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**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT**

Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
5:30 p.m.

Washington County Quorum Court Room

- 345.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met in special session on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Marilyn Edwards. She stated the purpose of this meeting was to work on items pertaining to the 2017 budget process.
- 345.2 D. Balls led the Quorum Court in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 345.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Gary McHenry, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussey.
- 345.4 MEMBERS ABSENT: Harvey Bowman and Joel Maxwell.
- 345.5 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, Chief of Staff George Butler, County Attorney Steve Zega, Treasurer Bobby Hill, Comptroller Ashley Farber; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 345.6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 345.7 **A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The agenda was adopted as presented.**
- 345.8 CITIZENS COMMENTS: Judge Edwards announced they were going to have their 15-minute citizen comments period with a three-minute limit for each individual at this time.
- 345.9 Allen Shumate, resident of Washington County, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he was there in support of the 4-H and Extension Service. He noted that his kids have benefited from their involvement in 4-H, which is a wonderful organization. He urged the court to continue their funding and hopefully approve the request for a funding increase for an additional 4-H agent.
- 345.10 David Ruff, resident of Prairie Grove, addressed the Quorum Court stating when he was at their last meeting he referred to comments made by a JP on a radio program relating to the Washington County employees. He stated he was wrong in that these comments were made by an individual running

for a JP position on this court. He wanted to set the record straight and apologize.

- 346.1 T. Lundstrum responded to D. Ruff, stating that many people felt he was speaking about him as he had been on KURM radio around that time. He wanted the county employees to know that it was not him that said they were lazy and worthless. He appreciates D. Ruff setting the record straight.
- 346.2 Cassie Davis, resident of Prairie Grove, addressed the Quorum Court stating she was there to appeal to the court on behalf of the 4-H program. She stated she realizes our county is growing and not as rural as it once was, but that does not mean that they should not support the rural programs. An investment in our county is being made through the 4-H program with kids growing up to learn responsibilities and how to be productive adults. She noted the State may be failing the Extension Service in funding, but the County should not also fail them because they will reap the benefits of what these programs and public service 4-H teaches them.
- 346.3 Kristi Weaver, resident of Washington County, addressed the Quorum Court stating she was there on behalf of the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service. She is the Club leader of the Hogeye 4-H Club, the largest 4-H Club in the County with about 70 kids. She noted she along with her husband and son have attended nearly all Quorum Court meetings over the last 12-14 months, stating they are truly concerned about the Extension Service. They wanted to learn what is going on with a county budget and what funds were available. She stated that she understands that reserves are low and a lot of these decisions have been made, but since the millage increase is on the agenda for discussion, she urged the Quorum Court to consider increasing the millage to increase their revenue to support programs throughout the county. K. Weaver stated that while the buck has been passed down from the State to the County for funding these 4-H Programs, these county kids really need the support of their County Quorum Court.
- 346.4 Dorothy Carney, resident between West Fork and Devils Den, addressed the Quorum Court stating that her rural family has utilized the Extension Service since 1971 to learn about farming and animals with her kids active in 4-H. She further stated her support for the Master Gardeners, an important part of the Extension Service that beautifies the cities, with volunteers supporting the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks; programs at schools, including Farm Days; and 4-H Clubs. She stated that these

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programs are very important for children's lives whether they are rural or not.

- 347.1 Louise Powers, resident of the County, addressed the Quorum Court and stated her support of the Extension Office. She urged the court to give good consideration to their budget and keep it a viable organization.
- 347.2 Gloria McIntosh, resident of Fayetteville, addressed the Quorum Court stating that she was a 4-H member as a young girl and went on to study horticulture at the University. She is now a 15-year life member of Master Gardeners. She reported that two years ago they started a soil detective program that they take into all second grade classes in Washington County to teach them all about soil. She stated that this program won the State Master Gardener Award for excellence in education. She stated that all of these programs provided through the Extension Service are very important to Northwest Arkansas.
- 347.3 Candice Wilson, resident of the County, addressed the Quorum Court stating she along with four generations in her family grew up in 4-H and she is the President of the Washington County Extension Homemakers Club. She attributed the leadership her family has to their upbringing in 4-H, including public speaking. She noted through 4-H she received scholarships for college where she received a degree in Home Economics. She stated that Washington County has always been very competitive at the State level which is where kids receive scholarships through their record books and it is very important to have supportive 4-H agents.
- 347.4 Mary McCully, resident of Springdale, addressed the Quorum Court as a professional woman who retired after many years of service in Springdale. She reported taking the Master Gardener Program and the work they are doing in the Springdale Schools is awesome and would not be possible without the support from their local Extension Office. She noted that the East Program has taken young children out to the Springdale Razorback Greenway and mapped out planting 980 milkweed plants. As a professional woman having been in leadership and management, she can attest that the Extension Service does an excellent job and she is hopeful that their funding will be approved.
- 347.5 A. Harbison noted that milkweeds are for the monarch butterflies.

- 348.1        REVIEW 2017 BUDGET REQUESTS:
- 348.2        6A - COUNTY CLERK BUDGET - County Clerk Becky Lewallen addressed the Quorum Court stating the reason she is asking for a budget increase is for postage. She explained every odd year they do an average confirmation mailing. In 2013 she spent \$17,000 for her mailings, and in 2015, she spent \$22,000. She noted that she is asking for \$18,000 for 2017, because she believes that a strong voter turnout in November will kick a lot of people off the list.
- 348.3        **E. Madison made a motion to pass the County Clerk's budget. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 348.4        B. Ussery thanked B. Lewallen for spelling out her budget very clearly.
- 348.5        R. Cochran addressed general supplies in the County Clerk's budget noting that the Court has approved \$10,000 year-to-year, but she is only spending about \$6,300 to \$7,500. He questioned whether she needs the full \$10,000.
- 348.6        B. Lewallen responded to R. Cochran stating this could be reduced, but she would hate to not have these funds available if needed, as she tries to keep her automation fund strictly for Computer IT.
- 348.7        **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a voice vote on the motion to pass the County Clerk's budget. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The County Clerk's budget was passed.**
- 348.8        6B - COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET - County Health Department Director Robin Thomas addressed the Quorum Court thanking them, along with Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Ron Wood for the support they have provided over the years. She noted their Health Unit was recently recognized as one of the top five in the Northwest Region, partially due to the appearance and maintenance of the grounds and cleanliness of their building. R. Thomas stated the increase they have asked for this year is mainly for an educational system for their waiting rooms to teach their clients about their health while they are waiting to be seen in their clinics.
- 348.9        In response to a question from T. Lundstrum, R. Thomas stated the \$4,100 for cable represents this educational system.

