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jess B. Carpenter Building. Judge Bill Hicks presided. Independence County Chief Deputy Sheriff Steve Jeffery, 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	

Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 meeting. Long seconded. Motion carried. The August 25, 2009 law enforcement committee meeting minutes were then discussed. Anne Moore also attended that meeting but was not listed as attending. The minutes should show Moore in attendance. Boothby made a motion to approve these minutes with correction. Long seconded. Motion carried.

The sheriff's report was handed out. Long noticed an increase in traffic tickets. Jeffery explained that the increase is due to the new traffic officer.

The treasurer's report was handed out. Treasurer Foreman stated that the county is seeing a 4% increase in sales tax revenues. The budget is being maintained and seems to be where it should be at this time. Foreman also mentioned that the quorum court budget needs additional funds.

There was no road report.

The hydro report was handed out. Mr. Steve Fletcher spoke to the court, stating that the transition has gone well since July. He reported that the flood damage is now under control. He is planning to provide monthly financial statements to the court. He stated that transformer testing/maintenance is necessary. Property mowing has been taken care of as promised to those who signed easement agreements. Tree trimming plans have been made to maintain the power lines. He recently met with Clarksville. He then spoke of plans to hire Kline-Schmidt to study our dams. Mr. Fletcher introduced Steven Mitchell, who is handling the financial matters of the hydro project. Mr. Mitchell stated that revenue generation is looking better. Ms. Hooker with ACA then addressed the court. She feels pleased with the progress being made.. The court then discussed whether or not the court would sign Kline-Schmidt paper work. Long made a motion to sign necessary papers. Thompson seconded. Motion carried. Stewart also made a motion to pay a hydro bill from Williams and Anderson for \$297.14. Long seconded. Motion carried.

The economic development report was handed out. Mr. Ed Mabry reported to the court. He stated that a decision should be made this week about the DHS call center. The ICEDC has been in contact with a filtration business. They are researching available grants. Mabry has also had a preliminary meeting with an aviation firm. There has not yet been a reply on the Emerson Electric bonds. Mabry had his first needs assessment meeting in Tony Thompson's j.p. district and is interested in having meetings in each of the other districts.

Judge Hicks asked if there were any citizen comments. Chadwick Smart spoke to the court about the county's purchase of new road graders. He feels that the proper steps may not have been taken when purchasing these graders. Smart had previously contacted Justices of the Peace Long and Bridgman. Long and Bridgman researched this matter with AAC and both feel that the proper guidelines were followed.

Judge Chaney Taylor spoke to the court about the need to create two new budget line-items. The first concerns a DHS Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention grant for DWI court. The second concerns DWI court fees. Thompson made a motion to approve the creation of the new line-items and appropriate \$20,000 into the DWI court fees line-item. Stewart seconded. Motion carried. Taylor then told the court that there will be sessions at UACCB for the people at the sheriff's office who will be working with the district court computer program. He also wanted to thank Debbie Frazier for allowing the county to use the college's facilities.

Stewart was questioned about the outcome of the law enforcement meeting. Since no solution has been found, it was decided that the matter be further discussed at the September 21 law enforcement committee meeting. Thompson made a motion to move this matter to committee and Bridgman seconded. Motion carried.

Cash introduced Resolution 2009-10, which is a resolution authorizing the county judge and the county clerk of Independence County, Arkansas to enter into an administrative agreement with the White River Planning and Development District, Inc. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Bridgman introduced Resolution 2009-11, which is a resolution authorizing the county judge of Independence County to submit an application to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for an economic development project. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Wyatt introduced Resolution 2009-12, which is a resolution requesting construction of and designating priorities for improvements to U.S. Highway 167. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Long seconded. Motion carried.

Thompson introduced Resolution 2009-13, which is a resolution opposing the clean water restoration act (S787). Thompson explained

that he feels the act is worded so that landowners' rights would be restricted. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Carter seconded. Stewart abstained from voting, because he is an employee of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Those voting for the resolution were Bridgman, Wyatt, Moore, Weaver, Boothby, Nelson, Carter, Cash, Long and Thompson. There were none voting nay. Motion passed.

Nelson introduced Resolution 2009-14, which is a resolution pertaining to the distribution of Act 844 funds among Independence County fire departments. The deputy clerk read the resolution in its entirety. Long seconded. Motion carried.

Boothby introduced Ordinance 2009-43, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating supplemental treasurer's automation funds, and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Wyatt seconded. Motion carried.

Moore introduced Ordinance 2009-44, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating supplemental county general funds to the sheriff department metro division budget, amending anticipated county general revenues, appropriating funds therefore, and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Stewart seconded. Motion carried.

Long introduced Ordinance 2009-45, 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 juvenile detention center fund/juvenile detention grant-in-aid budget; transferring funds thereto, and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Weaver introduced Ordinance 2009-46, 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 voluntary contribution for the Cave City Volunteer Fire Department annual dues and to collect the contribution in 2009 and subsequent years and for other purposes. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Thompson seconded. Motion carried.

Nelson introduced Ordinance 2009-47, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of appropriating supplemental Future Fuel project funds, establishing new line-items, amending anticipated revenues, appropriating funds therefore, and for other purposes for the calendar year 2009. The deputy clerk read the ordinance in its entirety. Carter abstained from voting on the ordinance, because he is an employee of Future Fuel. Those voting yea were Stewart, Bridgman, Wyatt, Moore, Weaver, Boothby, Nelson, Cash, Long and Thompson. Motion passed.

Stewart introduced Ordinance 2009-48, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the

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purpose of establishing a fund in the books of the county and a budget division entitled "Townsend's Equipment" with said funds to be derived from an Arkansas Department of Economics Development grant, establishing line-items, anticipating and 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.

Moore introduced Ordinance 2009-49, which is an ordinance amending Ordinance 2008-43 and the annual budget for 2009, as amended, for the purpose of establishing a budget in the books of the county entitled "Heather Lane Water Project Fund" with said funds to be derived from an Arkansas Department of Economics Development grant, establishing line-items, anticipating and 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.

The quorum court and coroner's budgets were then discussed. Bridgman suggested a \$4,700 appropriation to cover the quorum court budget deficit. This motion carried. Stewart made a motion to appropriate \$100 to cover the coroner's budget deficit. Long seconded. Motion carried. Boothby stated these budgets would be further discussed at the October 5th committee meeting and also asked that all committee members be given budgets the week before this meeting.

Judge Hicks then discussed the equalization board pay. The judge suggested the county raise their pay to \$75 per meeting. We had just been paying \$50 per meeting, which is below what other Arkansas counties are paying. Long made a motion to raise the rate to \$75 per meeting. Stewart seconded. Motion carried.

Long made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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