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- 349.1 In response to a question from R. Cochran, R. Thomas stated that this would be a monthly expense. She explained this is an all health access channel where they can select what is shown and have appropriate material for child health, woman's health, and in the CD wings.
- 349.2 L. Ecke questioned why this came under cable and not education, to which R. Thomas stated she was told to put it under this coding, but it probably could go under education. L. Ecke stated she would prefer this be under education and inquired about the provider and other competitive providers.
- 349.3 R. Thomas explained that this service is provided through a company called "Ever Well", a cabling company that provides cable service for healthcare providers' waiting rooms. She stated their problem with other such companies is they show advertisements for pharmaceuticals, and since they receive grant money from Title 10 and other national institutions, they cannot advertise pharmaceuticals or promote one pharmaceutical company over another. She stated that after researching companies, "Ever Well" was the only one they were able to find. The cost for similar service through other companies that advertise for pharmaceuticals was about half the cost. She further noted that they were given a government rate. She stated that she has not found available grants for education that could be applied, but is always looking for these.
- 349.4 Ashley Farber, County Comptroller, stated even though this is educational, it still is a cabling service, which is why they code it as such.
- 349.5 In response to questions from R. Dennis about how many people would view this per year; R. Thomas stated they see over 10,000 patients per year. She added that this company will allow them to select programs from over 700 videos shown online with the ability to add their own. She stated with the recent mumps outbreak, their physicians in Little Rock have taped snippets which can be added to the waiting room viewing list. The service also provides a ticker tape system along the bottom of the screen that can show the availability for flu shots provided at their Flu Clinic on certain dates, show holiday hours, etc. R. Thomas stated that these videos are multi-language and they have the ability to tape their own messages in different languages.
- 349.6 **A. Harbison made a motion to approve the County Health Department budget. E. Madison seconded.**

- 350.1 R. Cochran asked what amount of time the average patient spends in a waiting area to view these video programs; to which R. Thomas responded it depends on what service they are there for and how much time it takes to get them registered in the systems. On average, it does take about 20-30 minutes. She further responded that these video programs are from 5-15 minutes long depending on the topic.
- 350.2 L. Ecke stated while she supports public health which is very important, she questioned whether they had DVDs that could do the same thing for a lot less than \$4,100 for cable.
- 350.3 R. Thomas responded to L. Ecke, stating that the problem is that they would have to change the DVDs on TVs that hang on the walls. She further stated that putting them on a continuous loop would just play the same message over and over again. The nice thing about this service is that they could have several topics running all day long so patients could see 4-5 different messages depending on what is current at the time.
- 350.4 L. Ecke suggested they could have a DVD that covered 4-5 different topics and can be switched out after completion. This type of investment would save the county from a \$4,100 ongoing cable program expense.
- 350.5 R. Thomas responded to L. Ecke's suggestion, stating that the problem with DVDs would be their cost, availability, and format for a particular audience, while this service has already been produced and put together. Further, she stated they have the ability to add to this, it changes constantly, and they can go in at any given point in time and make an appropriate list depending on what is current. The DVD would have to be produced and found in a format where they can combine several things together.
- 350.6 L. Ecke questioned whether there might be DVDs already produced and available on the federal and state level in multiple languages and what that cost comparison would be.
- 350.7 R. Thomas addressed multiple languages stating they do have Spanish and English available; however, this area has a large population of Marshallese people and do their own translating as it is not available in Marshallese. She stated that this cable company allows them to tape their own video that they can upload and play, giving the example of Dr. Rickland with UAMS did a whole series on mumps that they were able to show.

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- 351.1 L. Ecke stated that she cannot support the County Health Department budget at this time and would like to see some cost comparisons.
- 351.2 S. Lloyd inquired about the \$500 additional under IT Computer; to which R. Thomas responded was an expense they had this year that they did not include in the budget last year which is to replace different HDMI cords throughout the building and has nothing to do with this video cost. She added that some of their cords are ten years old and they started to replace them this year.
- 351.3 T. Lundstrum stated he would rather see this \$4,100 left in the county's budget for someone who actually needs it to run their department as opposed to just furnishing an extra benefit for patients at the Health Department. He stated that the county spent about \$50,000 at the Health Department on telephones. He stated he realizes this service would be nice, but it is not necessary.
- 351.4 G. McHenry asked about the number of waiting areas and televisions the Health Department has; to which R. Thomas responded they have three waiting areas: child health with two separate areas for immunizations and WIC with a clerical area in between; a women's health waiting area; and a CD waiting area. She further stated that none of the televisions are viewable from multiple waiting areas.
- 351.5 R. Cochran stated that he also believes they need to look into this a little further to see if there is a more economical way to do it. He stated if they did have a playback that was a continuous loop for 30-35 minutes that would cover everyone in the waiting rooms. They should be able to find a few media sources to cover that and since they have to develop the Marshallese program themselves, they might as well go that way. He concurs that this is a very good idea, but this is a very tight budget year and they certainly need to focus on the needs.
- 351.6 **R. Cochran made a motion for an amendment to strike the \$4,100 cable line item from the Health Department's budget. B. Pond seconded.**
- 351.7 E. Madison stated that she is against the amendment because this is a very vulnerable population without good transportation in the county. There are not many opportunities to get to them at all and their only interaction with the public may be at the Health Department. She stated the ability to communicate with those folks about current health issues is very important

to the health of their county. She stated if they start looking at Washington County statistics, health issues and the number of people living in poverty, this is the population that they need to be reaching out to, and outdated DVD's do not get through to them. She stated the ability to have something this inexpensive that stays current and goes out in the languages that they need it to go out in will give them a very positive payback. She further pointed out that if this had been a little bit less, they would not even be there because every department with an increase of just \$2,000 were given a pass. She stated this is a very minimal cost in the grand scheme of things.

- 352.1 S. Madison stated some of the people coming to the Health Department have traveled through two changes of buses, carried car seats with them on the buses, and do not have cable television at home. She stated for them to have the opportunity to learn the benefits of a flu shot, to know why it is important to get a mumps vaccine, to understand how WIC works, is invaluable and improving the health of citizens of this county is something they should all be proud of doing. She stated their Health Department has taken a leadership role in helping a vulnerable population of women and young children and urged the court to support the budget increase.
- 352.2 A. Harbison stated she concurs with E. Madison and S. Madison and further pointed out another angle that the county would have to have personnel to put these DVDs together, which would take time and cost money. In a year's time, this may end up costing more than the \$4,100. She sees this as cost efficient when they consider the amount of time it takes to keep track and provide this service for over 10,000 people a year.
- 352.3 R. Dennis asked if in her research, R. Thomas heard any success stories of others who have done this; to which she responded she does not have those with her, but would be happy to share those with the court. For instance, maternity clinics and pediatricians are able to address current issues such as colds, flu and stomach bugs this time of year, and show videos about how to keep homes clean, etc. R. Dennis stated that he wishes everyone spoke English and they had immigration rules that worked, but they do not and these immigrants need to know the things that we know about whooping cough, mumps and measles. He stated that they put their own families at risk when they do not teach them how to take care of themselves. He stated for less than the cost of a postage stamp or 41 cents per person a year that come through the Health Department, they would be able to teach people about these important health issues. He



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sees this as being advantageous to the county and he will support the budget increase.

- 353.1 S. Lloyd stated as an employee of Springdale Public Schools with a majority of the Marshallese population, they educate their people all the time and give free internet and cable services to families who have free or reduced lunches through Cox Communication, so the argument that they are not getting this education is not entirely true. She further stated that they are all the time offering free clinics that address many of these issues with the Marshallese and Latino population. She stated she just does not want to double dip when they are trying to save money for other things in the county.
- 353.2 L. Ecke stated she supports all the work that the Health Department does and supports their citizens, but she also knows in Springdale, they have Cargill, George's and Tyson's that educate the parents of these children with seminars on issues like this. She stated Springdale is a community taking care of ourselves and at this time, she will be unable to support this budget increase for the Health Department.
- 353.3 In response to a question from G. McHenry; R. Thomas stated they have brochures that support the information that might be presented on these videos. Their nursing staff offers the brochures in multiple languages that apply to them at the time; however, they find many of these brochures in the parking lot, so there is a lot to be said for sitting in a waiting room and hearing a message played over and over again. G. McHenry stated they have sort of become a culture of ignoring things, but believes especially related to health information, it is important to have something in your hand to study again if presented in a fun way.
- 353.4 **T. Lundstrum called for the question. E. Madison seconded.**
- 353.5 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the call for the question.**
- 353.6 **VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: A. Harbison. **The motion passed with twelve members voting for and one member voting against the call for the question. Debate was cut off.****

- 354.1 County Attorney Steve Zega reminded the court that these are all motions to pass on the proposed budgets to the Full Quorum Court and of the 13 members present; any of the motions would take 7 vote majority to pass.
- 354.2 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on R. Cochran's motion for an amendment.**
- 354.3 VOTING FOR: L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: R. Dennis, A. Harbison, E. Madison, S. Madison, and D. Balls. **The motion passed with eight members voting for and five members voting against the motion for an amendment. The cable line item for \$4,100 would be stricken from the Health Department budget.**
- 354.4 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to pass the Health Department budget as amended.**
- 354.5 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis. . . VOTING AGAINST: L. Ecke, A. Harbison. . .
- 354.6 After voting started, L. Ecke stated she wished to change her vote and County Attorney Steve Zega advised her that she was entitled to do so before the final tally was counted. He further verified that they were voting on the Health Department budget less the \$4,100 as amended by R. Cochran.
- 354.7 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: A. Harbison, E. Madison, and S. Madison. **The motion passed with ten members voting for and three members voting against the motion to pass the Health Department budget as amended. The Health Department budget as amended was passed.**
- 354.8 6C - COUNTY CORONER BUDGET - Roger Morris, County Coroner, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he has been coming before the Quorum Court for over 14 years but only when he needs something. He stated last year he had to come back and ask for Deputy Coroner pay of \$10,000 and he did not put it in the budget for 2016 to see if there was a pattern and where they stood. He will be returning in a month to ask for money again. He stated with the population increase, they have had an increase in unattended deaths which is why he is asking for \$24,000 in 2017 for Deputy Coroner pay so he will not come up short again.

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- 355.1 R. Morris stated that they have done well with their vehicles, servicing them every 2,000 miles, but the vehicles he is needing to replace are the first ones his department had. There is a 2004 vehicle that they use for trips to the Little Rock Crime Lab, etc., and a 2006 Blazer which is currently useless as they have cars going all over the county. He reported last weekend their pick up vehicles were all on the East side of the county, and they received two more calls on the West side of the county. As a result, he had to use mortuary services to make those removals, which cost him money out of his budget. He stated that he wants to replace these vehicles with small and medium-size vans, which are more economical, get better gas millage, and can hold two cots. He stated they have been using Suburbans and trucks which are quite a bit more expensive than vans which can be purchased for \$18,000 to \$21,000. He noted he will use the smaller van for naturals. The medium size van will require installation of a partition and will have air conditioning units that can be used as a cooler.
- 355.2 R. Morris reviewed the line items he has increased including \$3,000 for a new computer and \$5,700 for small equipment for replacing two cots. He noted an error in the postage line item which should be \$300 instead of \$3,000.
- 355.3 T. Lundstrum stated that this is a fair, reasonable increase for this very critical budget to the county. He noted reports from County Deputies that there has been a huge increase in deaths in the county with the population increase, and this budget will need to continue to increase as well.
- 355.4 B. Pond asked about whether the vans were half, three-quarter or one-ton vans; to which R. Morris responded he does not want anything bulky to be used to transport and cool; he does not need a large engine.
- 355.5 S. Lloyd referred to the training and education line item inquiring about the reason for the increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000; to which R. Morris explained he has cut back on training over the years and it is time to go back for some training. He stated they have to maintain their excellence and are known as one of the upper coroner's offices in the state. He stated that he has been hiring retired part-time deputy coroners to keep that fund lower, but they have to educate them to be American Board of Deaths Investigators (ABDI) qualified. He reported that 65% to 70% of their calls are from every city in this county and they receive no funds from these cities.
- 355.6 S. Lloyd asked about the number of employees in the Coroner's Department; to which he responded that he has six part-time employees

including his Office Manager and 3-4 of these people are already on APERS. He further verified that the majority of the Coroner's budget increase is due to one part-time Deputy Coroner and the two vehicles which are on a 10-year plan.

- 356.1 R. Cochran addressed the vehicles line item at \$50,000 and what made up the difference with the vans costing around \$40,000; to which R. Morris explained that they have to have a partition and air conditioning unit installed in the larger van, radio units installed to stay in contact with the county, as well as emergency flashers, etc. With respect to the trade-in value on the old vehicles, R. Morris stated that he will trade in the Blazer, but would like to keep the truck in the back to go on calls up on the mountain or off in the holler, etc., that is 4-wheel drive so if they hit a rock or something, they are not tearing up the new vehicles.
- 356.2 R. Cochran inquired about the request for a new computer, stating that \$3,000 seemed high; to which R. Morris responded that was what IT told him to put in his budget for a new computer. R. Cochran stated unless there is a special program needed, he should be able to replace his computer for less money.
- 356.3 B. Ussery asked what percentage increase in deaths has the Coroner seen in the last couple of years; to which R. Morris responded a few years back they had 1,600 to 1,800 and now they have anywhere from 2,200 to 2,400 calls. B. Ussery further noted he has shown \$10,000 for fuel and lubricants; however, only spent \$1,400 last year and has not spent \$10,000 since 2013, asking if there was any room there to decrease his budget. R. Morris responded that he believes he will spend nearly \$10,000 in fuel and lubricants this next year because the new laws passed 2-3 years ago state that bodies cannot be pronounced dead unless done by a physician, coroner or hospice nurse of that patient. He stated that their hospice programs are not going to nursing homes now and the coroner will have to attend all nursing home deaths which will increase their mileage and fuel costs. B. Ussery questioned, therefore, whether one additional part-time deputy coroner would be enough, to which R. Morris stated he is hoping it will be enough and if not, he will need to come back for additional funding.
- 356.4 Comptroller Ashley Farber pointed out that the proposed budgets before the court show all expenditures as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and will be updated later on.
- 356.5 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that T. Lundstrum requested a year ago that he research the possibility of charging a coroner's fee to the cities

based on either population or actual calls, and he concluded that the county does not have the statutory authority to do that.

357.1 Judge Edwards questioned whether this could be brought before their state legislators to which T. Lundstrum stated they could draft a resolution and try it.

357.2 T. Lundstrum stated that he is always overwhelmed with how the state keeps mandating things, especially since the state is bragging that they have an excess of \$177 million. He noted that this latest mandate regarding nursing home calls will be an increase in fuel and time.

357.3 **A. Harbison made a motion to approve the County Coroner's budget with the line item correction in postage from \$3,000 to \$300. B. Pond seconded.**

357.4 Comptroller Ashley Farber noted that the new total for the Coroner's budget is \$345,760 with the postage correction.

357.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the Coroner's budget as corrected..**

357.6 **VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The County Coroner's budget as corrected was approved.**

357.7 **A 5-minute recess was taken at this time.**

357.8 **6D - COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE BUDGET** - Berni Kurz, Washington County Extension Agent, Staff Chairman, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he is pleased to lead their current staff of 12. He stated he is asking for an increase in their budget to increase their staff to 13, which is what they had a couple of years ago. He noted historically the county has supported their needs to the fullest. In 2005, he requested and the court approved an additional agent to support the growth need they had in the county, particularly with the demand their agents were responding to water quality issues and education. He noted at that time they had a 4-H agent, two family consumer science agents, and two agriculture agents to handle the urban and commercial horticultural aspects, as well as the commercial livestock and poultry producers in the county. He further reported two years ago they had some vacancies occur and due to shortfalls in funding,

the vacancies were not allowed to be filled. At that time, he came to the table as a partner to support a full staff of five agents and the court supported the hire of the agriculture agent to take care of the commercial livestock and poultry as well as their youth livestock program. He stated that he is there now to ask for the 4-H agent's position in their 2017 budget.

- 358.1 B. Kurz addressed a document that highlighted some of the programs that the four agents currently in place conduct, which are in huge demand. He stated that with Washington County being the size it is with the largest number of registered farmers in the state of Arkansas and the growth experienced, the need for agriculture agents is taxing on their two agents. He stated they are not letting the 4-H Programs go, but this is wearing and tearing on the current agents. He noted having the most farms in Arkansas, monies that are garnered and added to the tax base of this county; provide the second largest income to a farming community in the State. He explained the reason we are the second, not first is because they have a lot of small part-time farmers, but their demands on Extension Agents is as much as a large producer because they have the same questions and needs. He stated they have a lot of small truck patch producers who make up their many farmers' markets in the county.
- 358.2 B. Kurz stated the Family Consumer Science arena is covered by their previous 4-H agent who replaced their retiring agent. He noted the court heard from one of the Extension homemakers who is a product of the 4-H Program and certainly appreciated in leading the Extension Homemakers Clubs, the largest in Arkansas. He noted their current agents are producers shown consistently by the numbers they are producing compared to other counties in the state. He stated that the Economic Community Development arena is where they place their Master Gardeners who contribute widely in the community from Springdale and Fayetteville to the smaller areas like Lincoln and Winslow with programs in those outlying areas. He reported that they are second to Pulaski County for families who qualify for SNAP funds or food stamps. He noted that the SNAP educational program that the Extension Service provides is hugely in demand and their agent works in the school system providing youth and teachers the resource based information on proper nutrition.
- 358.3 B. Kurtz stated that their Extension Service agents are doing a very good job. He cannot continue to ask them to provide more to contribute to the 4-H Program above what they were asked to do when first hired, which is what he has been doing for over a year. He stated he needs the county's

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support to hire a 4-H agent so they can retain the agents they currently have.

- 359.1 L. Ecke voiced her love of 4-H and the significance of the Extension Agent just for 4-H. She stated when their exceptional sons and daughters reach the state level in competition, they need an Extension Agent there to represent them in State competitions.
- 359.2 B. Kurz added without an agent to dedicate all their time to the 4-H Program, there is danger of the remaining agents allowing things to fall between the cracks. This will not allow some of their local 4-H members who are achievers to be the best at what they are doing.
- 359.3 L. Ecke reported that our 4-H Club was in Little Rock competing with parents Kristy and Mike Weaver, leaders of one of the 4-H Clubs, and found out that the State will only communicate vital information to an Extension Agent, not the parents. She likened it to going to the Super Bowl without a head coach because their students in Washington County are winning on the state and national level. She stated these 4-Hers need that coach, mentor and educator to help them succeed and not have to forfeit an event because they did not have an agent with them.
- 359.4 A. Harbison stated this is one of the most important investments that they can make in this county. She stated when they talk about economic development and money, the base in this county is agriculture. They need this 4-H agent. She stated that they need to support their Extension Office who is doing a magnificent job, but overworking their people and cannot continue to do that. She stated next to the county employees, the Extension Office is the next most important organization that they help to support. She noted that this is an economic position that creates jobs and invests in developing our kids so they can participate in the economy. She stated unless you are familiar with or have been involved in 4-H, you do not realize the leadership value that 4-H provides. People in state government got their start in 4-H Clubs. She noted even in the urban environment, 4-H is important in creating leadership and personal development in youth so they will participate and contribute to their communities. This organization teaches that.
- 359.5 S. Lloyd stated that Berni Kurz is one of the nicest people she knows and she appreciates everything that he does. She asked if the going salary for a 4-H Agent is \$65,000, which is what the Extension Office is requesting.

- 360.1 B. Kurz responded to S. Lloyd stating \$65,000 is the base for the support of five agents, not the amount that will be used to hire a new agent. He stated the base is more than just the personnel to be hired, it is the support that comes with that. He stated as Extension agents, they have a tremendous amount of educational support that they can call on from the State Office in Little Rock. He noted that Washington County is currently supporting four agents at a cost of \$30,000 per agent and the cost to have five agents would be at \$37,000 per agent. The difference is based on the support that the agents have, as well as the cost of maintenance, operation and behind the scene costs that support those positions.
- 360.2 S. Madison stated she recalls B. Kurz coming to the court seeking assistance to help replace some of the funding that the Division of Agriculture failed to give them. She inquired about whether the state has stepped up to make up for the loss from last year or have they increased their funding.
- 360.3 B. Kurz responded to S. Madison stating that funding from the state for the last nine years has been pretty level. He stated the reason there has been a shortage is because the cost of doing business has increased. They are trying to do the same amount of business at a higher cost.
- 360.4 S. Madison stated that the Division of Agriculture is not stepping up and helping their Extension Services across the state but they can raise millions of dollars to add onto a football stadium that is used minimally each year. She sees that as a serious inappropriate use of resources. She stated she will be unable to support the requested increase in the Extension Office budget for a 4-H agent, noting they just denied support of approximately \$4,100 to help young mothers of modest means take better care of their children. She stated the 4-H youth that they are talking about for the most part have strong parental support who can take their children to Little Rock to compete, while these other mothers are lucky to take a Public Transit bus to get to the Health Department. They turned down simple programs to help them become better educated on taking care of their children which to her is heartbreaking as their values are just misplaced.
- 360.5 **L. Ecke made a motion to approve the County Extension Office budget as presented. The motion was seconded.**
- 360.6 R. Cochran stated last year he supported their budget increase of \$60,000, which was to help force the issue with the state. He inquired as to how many people in the audience have spoken to their State Representative or



Senator. He stated that is where they need to put the pressure on this issue because they cannot keep slipping back on the county. The state will see that and start withdrawing their funds, and then the county will be footing the entire bill. He stated that he likes what the 4-H Program does, but does not like what the state is doing, and for that he will not support this budget increase.

- 361.1 **R. Cochran made a motion to amend the County Extension Office 2017 budget to the 2016 approved budget. T. Lundstrum seconded.**
- 361.2 T. Lundstrum stated he concurs with R. Cochran. Though he may appear to be an opponent to the Extension Service, he is not. He feels that they do great work, but should be funded by the state. He reiterated that our Governor goes on TV and brags about having \$177 million worth of reserves, but he cannot fund the Extension Service. The county has already paid for a couple of agents and is now being asked to fund another. He questioned whether they had been to Little Rock to argue with them for the money; to which B. Kurz responded as a state employee, they are prohibited from going to the state for this money. He stated that it was his understanding that the University and the State were the primary supporters of this program. He further noted that when he and Judge Edwards were in FFA and 4-H, it was all done in the school system and they did a fine job with it.
- 361.3 E. Madison inquired about the price for 4 or 5 agents and questioned whether this pricing is something the state has put together that they are now coming to the county to ask for. B. Kurz responded that this is occurring in all 75 counties in the state. It has occurred only once before in his career where the County Extension agent in all 75 counties approaches the Quorum Court to come to a plan where there is some equity. He noted there were some counties where the county was supporting their Extension Office almost 50% of their costs and other counties supporting around the 10% to 15% range. There is some inequality going on in how counties are supporting.
- 361.4 B. Kurz stated back in late 1990's, a discussion started to create a plan for equity where one is doing the same thing. In conjunction with the Association of County Government, a plan was rolled out in the year 2000. In 2001, this was the first time that the Quorum Court faced an increase in this budget. He reported in 1991, the staff chairman of the Extension Office went to the Quorum Court asking for a small increase to come to a "Uniform Funding" level. There was no built in cost of inflation and it just

stayed the same until 1-½ to 2 years ago. E. Madison asked if it was based on population; to which B. Kurz responded it was based on how many agents they want and the work load. E. Madison stated it seems like there is some matching of dollars going on and B. Kurz stated he was not aware of matching. E. Madison stated that B. Kurz mentioned that 4 agents cost \$30,000 per agent and then it goes up to \$37,000 if they support 5 agents; and he confirmed that is how the current plan works. She stated that they are not paying for an agent with \$37,000, so somebody is matching this money. B. Kurz stated that the county is currently supporting staffing salaries by 25%; 23% is coming from grants; 43% is coming from the state. B. Kurz stated if the county approves the requested funding, then the split would be more like 1/3 with 1/3 paid by the state, and 1/3 paid by grants.

362.1 E. Madison stated that it seems like someone at the state level has decided that the way this will work is that the counties are going to contribute without asking if they want to contribute. She is troubled by this increase in percentages. She stated that B. Kurz stated that they were not fully funded in previous legislative years, and so it seems like the solution is to push it off on the county. The county is faced with raising their millage to pay for these things when the state is sitting on almost \$200 million in excess money which makes no sense.

362.2 B. Pond stated that he listened closely to his fellow members of the court and the place where they agree is that the State should come forward with the money. It is wrong for them not to fund this much needed program. He stated that these young people involved in 4-H will become the leaders of Washington County. Many State Representatives learned their skills from some program that the Extension Office provides. He stated that sometimes the county has to take the leadership role and if they do not pay for this because the state will not pay for it, then they are following the lead of the state who is doing the wrong thing as far as he is concerned. He states sometimes they might have to stand up and do something that is hard to do. B. Pond stated a few years back, possibly because they are not doing anything about it now, he made a mistake in voting for a ½ mill cut in the millage, not knowing that he could not trust fellow JPs to put it back if it created a hardship. He reiterated if the state is wrong in not supporting this program, how is it right from the county to follow their lead. B. Pond stated that he will not support this amendment as he is holding out for the county to take the leadership role and help these people who are helping

their future leaders. He will be in favor of providing the full amount the Extension Service requested.

- 363.1 J. Maxwell asked how much the county contributes between grounds and maintenance and current salaries annually; to which B. Kurz responded grounds and maintenance are not in his budget. In response to J. Maxwell's statement that the county funds the building in real estate and maintenance, B. Kurz explained that the buildings are maintained with the utilities paid through the County Judge's budget. The landscaping is maintained by volunteers from Master Gardeners. J. Maxwell noted that the county currently funds \$157,000 for Extension Office salaries and asked how they compare percentage wise with other comparable agricultural counties. B. Kurz responded stating that Benton County is the number one agriculture producing county and their Quorum Court currently supports their Extension Office with five agents, two of which are 4-H agents, and they are paid the same, as well as buildings, communications, etc. B. Kurz stated that Washington County is the second agriculture producing county and Carroll County comes in third. He stated because of population, Carroll County's Extension Office has one full-time agriculture agent and one full-time family consumer science agent. The base program for two agents is charged \$30,000.
- 363.2 J. Maxwell stated at this point he is in support of the amendment because he does not want to leave things in the lurch. The thing that keeps coming to mind is when B. Kurz was before them last year asking for an increase because of the lapse of the state support. One of the things that he told them was that the extra money they were giving him would give him a reprieve so he could return to the state and try to get those monies that should have been coming from them. B. Kurz responded that he does recall that discussion, stating as far as county agents being able to maneuver what he is asking, that is not something that they do. Administrators will be asking for some increases through the legislative process, but he is unaware of what that is. He stated that they did investigate several other opportunities for some matching funds, but nothing has come through.
- 363.3 J. Maxwell stated it sounds like instead of getting those funds replaced by the state where it rightfully was to start with was not successful; and now they are trying to shift the 25%/23%/43% divvy into a 33%/33%/33% in the future. B. Kurz explained that is what Washington County will look like and they do have fortunate opportunities for grants with several other employees who are paid 100% by grants. He stated other counties will be

in the 20% range because they do not have the grants that Washington County is fortunate to attain. J. Maxwell stated so they are looking to shift it a little more heavily to the county and a little lighter percentage wise from the state; and B. Kurz stated he does not see that changing.

- 364.1 J. Maxwell stated that he knows they granted additional money last year and he does not mind supporting them getting that additional money again this year. He believes that this is a wholesome productive program and he has not heard anyone say that they are not behind what the Extension Office does. He does not want to go backwards. He stated that he does share the concern that he left here last year with the impression that there was going to be a pretty concerted effort to make up those funds from the state. He stated this is the Legislative session where new monies can be found and this past January and February was not a session where new money was to be found. He stated even though the state kicks in additional funds, on the state side because of level funding for 8 plus years, the cost of this has been rising. There is a huge shortfall on that stateside, so any increases that are going to be garnered will shore up some areas with state programs that have statewide implications that been without as well. He perceives that to be where the new state money will be first focused on. J. Maxwell inquired about the new monies that he felt would be available this year; to which B. Kurz stated solely on a revenue year, various state agencies have opportunity to ask for additional funds. Appropriations can be made and he suspects their state administrators may have asked about two years ago, but he is not privy to what that is.
- 364.2 A. Harbison stated she wants to reemphasize what B. Pond said that if the state is not going to fund it, the county might as well take what they can get and lobby for what they can get, but agriculture is important to this county and as the County government, they need to step up and fund the Extension Office which is very important economically and that is the bottom line.
- 364.3 L. Ecke stated she would like to appeal to her fellow JPs that these young, bright, gifted, talented, sons and daughters of Washington County are their future and the message that they are communicating to them is that they do not care. She stated she knows what is like to be a poor mother carrying a car seat around, but she also knows she did what she had to do and did not depend on the city, county or state to help her. She stated they need to remember that these people are not just taking away from their budget, but these people are bringing in revenue and the stronger their economy is, the better they will be to help fund single mothers below poverty. She noted

that these are future voters and taxpayers and their parents will remember it at the polls and she will support approving the full amount requested.

- 365.1 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that the court is about to vote on R. Cochran's amendment to fund the Extension Office budget request at the 2016 level.
- 365.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to amend the budget to last year's budget amount.**
- 365.3 VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, G. McHenry, B. Pond, B. Ussery, and D. Balls. **The motion failed with seven members voting for and seven members voting against the motion to amend the Extension Office budget to last year's budget.**
- 365.4 B. Pond stated that there are people present that are part of the Extension Office and people there who benefit from it. He stated some may have different ideas about leadership issues, but he does not believe there is anyone present who has a negative attitude toward the Extension Office and what it does. He addressed his fellow JPs and reiterated that the Extension Office does not just feed children, they teach children how to feed themselves and the people around them in the community and they need to remember that.
- 365.5 In response to a question from J. Maxwell, County Attorney Steve Zega explained that nothing they do at this time is final until they pass a budget ordinance in November or December. He further stated by their own rules, it would be possible to bring a budget up at a later date no matter what they do with it at this meeting before the 2017 Budget ordinance is passed.
- 365.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Extension Office budget as presented.**
- 365.7 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, G. McHenry, B. Pond, B. Ussery, and D. Balls. VOTING AGAINST: T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, and R. Cochran. **The motion passed with eight members voting for and six members voting against the motion to approve the Extension Office budget as presented.**

- 366.1 S. Lloyd stated she did not realize they were voting on the budget as presented and there was discussion about her changing her vote since L. Ecke was allowed to earlier in the meeting.
- 366.2 **E. Madison made a motion to expunge and revote on the motion to approve the Extension Office budget as presented. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 366.3 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that E. Madison was correct, and S. Lloyd could also move for a point of personal privilege now and with a second, they could vote on that as well.
- 366.4 **E. Madison withdrew her motion to expunge and revote.**
- 366.5 **S. Lloyd made a motion allowing her to change her vote on the motion to approve the Extension Budget as presented. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 366.6 County Attorney Steve Zega clarified all they are doing is allowing S. Lloyd in this vote of a simple majority to change her "yea" vote to a "no" vote and have it recorded that way, so they will not have to take a full vote on the main motion again.
- 366.7 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on S. Lloyd's motion to allow her to change her vote.**
- 366.8 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran, **The motion passed unanimously by those present. S. Lloyd's vote on the motion to approve the Extension Budget as presented was changed from a "yea" vote to a "no" vote.**
- 366.9 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, G. McHenry, B. Pond, B. Ussery, and D. Balls. VOTING AGAINST: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, and R. Cochran. **The motion failed with seven members voting for and seven members voting against the motion to approve the Extension Office budget as presented.**
- 366.10 In response to a question from E. Madison, County Attorney Steve Zega explained that they could reconsider the Extension Office budget at the

reduced level at this meeting by anyone who voted against R. Cochran's amendment. They could move it back now or they can do it by just placing the budget on an agenda for another meeting. S. Zega further stated they can vote to reconsider R. Cochran's motion, which is funding at the 2016 level. If they agree to reconsider that vote, then they will have to vote on that as the Extension Office 2017 budget with a reduced rate; and if it fails, they will have to bring the budget back at a later date.

367.1 **R. Dennis made a motion to reconsider R. Cochran's motion to amend the Extension Office budget funding at the 2016 level.**

367.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to reconsider R. Cochran's motion to fund the Extension Office at the 2016 level.**

367.3 **VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: L. Ecke and A. Harbison. The motion passed with twelve members voting for and two members voting against the motion to reconsider R. Cochran's motion to amend the Extension Office Budget funding at the 2016 level. The budget was approved at the 2016 level.**

367.4 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that they do not have to move it again, but are now voting on the Extension Office budget as amended by R. Cochran, which is to fund at 2016 levels.

367.5 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Extension Office budget as amended, at the 2016 levels.**

367.6 **VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, B. Pond, B. Ussery, and D. Balls. The motion passed with eight members voting for and six members voting against the motion. The Extension Service budget was approved as amended at the 2016 levels.**

367.7 **6E - COUNTY COLLECTOR'S AUTOMATION BUDGET - David Ruff, County Collector, addressed the Quorum Court stating that the Collector, Assessor and Treasurer's Offices work off of commissions. These commissions are all turned into County General, which is a mess with school and city monies. This explains why this error had not showed up for**

a while. He stated that they do a final settlement at the end of the year and distribute these funds; there was an omission in the final settlement that resulted in a \$212,126 error. He is requesting a court order from Judge Edwards to transfer this amount from County General to the Collector's Automation Fund. D. Ruff stated that this money has to be distributed and the auditor that discovered this suggested that they put it in the automation fund so they can distribute it out in the next final settlement with a clear cut paper trail. He stated that he wishes there was a different account to put all this money in and then they would have noticed it.

- 368.1 D. Ruff stated he did some research on the reason for this error and found that two years ago during the final settlement, the auditors are always changing things to make it more secure; however, in doing so, his bookkeeper, who does the final settlement, removed a formula so that formula was not there and did not pop up resulting in an omission of this amount. He stated that there is no money missing and all money is accounted for, it has just not been distributed correctly. He apologized stating as a result of this, he is late getting the final settlement out by a year on this amount.
- 368.2 R. Cochran stated that he understands that mistakes happen, noting last year they had the Act 663 money that was found to be remitted to the state over several years. He stated that it is good that they could find this mistake and that there was no intent or fraud. He hates that it will hit his unappropriated reserves like this and asked whether they need an ordinance to move this money.
- 368.3 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that he asked the same question in a meeting with Treasurer Bobby Hill and Comptroller Ashley Farber. They concluded that it is an accounting classification rather than an appropriation. Therefore, he believes that they do not need an ordinance; to which the State auditor is satisfied with that. He stated that B. Hill is convinced that in terms of county general money, this will be a wash because it will essentially turn back in the 2017 money and does not hit his unappropriated reserves as much as he feared.
- 368.4 D. Ruff stated that B. Hill was the first one last year to move as much money as he could into the automation fund and he followed suit, being able to move everything in but salaries. He stated they work off of commissions. The automation fund is 10% of the 4%, which is not enough for their whole budget. He stated that this lets them take last year's money and operate off of it. He explained what has always gone on before is that County



General funds his office until he starts bringing in the commissions, which do not start coming in until April. This puts a strain on County General. He stated that they moved as much as they could out and joined the two budgets together. He further stated that and any questions can be addressed to him or the new Collector Angela Woods.

- 369.1 E. Madison stated the Collector's budget, which looks like it increased substantially, is simply a move.
- 369.2 **E. Madison made a motion to approve the County Collector's Automation budget as presented. T. Lundstrum seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The County Collector's Automation budget was approved as presented.**
- 369.3 D. Ruff stated that this is his final year and budget. After researching, he discovered that since he has been the County Collector, he has collected just short of \$2 billion for the County.
- 369.4 6F - CIRCUIT CLERK COMMISSIONER FEE BUDGET - Kyle Sylvester, County Circuit Clerk, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he has been fortunate for the last three years to be able to cut both his general cost budgets by finding ways to streamline. He explained that the Circuit Clerk's Commissioner Fee fund, started in 2013, designates a small percentage of foreclosure sales to go into a fund to be used by the Circuit Clerk's Office to offset administrative and operation costs. He stated last year he did not utilize any of that money, because he did not foresee anything that would possibly come up. He stated that currently there is about \$35,035 in the Commissioner's Fee Fund. He is requesting to be able to budget \$25,000 into the Other Professional Services line item inside that budget as there are a couple of things that could possibly happen next year. He stated one is to be able to have their office be able to electronically file (e-file) court cases and he is unsure of what that will cost. He wants to have money available to utilize so he would not have to use money out of the General budget or Recorder's Cost budget.
- 369.5 In response to a question from Judge Edwards whether any other counties are doing the electronic filing yet; to which K. Sylvester stated that Faulkner County went live last July, Crawford County went live last month and Benton County will be going live with their e-filing in November. He noted that Judge Zimmerman, the Administrative Judge, put in a letter of request to the Administrative Office of the Courts to put us on the list to be able to e-file. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) responded stating

that at their August meeting, it announced that it would not be scheduling any new e-filing projects for the rest of 2016. The AOC will reconvene in February to see what 2017 looks like. He stated that is his reasoning for putting some money into this line item so if they are selected in 2017, they will have those funds available to use instead of pulling money from General or Recorder's Cost budgets.

- 370.1 K. Sylvester responded to Judge Edwards that he feels pretty confident about being selected for e-filing in February. This is due to Washington County being a Class 7 county and carrying a lot of volume, even more so than Benton County. He stated he would see it being advantageous to the state to have the largest counties already in that e-filing system, so that the smaller counties can utilize them. At that point, the smaller counties will be able to and learn from them and see ways to make those projects run smoother. He stated if they do it on a larger scale in larger counties, then the smaller counties would be that much easier.
- 370.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to approve the Circuit Clerk Commissioner Fee budget as presented. B. Pond seconded.**
- 370.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Circuit Clerk Commissioner Fee budget as presented.**
- 370.4 **VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran, The motion passed unanimously by those present. The Circuit Clerks Commissioner Fee budget was approved as presented.**
- 370.5 **6G - EMPLOYEE INSURANCE BUDGET - Ashley Farber, County Comptroller, addressed the Quorum Court addressing the 2017 budget for employee insurance as provided by Insurance Consultant Nelson Driver, noting that there was an increase.**
- 370.6 R. Cochran reported that he spoke with Nelson Driver and he explained to him a lot of things and feels confident that what he is requesting is right with regard to the other changes they had made to their insurance program.
- 370.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to approve the Employee Insurance budget as presented. A Harbison seconded.**

- 371.1 T. Lundstrum stated he assumes this budget is in compliance with the proposal made that they increase the county share to \$466 per employee; and Ashley Farber stated that it was.
- 371.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Employee Insurance budget as presented.**
- 371.3 VOTING FOR: R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, and R. Cochran. VOTING AGAINST: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and E. Madison. ABSTENTION: S. Madison. **The motion passed with ten members voting in favor, three members voting against, and one abstention. The Employee Insurance budget was approved as presented.**
- 371.4 R. Cochran stated that this budget does not include the difference in the amount that they had been and will be doing that is included in the line items through all of the various operating departments with their salaries. He stated the \$800,000 is spread amongst the department budgets and that is why there is not a big increase here as Nelson Driver projected the various line items the best that he can forecast to know what they will be out-of-pocket over and above.
- 371.5 Comptroller Ashley Farber stated that they can find that difference from what they have seen previously with the presentation to now in the county matching, line item 1008.
- 371.6 DISCUSSION ON COUNTY MILLAGE RATES FOR 2016: Rick Cochran requested that this item be placed on this agenda. The Quorum Court is required to levy the county, municipal and school taxes for the current year at its regular meeting in November of each year. Currently, County General is levied at 3.9 mils, County Road at 1.1 mils, and County Library at 1.0 mil.
- 371.7 E. Madison stated that she would like to politely suggest that they move this agenda item to their next meeting and higher up on that agenda because at 8:15 p.m. she does not think it is very productive for them to start discussing something as important as the millage. She further thinks that it would be good to discuss the millage along with the distribution of sales tax as set out by Bobby Hill earlier because you really cannot discuss one without the other.

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- 372.1 **E. Madison made a motion to move agenda item #7 to the October 11<sup>th</sup> Special budget meeting and place it higher up on the agenda, along with distribution of the sales tax issue R. Cochran seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. Agenda item #7 would be placed on the agenda for October 11<sup>th</sup> Special Quorum Court meeting.**
- 372.2 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge  
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter