

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

Thursday, July 16, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
Washington County Quorum Court Room

FILED  
2015 OCT 16 PM 1:42  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, OR

- 338.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met in regular session on Thursday, July 16, 2015. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Marilyn Edwards.
- 338.2 S. Madison introduced Pastor Phil Butin from the First United Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, who led the Quorum Court in a prayer. S. Madison led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 338.3 Judge Edwards announced today that she received the resignation from John Firmin, effective immediately as JP for District 11. He stated that this was due to personal reasons and future obligations. In response to her question about whether they need a motion to accept the resignation; Executive Assistant Karen Beeks responded that at the next regular Quorum Court meeting, they will have a resolution declaring the vacancy.
- 338.4 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Harvey Bowman, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 338.5 MEMBER ABSENT: John Firmin.
- 338.6 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, County Attorney Steve Zega, County Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 338.7 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 338.8 It was noted that they needed to add #6.9A and #6.9B regarding the 2016 Budget Controls to the agenda.
- 338.9 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of #6.9A and #6.9B. The motion was seconded.**
- 338.10 VOTING FOR: S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. VOTING AGAINST: E. Madison. **The motion passed with thirteen members voting in favor and one member voting against the motion. The agenda was adopted as amended.**
- 338.11 APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Judge Edwards announced that due to time constraints, the minutes of the June 18 Regular Meeting of the Washington

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County Quorum Court was unavailable at this time for consideration. She stated that the minutes would be emailed to members of the Quorum Court once they are completed to be approved at the August Quorum Court meeting.

339.1 **FINANCE REPORT:** R. Cochran reported that there was one resolution and seven appropriation ordinances from the Finance and Budget Committee.

339.2 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION: R. Cochran introduced **A Resolution Authorizing The Submittal Of A Grant Application To The Arkansas Department Of Environmental Quality, Solid Waste Management Division**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the resolution.

339.3 R. Cochran explained that this resolution authorizes a grant application to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Solid Waste Division. He noted that the amount of \$19,550 would be the grant maximum but may not be the full amount that they receive since the State will fund a certain amount and all counties and cities that have requested the grant, will share the funds.

339.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the resolution. R. Dennis seconded.**

339.5 Citizen Comments: There were to citizen comments made.

339.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the resolution.**

339.7 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The resolution was adopted.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-16, BOOK NO. 3, PAGE NO. 111**

339.8 AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF \$73,307 FROM FULL-TIME SALARY LINE ITEMS IN VARIOUS COUNTY BUDGETS AND RESTORING THOSE FUNDS TO UNAPPROPRIATED RESERVES; AND, APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$73,307 FROM

340.1 UNAPPROPRIATED RESERVES TO VARIOUS BUDGETS FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Reducing The Amount Of \$73,307 From Full-Time Salary Line Items In Various County Budgets And Restoring Those Funds To Unappropriated Reserves; And, Appropriating The Amount Of \$73,307 From Unappropriated Reserves To Various Budgets For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

340.2 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance was basically a quarterly housekeeping moving money within and was budget neutral.

340.3 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. B. Pond seconded.**

340.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

340.5 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-50, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 3**

340.6 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2015-20 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO THE GENERAL SERVICES BUDGET FOR THE REPAYMENT OF ACT 663 MONIES OWED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2015-20 To Reduce The Amount Appropriated To The General Services Budget For The Repayment Of Act 663 Monies Owed To The Arkansas Department Of Finance And Administration**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

340.7 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance amends a previous ordinance. The Act 663 money that they originally calculated to owe the State is actually a little lower by \$2,114 and this ordinance is to adjust that amount.

340.8 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**

340.9 In response to a question about when the final installment for this payment was due, Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger responded that if these payments are

paid monthly, then there will be a couple of payments next year. However, when they voted on the ordinance it was discussed that if they had the money at the end of the year, then they would go ahead and pay it out of this year's budget.

341.1 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

341.2 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-51, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 216**

341.3 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$10,500 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO VARIOUS LINE ITEMS IN THE ANIMAL SHELTER BUDGET FOR 2015 R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Appropriating The Amount Of \$10,500 From The General Fund To Various Line Items In The Animal Shelter Budget For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

341.4 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance is to fund the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$10,500.

341.5 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**

341.6 E. Madison stated that she was a little conflicted on this at the committee meeting and there were questions asked that Animal Shelter Director Angela Ledgerwood may have more information on to present and answer. She was a little frustrated with the memo that the Quorum Court received from the County Judge's Chief of Staff George Butler about this request because she was on the animal shelter's side until she got the memo. She stated the history of this issue is that there was a point in time when the shelter was short-staffed and they had to close down for some hours to the public because of that staff shortage. The Quorum Court struck a compromise giving the shelter a part-time person and in exchange they were told that immediately the shelter would reopen to its usual hours. Her understanding is that these additional expenditures that they are talking about have nothing to do with personnel, and to her knowledge, no personnel service was cut in the budget for this year at all. She has no idea why the Quorum Court was threatened that the shelter would have to close

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down to the public. She stated the other remedy was that they would have to do unspeakable things to animals if they didn't fund this, and she does not want to play the game that if they don't give people money, bad things are going to happen. She stated that at this point, until she gets some additional information she will have to vote against this, if only for the way that it has been handled.

- 342.1 R. Cochran stated that the amount that was originally requested was in the amount of \$35,500 and they reduced that at the Finance Committee meeting to \$10,500. By reducing, that would give the Animal Shelter some time to discuss this with them at length at a future meeting. He noted that the janitorial, general supplies and medicine and drugs line items involved are all in the high 90% so to keep them from running out of money, they agreed to fund them for a short time to give them time to discuss how they wanted to address this difference. He stated that he will support this ordinance as well as further discussion as to how they might better fund the animal shelter and where their costs are going to be.
- 342.2 Judge Edwards thanked L. Ecke for the accomplished statements she had made at the animal shelter and she thought that they learned something from her.
- 342.3 L. Ecke stated that at their last meeting, she was the sharpest, harshest critic, but does not agree with the letter that they received from the Chief of Staff as it made her feel like she was once again the lightning rod for the Quorum Court. However, she did a lot of searching for ways that she knew was being practiced in her business and how she could use that to help Angela Ledgerwood at the Animal Shelter. She reported that she had a long discussion with Ms. Ledgerwood about the practices that she uses at her company having reduced her chemicals to almost nothing and going practically green. She demonstrated some procedures that she uses and is very hopeful that in the future the Animal Shelter will be using some of the things that she recommended. They will be furthering this discussion to see how it translates into savings for the county budget. L. Ecke stated that right now they are looking at \$6,000 as opposed to \$10,000, but this is \$6,000 for the next 25 years with maintenance of maybe \$350 a month, so if these numbers hold and they should, this will be a big savings for the county. She stated until then, she will support this bandage on a bleeding corpse and asked the Quorum Court to help fund the shelter a little bit more and perhaps by the next Quorum Court meeting, they will be able to show how much can be saved on janitorial and cleaning supplies. She stated that she is very excited about what the Animal Shelter will be experiencing as this will be good for the pets and the people who work there.

- 343.1 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 343.2 VOTING FOR: S. Madison, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, and A. Harbison. VOTING AGAINST: E. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, H. Bowman, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion failed with eight members voting in favor and six members voting against the motion.**
- 343.3 County Attorney Steve Zega explained that an appropriation ordinance takes two-thirds majority vote on first reading to pass; therefore, the ordinance failed.
- 343.4 AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$116,480; AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$69,970 TO THE SHERIFF-ENFORCEMENT BUDGET, AND \$46,510 TO THE JAIL BUDGET FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Recognizing Additional Revenues Of \$116,480; And Appropriating The Amount Of \$69,970 To The Sheriff-Enforcement Budget, And \$46,510 To The Jail Budget For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 343.5 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance recognizes additional revenue and is to adjust for billed security provided by the Sheriff's Office at Razorback and Walmart events. He stated that Washington County is fully reimbursed for the total amount of salaries, overtime, expenses, benefits, etc., from the University of Arkansas and Walmart and this ordinance is to recognize that revenue and put it back into their budget.
- 343.6 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 343.7 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 343.8 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-52, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 217**

- 344.1 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$7,200 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUDGET FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Appropriating The Amount Of \$7,200 From The General Fund To The Extension Service Budget For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 344.2 R. Cochran explained that Berni Kurz from the County Extension Service came to them last year in the budget asking for \$14,400 as an annual request for a half-time secretary position and has recently come back to ask for funding for the remainder of this year or \$7,200.
- 344.3 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 344.4 A. Harbison stated that last year the Chair of the Finance Committee, Candy Clark talked to the department heads and the Quorum Court made some stiff cuts. While a vote was not taken by the Court, Ms. Clark told the department heads that if they needed funds during the year, then they need to come to the court and ask for those funds. This is what is happening now. Regarding the extension service request, the bottom line is that the county is the local government and is the one who benefits the most from this part-time secretary because she will take care of the soil samples which have to do with the water quality of the Illinois River and Beaver Lake. She encouraged her colleagues to vote to fund this half-time secretarial position.
- 344.5 E. Madison stated that Mr. Kurz came to them last year with this addition to his budget to what the County was already contributing to the Extension Service. This is not something that they had been funding and cut from his budget. She stated that they were faced with the prospect of significant expenses for phone lines that they were changing at the Extension Service. They were having some one-time expenses in their budget that were making their budget increase. She stated that the consensus of the body at that time was that they could not fund this additional person because of the additional cost and told him to come back to them in another budget year and they would look at it again.
- 344.6 She further reported that Mr. Kurz came to them to give them an update and somehow it turned into a request for funding for that position in the same budget year for which they declined it previously. She stated that what troubles her is they had increased cost for the Extension Service in the current budget year and now they are looking at increasing those even more. She stated that she would be willing to consider this position for next

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year, which is what they had said, and she thinks that it is premature for them to be undoing the cuts that they worked so hard to achieve last year.

- 345.1 L. Ecke stated after further investigation, she did ask their State Representatives what happened, if it got approved for funding, and if it is a state-funded position, then why did the county have to pay for it. She was told that it did pass and get approved, but this is what happens during their budget processes - everything gets categorized as A, B or C with the A's being what is most important and it goes down the line, and when it came down to the Extension Service, they did not have the money to fund it. She was also told that the county should not fund this either if they did not have the money to do so. Therefore, she will not support this ordinance.
- 345.2 H. Bowman stated that he had the opportunity to explain to Mr. Kurz and the young ladies accompanying him tonight that county government is just like a household budget where you spend money on the things that you think are appropriate and when you run out of money, you have to cut back and quit spending. He thinks that if they do the appropriate thing tonight, they will be sharing with these young ladies that right now the county budget is extremely tight and they have to be responsible leaders in trying to hold the line on budget items. He further suggested that since this is definitely a state issue, they should look at deferring and trying to put some pressure on their Representatives to get some help with that because he thinks it is an important function. However, for these reasons, he would be voting against the ordinance.
- 345.3 B. Pond stated that he cannot go on the record not supporting this ordinance. Regarding soil samples and testing, there are very few people with green space that are immune to the needs of soil sampling and testing, it is not just farmers, but golf courses, parks, gardens, etc.
- 345.4 He stated that a number of people living in town go there to get their soil tested and find out that they already have too much fertilizer in their soil. Half of this excess fertilizer runs into the lakes in Northwest Arkansas. In addition, regarding the Illinois River Watershed, the Attorney General and environmental people of the State of Oklahoma are not going away and will stay on us. He stated that the county may be short on money as they always have been, but they are not completely out of money.
- 345.5 T. Lundstrum concurred with L. Ecke, stating that it really aggravates him that the State is so poor that they can't give the Extension Service \$14,000 a year, but they can raise Legislators' salaries from \$14,000 to \$45,000.



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He stated that the State should be blamed for what happens here, not the Washington County Quorum Court.

- 346.1 S. Madison reiterated her comments from the Finance & Budget Committee meeting that every year there is a class of 40 master gardeners who go through a training at the Extension Office and they are obligated to give back 40 hours of service and some of that can be with office help; as well as a master composter class with a similar obligation. She stated that she would be voting against the ordinance because this was not supposed to come back to them now; there are all of those volunteers which not many of their county departments have; and it is important to send the Division of Agriculture a message because they were told at the Finance & Budget Committee meeting that more is yet to come from them as far as what they expect from the County to pick up at the Extension Service. She stated that the Division of Agriculture has a great deal of money and she thinks that it is important to let them know that just because they decided to make some cuts that the County is not going to pick up the slack.
- 346.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 346.3 VOTING FOR: B. Pond, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, and A. Harbison. VOTING AGAINST: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, H. Bowman, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion failed with five members voting in favor and nine members voting against the motion.**
- 346.4 AN ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE EMPLOYEE INSURANCE FUND FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Transferring the Amount Of \$500,000 From the General Fund to the Employee Insurance Fund for 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 346.5 R. Cochran explained that this is an ordinance transferring \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Employee Insurance Fund, noting that Insurance Consultant Nelson Driver had given them some information about the claims that are higher than the revenue. This transfer will get them back to the \$1.8 million amount that they need to be when looked at by Blue Cross for their next year's premium.
- 346.6 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**

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- 347.1 B. Ussery stated that he will vote for this because they obviously have to do so, but he would like them to investigate to see if there is anything that they can do at all to reduce their costs because it troubles him that they can argue over less than \$5,000 or \$10,000, but then something like this sails through. While he understands that they have to pass this ordinance for a variety of reasons, he would like to go on record that he is screaming and kicking the whole way.
- 347.2 R. Cochran stated that the amount that is to be infused is because of their loss experience; however, State law requires bidders for their insurance program to produce a bid within a 30-day period and Nelson Driver has explained to him that a 90-day period is more in order to give them the opportunity to have competitive bids come in and review their insurance benefit programs to see if they can compete and do a different plan. He stated that since this decision resides at the State; anyone who is interested in getting that changed can get on the bandwagon with Mr. Driver to contact their Representative and Senator telling them that they need to expand that period of time for bid submission.
- 347.3 H. Bowman stated that Nelson Driver talked to them recently about their insurance costs and recalled him mentioning a grandfather clause that was helping them to keep costs down and if they go outside, it will dramatically increase their rates.
- 347.4 County Attorney Steve Zega responded to H. Bowman stating that Mr. Driver had said that to him in passing and as he remembers the context of the conversation, it had to do with passing the Affordable Care Act, so he is reluctant to speak with any kind of authority on that.
- 347.5 T. Lundstrum stated that he believes that was based on how much they increased their employee share and if they increased it too much, then they would lose their grandfather clause and it would increase by 40%.
- 347.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 347.7 **VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-53, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 218**

- 348.1 AN ORDINANCE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$1,500 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND TO THE SHERIFF-GLOBAL FIRE PREVENTION GRANT BUDGET FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Additional Revenues Of \$1,500 In The Law Enforcement Grant Fund; And Appropriating The Amount Of \$1,500 From the Law Enforcement Grant Fund To The Sheriff-Global Fire Prevention Grant Budget For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.
- 348.2 R. Cochran explained that this is an ordinance anticipating revenue of \$1,500 for their Law Enforcement Fund and moving that into the Sheriff-Global Fire Prevention Grant Budget.
- 348.3 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. B. Ussery seconded.**
- 348.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 348.5 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2015-55, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 220**
- 348.6 2016 BUDGET CONTROLS: R. Cochran stated that #6.9A is the exact same Budget Controls as passed in 2015 with the exception of paragraph #11 which has been stricken out. Paragraph #11 deals with salary increases which we will determine later. The Finance Committee discussed the budget controls at several meetings and it is time for them to pencil in the changes that they want to do. This will allow the departmental budget leaders to know if there are going to be any changes.
- 348.7 R. Cochran addressed Paragraph #7 at the end of the first line that reads, ". . . and follow the purchasing procedures . . ." and suggested that they change it to read, ". . . and follow the **written** purchasing procedures as outlined by the County Judge." Further, he addressed the paragraph following Paragraph #13 suggesting that it should read as follows, "Requests for additional appropriations and transfers requiring Quorum Court action shall be made by submitting a request to the County Judge's **Office and Finance Chair.**"

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- 349.1 County Attorney Steve Zega asked if it was R. Cochran's pleasure to open this up for broad discussion amongst the JPs at this time, to which R. Cochran responded that there were some items discussed that he feels are fairly significant in the way they would affect county budgets. He feels if they have enough strength within the full Quorum Court, all concerned should know about it which is his purpose for bringing it up tonight.
- 349.2 R. Cochran stated that they cannot pass the Budget Controls tonight as it becomes part of their whole budget ordinance, but they can get the revisions in there so that the departments will be aware of any changes. He reported that a couple of significant ideas were brought forward at their last meeting regarding line item transfers which did not pass in committee, but it is possible that it could pass by the full Quorum Court which is the vote that counts.
- 349.3 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that the appropriate thing to do would be to move to pass the budget controls and then R. Cochran's fellow JPs could move to amend them as they see fit.
- 349.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to pass the 2016 Budget Controls at set out on #6.9A. The motion was seconded.**
- 349.5 **R. Cochran made a motion to amend the 2016 Budget Controls in Paragraph #7 to read "written purchasing procedures" instead of just "purchasing procedures." E. Madison seconded.**
- 349.6 E. Madison thanked R. Cochran for his amendments to the budget controls, stating that those were two that she has suggested at the June Committee meeting.
- 349.7 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to amend Paragraph #7.**
- 349.8 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Paterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present.**
- 349.9 **R. Cochran made a motion to amend the 2016 Budget Controls by adding "and Finance Chair" to the first sentence of the paragraph following Paragraph #13 to read as follows "Requests for additional appropriations and transfers requiring Quorum Court action shall be**

**made by submitting a request to the County Judge's Office and Finance Chair." The motion was seconded.**

- 350.1 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to amend the 2016 Budget Controls in paragraph after paragraph #13.**
- 350.2 **VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. The motion passed unanimously by those present.**
- 350.3 E. Madison stated that she thinks the budget controls still need a lot of work as every time she goes over them; she sees things that she either wants more information or clarification on. Since she is not on the Finance & Budget Committee, she has had a hard time voicing those concerns. She stated that she cannot support the budget controls in their current form and she has too many questions that cannot be answered tonight to be able to amend satisfactorily to get them through. She stated she is frustrated with what to do with them because to send them back to Committee, where she does not have a vote, is not very productive, so she would like to address them while they are in a body where they can all vote.
- 350.4 E. Madison addressed the Personal Services Category, stating that one of the issues that she thinks that they ought to consider adding into that category, presuming that it complies with auditing standards, is that many of them believe that vehicles are being provided as a form of compensation. She feels that those should be added to "Personal Services" for purposes of budgeting because if they are part of an employee's compensation package, that should be included in fringe benefits.
- 350.5 E. Madison addressed Paragraph #1, that states "Personnel upgrade ordinances (with the exception of grant funds) shall be brought to Personnel Committee, and if approved forwarded to the Finance Committee of the Quorum Court. She stated that she realizes that grant funds come to them as gifts and they should accept them, however, she was confused why they are not being processed through the Committee. In Paragraph #2, she addressed the wording; "Requests for appropriations regarding Personal Services (other than full time positions)" come to the Finance Committee and questioned whether this was because they were going to the JESAP (Job Evaluation Salary Administration Program) Committee.

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- 351.1 E. Madison addressed Paragraph #3 under Requests for additional funds will be made in the following manner, stating that they had a lot of discussion about line item transfers. She reported that she read the portion of the County Financial Management System Manual that the Comptroller provided and it specifically mentions that a court can set limits on line item transfers. She stated that she thinks they can start with a generous limit, but thinks they need some kind of limit if they are going to spend any time at all on line item transfers in their budget process. She noted that 10% had been proposed to the Finance & Budget Committee, and suggested that they start with 20% just to get people adjusted to that concept. She has heard feedback that sometimes an elected official or department head thinks they have done it right and get halfway through their budget cycle and get contrary direction from the Comptroller's Office and the only way for them to accomplish fixing it quickly is a line item transfer, so it would be cumbersome to have to come to Quorum Court. She stated that there has to be a set of rules that apply in the beginning that the department heads and elected officials can rely on all the way through the process and they need to be sure that the process is perfected so that they are not creating work for their department heads. She stated if they are to spend time doing line item budgets then they have to do some kind of control over those line items. Further, she still believes that they need to give serious attention to line item transfers into a budget that they have zeroed out which is a big deal that has not been addressed.
- 351.2 E. Madison addressed Paragraph #4 stating "Additional appropriations must be approved by the Quorum Court" is a little vague.
- 351.3 E. Madison addressed the language in Paragraph #6 that says "Appropriations for use of grant funds may be made by ordinance with a grant agreement made by the County Judge. She suggested that "may" should be replaced with "must." She then addressed the second sentence in Paragraph #6 that reads, "If approved by the Grantor, line item transfers involving supplies, other services and charges, and capital outlay categories can be made at the discretion of the Comptroller's Office", stating that this seems to say that there is some kind of discretion going on in the Comptroller's Office as to whether a line item transfer is made. She stated that this is confusing to her questioning whether they have line item transfer capability right now or not or is it up to someone else's discretion other than the Quorum Court. She next addressed the sentence, "The Quorum Court must approve in-kind cost for grants prior to grant acceptance", questioning the use of the word "in-kind".

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- 352.1 E. Madison addressed item #12 under Requests for additional funds will be made in the following manner, and the sentence, "Grant funds are tracked separately and in accordance with grant regulations; if any money is advanced by the General Fund, the Comptroller recoups the funds advanced when the grant funds become available and does not require Quorum Court action", stating she does not know how this is possible since they have been told numerous times that they cannot do some of this stuff without coming back to the Quorum Court; and that ordinances are required and ordinances are expensive, but it seems somehow they found a loop hole there. She addressed the final sentence in item #12 that says, "Reimbursement revenues are not subject to automatic appropriation to a particular budget", stating she does not know what that means.
- 352.2 E. Madison addressed item #13 under Requests for additional funds will be made in the following manner, and the sentence, "Approval must be provided to the Comptroller's Office by the County Judge for line item transfers within the County Judge Emergency Budget", which she thinks means that the County Judge has the discretion to approve, but it sounds like the Judge must approve it and does not have discretion.
- 352.3 E. Madison stated that she think that they need to work on the budget controls and is aware that some of their elected officials are present at this meeting that received a memo from the Finance Committee this week. She had no idea that this memo was going to be sent out to all department heads and elected officials, but after reviewing it in detail and all of the information that they are asking people to provide, frankly she finds it oppressive. She stated that she does not know how the new system of trying to simplify the budget process means that they give their elected officials and department heads three pages of what seems to be a lot of busy work, taking days if not weeks of time to compile and she questions whether this body or any one person on this body really has the time to look at all of that prior to making a decision on their budget. E. Madison stated that if it were up to her, then she would much rather come to a budget meeting and get questions for 10 - 20 minutes, than have to compile all of that information that might take her days and she might never get reviewed. She does not know what they are doing with their finance and budget process right now because the Quorum Court is not unified on this process. She thinks that they need to revisit the Budget Controls and the budget process and wishes that they could do it as a body because there is division on the court.
- 352.4 R. Cochran referred to the memo that was sent to the elected officials and department heads, stating if she would have stayed for the entire Finance &

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- Budget Committee meeting, she would have enjoyed finding out about it. He does not know if what she has mentioned on the budget controls is an amendment, but they have been discussing this and if they are going to employ any line item transfer restrictions, he believes that the department heads should know about that as soon as possible before they do their budgets. He stated this is E. Madison's chance to put together any adjustments or amendments to the budget controls. He is disgusted by the fact that so many JPs left that were not a part of the meeting, saying they do not have a voice when he has had an open Finance & Budget Committee meetings for everybody to speak to all the items.
- 353.1 R. Cochran stated at the Finance & Budget Committee meeting last Monday, almost all JPs were present and they had discussion until about 8:00 p.m. It bothers him for a JP to say they do not know what is going on when they did not attend the entire meeting.
- 353.2 County Judge Marilyn Edwards called for a point of order at JP E. Madison's request and asked that R. Cochran speak to her directly as chair.
- 353.3 County Attorney Steve Zega addressed E. Madison and asked her what the personal nature was of her point of order to which she responded that according to Robert's Rules of Order, they are not supposed to openly disagree or criticize a fellow member of the body and she restricted her remarks to talking about the actions of the committee and now feels like it is being directed at her personally and what she did or didn't do which she believes is out of order.
- 353.4 County Attorney Zega responded to E. Madison stating that it is often difficult to decide between a criticism of a member's actions, which are not inappropriate and a criticism of the member, but it seems to him that they have wandered a bit far field into talking about JP Madison and he believes the point of order is well taken.
- 353.5 Judge Edwards stated that they will move on without being critical of anyone on the Court.
- 353.6 S. Madison stated that she is not at a comfort level with these budget controls as they are presented tonight with the amendments to vote on them. She would have liked to have more discussion on them and noted she was the first to leave the meeting the other night because they had had a very long discussion about a member's presentation on dealing with line items and the consensus of those there seemed to be supportive; however, the membership of the Finance & Budget Committee did not reflect that



- support of the body as a whole, so she felt like all of the discussion that she participated in was a waste of her time. She stated that there are some additional budget items that she would like to have a chance to discuss, one of which is the entire matter of grants. She thinks the grants that end up in a budget need to be highlighted for them because they are often for a short term and they may jump to the conclusion that a grant-funded position is something that should go on and on when in reality it should be considered temporary. She stated that this is just one example of a budget control that needs some additional flushing out before they adopt the budget controls.
- 354.1 L. Ecke stated that at Monday's Finance & Budget Committee meeting, she did make a motion on line item transfers that have zero dollars appropriated to that fund that it remains zero, but the motion was not seconded. On the motion to put percentages on line items transfers that J. Maxwell brought forward, she made a motion to adopt and could not get a second. She stated that grants were brought up and she mentioned to R. Cochran and he concurred that grants did need to be addressed in that process and he made notation of it, but they could not get motions seconded to move forward for discussion.
- 354.2 Judge Edwards stated that there seems to be a lot of confusion and she may be out of order, but what she would like to have this tabled for discussion at a later time.
- 354.3 **E. Madison made a motion to table item #6.9A and #6.9B regarding Budget Controls for further discussion. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 354.4 L. Ecke asked if it was possible to have one meeting where a Committee of the Whole can come together to work on these budget controls; to which Judge Edwards stated that it is her recommendation that they table #6.9A and #6.9B for a later discussion.
- 354.5 E. Madison stated that she thinks they should leave it at the Quorum Court level and table it until their next Quorum Court meeting and continue the discussion there so that Judge Edwards is the presiding officer and they are sitting as the full court.
- 354.6 County Attorney Steve Zega noted that E. Madison moved to table it but did not move to recommit it, so right now it stays before the court.
- 354.7 B. Ussery stated that he thought it would be beneficial to all of them if they circulate their ideas for the Budget Controls so they would all have a chance to consider those ideas before the next time they are discussed.

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- 355.1 County Attorney Steve Zega addressed B. Ussery's suggestion, stating that he would ask that he copy Karen Beeks and Carly Sandidge with those so they are not violating FOIA. He cautioned them not to discuss this in real time, but it is fine if they exchange emails, as long as they are copied to the County Judge's Office and thereby made available to the press.
- 355.2 T. Lundstrum stated that his problem with the Finance & Budget Committee meeting the other night was that while it was indicated that they wanted to get everyone involved, when J. Maxwell made his recommendations that they all have a copy of, it seemed to him that they should have at least been able to have an up/down vote on it, so his recommendations were not considered. This is why he would still like to have a Finance & Budget Committee of the Whole so that they can all vote on these budget matters.
- 355.3 S. Madison stated that she feels they should be able to make their comments at the meeting without having previously submitted them in writing via email because she feels very strongly that every time one of them emails the court staff, that email then gets broadcast to all 15 members who all then reply and the volume of emails to begin with is staggering. She stated that she also thinks that it becomes a conversation in some ways among the JPs that causes her to have some FOIA concerns, so she will not be submitting her comments in writing for that reason. She believes that they should always be able to bring up their thoughts vocally in a committee meeting without having to have committed them to paper.
- 355.4 B. Ussery stated that he is not asking for them to have a conversation in any way whatsoever, but is asking that they address their ideas just like E. Madison did. She went through and had 12 things that she had listed and if that would have been in front of him beforehand, he could have been prepared when he came.
- 355.5 E. Madison stated that she shares some of the FOIA concerns because she understands the conflict as they all want to be prepared and come ready knowing what they want to say, but she does not think that FOIA allows them to do that. She noted that she has had some FOIA-specific issues this year that she had to deal with and the opinion that she has been given is that copying to the County Judge's Office or a reporter absolutely does not comply with FOIA. She stated the way they have a meeting is to give notice to the press that they are going to have a meeting and that they are then invited to participate and they cannot do that on email. She recalls a question that came up in the last term of the Quorum Court when Mr. Butler was their County Attorney and he specifically said that copying one member

- of the press or one member of the County Judge's staff was not compliant with FOIA, so it is a conflict and inherent in the reality of the jobs they have that they are supposed to conduct their business in the meeting.
- 356.1 Judge Edwards stated that FOIA is a very serious thing and believes that when they make telephone calls to one another, that is violating FOIA. She thinks that they need to be very aware and in tune to that, and appreciates them speaking on the honesty and powers of FOIA.
- 356.2 B. Ussery stated at the next meeting that they have, if they bring their ideas then they could exchange them then at the next meeting, and that would accomplish what he is trying to accomplish.
- 356.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to table.**
- 356.4 **VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The matter was tabled to a later meeting.**
- 356.5 **COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:** Judge Edwards stated that the resignation on JP John Firmin makes her very sad and took her totally by surprise, but she is sure that he has his personal reasons which she does not question.
- 356.6 **State Aid Projects** - Judge Edwards stated that they have issued a news release honoring two State Aid projects with their Road Department that they have received from the Arkansas State Highway Department.
- 356.7 **County Library Board Appointment** - Judge Edwards stated that the City of West Fork has recommended Bonnie Stitt to be appointed to fill their seat on the Washington County Library Board. Barbara Babione is retiring and has recently resigned her position. Ms. Stitt is a long-time supporter of the library system and is an active member of the Friends of the West Fork Library. Judge Edwards asked that the Quorum Court confirm this appointment.
- 356.8 **A motion was made and seconded to confirm the appointment of Bonnie Stitt to the County Library Board. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote by those present.**

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- 357.1 County Board of Equalization Appointment - Judge Edwards reported that there is a position on the Board of Equalization that needs to be filled by the Quorum Court.
- 357.2 R. Dennis stated that Warren Adcock from Farmington said that he would like to serve, but he felt like there was some pressure from his family not to take on more responsibility. However, he said if they did not have anyone to let him know and he would reconsider.
- 357.3 Judge Edwards noted that this appointment was vitally important because Equalization Board meetings start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. The cities and the schools have appointed their representatives and she would hate to see 15 JPs sitting around the horseshoe and not have their two Equalization Board representatives.
- 357.4 R. Dennis stated that if they can take a break, he will give Mr. Adcock a call.
- 357.5 **A 5-minute recess was taken at this time.**
- 357.6 Judge Edwards stated that they are still trying to come up with some names of constituents that may be able to serve on the Equalization Board. She stated that once they come up with someone, she will have to get the Quorum Court's confirmation by calling a special meeting.
- 357.7 R. Dennis stated that Mr. Adcock is still considering it, but needed some time to talk to his wife.
- 357.8 Washington County Farm Family of the Year - Judge Edwards reported that she received a card from the Weaver Family, Washington County's Farm Family of the Year, thanking the Quorum Court for inviting them to the meeting last month. They also sent a special thank you to JP Pond and JP Harbison for the Resolution honoring their family for receiving the Washington County Farm Family of the Year.
- 357.9 2015 Cooperative Extension Service Report for 2015 - Bernie Kurz, Washington County Extension Service Staff Chair, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he manages the office that the Quorum Court provides the funds to with a full staff of 13 people. He addressed the packet provided that gives information about their office and the services that they provide. He stated that they work in four different areas: 4-H & Youth Development Programs, Family & Consumer Science Programs, Agriculture Programs, and Community & Economic Development Programs and the report lists the highlights from each program.

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- 358.1 Mr. Kurz reported that most of their program efforts in the Family & Consumer Sciences lie in the food and nutrition arena helping young families that are struggling and are receiving state assistance to learn ways to feed their families at a nutritional level for the better health of their children. He noted that most individuals see them working in Agricultural Programs and, as mentioned by S. Madison, the Master Gardener Program is one of the largest in the state and S. Madison is one of those master gardeners. Under Agricultural Programs, Mr. Kurz noted that over 5,000 soil samples were submitted to their office for their analysis which is individually handled by a support staff and he individually reviews them with the results provided. Additionally, he noted that they do work with poultry litter testing, which goes along the avenue of properly applying litter at the amounts to potentially reduce environmental concerns. He stated that the last program, which often gets hidden, is in the area of Community & Economic Development. Most of those issues do relate to water quality because water quality affects all of us so they do employ a couple of individuals with 100% grant funds to address those needs. Additionally in community economic development, he referenced information sheets that have information specifically that the court has to be aware of when they are developing the county's budget. They have some resource material that will assist the court in those arenas as well.
- 358.2 L. Ecke asked if the Extension Service charged for testing of soil samples from private residents; to which Mr. Kurz responded there was no fee if you live in the State of Arkansas. However, he reported that they do receive samples from the State of Oklahoma and do charge those residents \$10 per sample tested. He explained that there is a tax in Arkansas on the sales of lime and fertilizer that supports the soil testing program and also funds the cost of mailing results back to the cooperators.
- 358.3 L. Ecke noted that when she lived in southwest of Houston in Sugar Land, TX where she was part of the Master Gardeners Program, they charged \$25 to get soil samples tested; to which Mr. Kurz responded that there has been discussion in Arkansas for that, but since there is already a tax collected for that purpose, it seems efficient at this point. He further explained that this only pays for staff at the full testing lab located in Marianna, Arkansas where the soil samples are sent for testing.
- 358.4 COMMITTEE REPORTS: E. Madison, Chair of the County Services Committee, reported that the County Services Committee met on July 6<sup>th</sup> and heard a report from Angela Ledgerwood with the Animal Shelter to give them an update of why they could no longer use the PetSmart Charities

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Rescue Waggin' Program through which they had been able to adopt out a considerable number of dogs in the past year and a half now. The change was due to PetSmart adding an indemnification clause into their agreement. She reported that she appreciated that Dan Holtmeyer, a reporter from the Democratic Gazette, tried to call PetSmart for a comment and hopes that he will continue as she feels that maybe some public pressure on PetSmart might help. She stated that they are looking at an alternative program through the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.) Ms. Ledgerwood also informed them about the recent Pet Palooza that was a tremendous success with over 800 people visiting and over 62 adoptions.

- 359.1 E. Madison further reported that she reviewed the bi-monthly planning report and one thing of interest was that Ozarks Electric is seeking preliminary large-scale development approval for a 12-acre solar facility in Springdale. She stated the County Services Committee then had a healthy discussion on the Quorum Court organizational procedures with a lot of people offering questions and issues that they thing should be included with the only official action they took with respect to their minutes. The procedure was adopted whereby they would not be published until they were reviewed and approved by the Committee.
- 359.2 E. Madison stated that the Committee discussed attending the Association of Arkansas Counties meeting in August since it is in Springdale for which Karen Beeks has sent an email to everyone about registering for that and she urged them not to forget to respond to her if they would like to attend.
- 359.3 H. Bowman, Chairman of the Public Works Committee meeting, stated that the committee did not meet this month due to lack of an agenda.
- 359.4 B. Pond, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, reported that the committee did not meet due to lack of an agenda.
- 359.5 T. Lundstrum, Chairman of the Jail/Law Enforcement/Courts Committee, reported that the committee did not meet due to lack of an agenda.
- 359.6 R. Cochran, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, stated that they met on July 13<sup>th</sup>. County Treasurer Bobby Hill presented the Treasurer's Report and reported that the first six months of the current year compared to 2014 was up about \$281,000. Sales tax continues to be a surplus and they are approaching the 2010 levels back when they had a readjustment with the 2010 census and lost so much population. R. Cochran stated that Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger gave a report on the

- reserves where our ordinances passed in June had affected reserves by \$125,000 and she brought them the quarterly housekeeping ordinance.
- 360.1 R. Cochran reported that County Assessor Russell Hill brought Don Horton from Arkansas CAMA Technology to talk to them and give them a great presentation on the reappraisal process, what they can expect, and how Arkansas CAMA is helping them. Mr. Horton stated that his valuation change figures for 2015 are up \$14.2 billion which is a 13.6% increase and new construction for the period 2011 to 2015 is \$1.4 billion and he is estimating existing property taxes would increase 2.4%.
- 360.2 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR FINANCING AMBULANCE SERVICES ("AGREEMENT") BETWEEN WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS ("COUNTY"), THE WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL AMBULANCE AUTHORITY ("WCRAA") AND THE CITIES OF ELM SPRINGS, TONTITOWN AND JOHNSON ("CITIES"): R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Approving An Interlocal Agreement For Financing Ambulance Services ("Agreement") Between Washington County, Arkansas ("County"), The Washington County Regional Ambulance Authority ("WCRAA"), And The Cities Of Elm Springs, Tontitown and Johnson ("Cities")**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance that is on first reading and being recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee.
- 360.3 R. Cochran explained that this is a pick up of three cities into their overall coverage for Central EMS.
- 360.4 **B. Pond made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading by title only. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 360.5 **With no discussion, Judge Edwards called for a roll call vote on the motion to suspend the rules.**
- 360.6 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The rules were suspended.**
- 360.7 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Approving an Interlocal Agreement for Financing Ambulance Services ("Agreement") Between Washington County, Arkansas ("County"), The Washington County Regional Ambulance Authority ("WCRAA"), And the Cities of Elm Springs, Tontitown and Johnson ("Cities")**, by title only.

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- 361.1 **B. Pond made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on third and final reading by title only. L. Ecke seconded.**
- 361.2 **With no discussion, Judge Edwards called for a roll call vote on the motion to suspend the rules.**
- 361.3 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The rules were suspended.**
- 361.4 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Approving an Interlocal Washington County, Arkansas ("County"), The Washington County Regional Ambulance Authority ("WCRAA"), And The Cities Of Elm Springs, Tontitown and Johnson ("Cities")**, by title only.
- 361.5 **R. Dennis made a motion to adopt the ordinance. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 361.6 T. Lundstrum stated that all three of these cities are in his JP District (#1.) This is an example of government gone wrong because all three of these cities have received free ambulance service for a number of years at the expense of Washington County's taxpayers, but he is glad now to reconcile that with all these cities paying their portion of the cost just like the other cities do.
- 361.7 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made
- 361.8 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 361.9 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**
- ORDINANCE NO. 2015-55, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 220**
- 361.10 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT (S698): B. Ussery introduced **A Resolution In Support Of The Marketplace Fairness Act (S698)**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the resolution being recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee.



- 362.1 **B. Ussery made a motion to adopt the Resolution. B. Pond seconded.**
- 362.2 S. Madison stated that even though you buy online or from a catalog and have things shipped from out-of-state, you are still obligated to remit the Arkansas Sales and Use Tax. The Department of Finance and Administration does audit businesses, including small businesses, and has the authority to audit individual taxpayers for those sales taxes as well. She stated that they need to make it easier for us to comply with the law which is an important reason to vote in favor of this resolution.
- 362.3 B. Ussery stated as near as he can determine as the numbers are very rough, it would be approximately \$400,000 to the General Fund, so this is a significant amount of money and the playing field definitely needs to be leveled.
- 362.4 Citizens Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 362.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the resolution.**
- 362.6 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, and A. Harbison. VOTING AGAINST: J. Patterson, R. Cochran, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion passed with ten members voting in favor and four members voting against the motion. The resolution was adopted.**
- RESOLUTION NO. 2015-17, BOOK NO. 3, PAGE NO. 112**
- 362.7 OTHER BUSINESS: H. Bowman stated that they had some discussion about videoing their committee meetings in addition to the Quorum Court meeting and he was under the impression that they were going to talk about that tonight.
- 362.8 Executive Assistant Karen Beeks stated that she had reported in a committee meeting that the Government Channel is very interested in doing so, but it would require some commitment on the Quorum Court's part because the City of Fayetteville will have to get a quarter-time employee to become a half-time employee, who will be devoted strictly to the Quorum Court's meetings. She stated that they did not have a firm figure as yet, but estimated that it would cost about \$700 a month.

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- 363.1 H. Bowman stated that he would like to have some feedback from the court about spending \$700 a month to have their committee meetings video recorded as well.
- 363.2 E. Madison stated that they did discuss this briefly in County Services and did not do anything to move it on because Karen Beeks had just received the cost estimate. She stated that this is something that R. Cochran had proposed in the past and when they looked at it a few years ago, they decided that it cost too much money. However, she believes that in these days the public expects to see the meetings online if they were not able to attend in person. She reported that the meetings of the General Assembly can be viewed online and live-streamed. She further thinks that it would ease up on the burden of the minutes and for the small amount of money it would cost the county each year will really pay off in terms of access to their meetings.
- 363.3 B. Pond stated that he is going to have to do a lot of thinking about this. It is something that he has wanted for a long time, but he has difficulty talking about this on the same night that they could not afford to buy bleach for the animal shelter for a temporary period of time. He noted that it states in Proverbs, "An empty stable stays clean, but it is not serving its purpose if it is empty." Their Animal Shelter may have to be emptied with not as many animals kept there if they cannot keep it clean. He stated that it sounds like he is kind of off the subject, but dollars are dollars.
- 363.4 J. Maxwell asked if Executive Assistant Karen Beeks could give them any insight as to how many hours and resources are actually being spent now as opposed to what would be alleviated if they move to something like this; to which Karen Beeks stated as far as the committee meetings, they take an enormous amount of time and a lot of brain power because you have to decide what everybody wants. She stated if the committee meetings are aired on television, then citizens can watch an actual account of the meeting. She thinks a meeting outline given to the chair to report on during the Quorum Court meetings would be sufficient noting that the minutes of the full Quorum Court meetings are filed in the County Clerk's Office while committee reports are not. She believes it would take a great burden off of staff not to have to worry so much about the detail of the committee meetings.
- 363.5 J. Maxwell asked Ms. Beeks if she could give an estimate of how much time is spent on these meeting minutes; to which she responded that it depends on the length of the meeting and how structured are the discussions. They are very difficult and take a lot of time. In her opinion, the regular and

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- special Quorum Court meeting minutes are more important than the committee meetings because they are filed forever, but the committee minutes unless reported in a regular meeting get lost over the years and become recycled material.
- 364.1 J. Maxwell stated that financially they are looking at \$7,000 minus what they currently pay for what they do which comes out to about \$6,000, but in order to back out the actual cost of resources that they could reallocate someplace else, the difference might not be quite so drastic as \$6,000.
- 364.2 H. Bowman noted that they are often quick to criticize media about the way they report a story as not being accurate, but if there is access to go online and hear exactly what is going on, then that will help them more accurately portray all the details of what is actually happening. He is not sure whether they can do this out of committee at this meeting, but he would like to see them move ahead with something in that regard.
- 364.3 Executive Assistant Karen Beeks stated if they want her to move ahead with getting the City of Fayetteville to proceed with the Government Channel recording their committee meetings, she would appreciate a motion and if they can get started this year.
- 364.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to authorize Ms. Beeks to pursue television recording of committee meetings with the Fayetteville Government Channel and report back to the court. H. Bowman seconded.**
- 364.5 D. Balls asked whether they were going to vote on the money for that stating that he concurs with B. Pond that if they are not going to fund the Animal Shelter or the Extension Office, he wonders how many people in the county use those two services compared to how many would watch these meetings. He reported that his constituents say to him that they are paying taxes and they expect services for things they use and he thinks these are two services in the county that people use more than those that watch the meetings.
- 364.6 County Attorney Steve Zega pointed out that he thinks Ms. Beeks is asking to get concrete information in a contract for television recording of their committee meetings and the court would have to appropriate the money for that contract eventually, but not at this time.

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- 365.1 E. Madison stated that she thinks the motion is to just give Ms. Beeks approval to move forward with getting a contract from the City of Fayetteville which is a good faith showing that they want to pursue this path.
- 365.2 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on R. Cochran's motion.**
- 365.3 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, and T. Lundstrum. VOTING AGAINST: B. Pond, A. Harbison, and S. Lloyd. **The motion passed with eleven members voting in favor and three members voting against the motion.**
- 365.4 H. Bowman stated that he sat through the Finance & Budget Committee meeting on Monday night and he was as frustrated as several others were. He stated that he is sympathetic with R. Cochran with all that he is trying to do and the frustration he must feel right now. He stated he has been trying to draft some thoughts to help them get their arms around this situation and hopefully help them as a court to make decisions to move forward, because it is obvious that there is no serious focus on exactly where they are going.
- 365.5 H. Bowman read from a handout that he had distributed, stating, "We are watching the Budget & Finance Chair, R. Cochran, try to include everyone in the budget process; however, the Judge's authority to deny a Committee of the Whole and to appoint committee members, she is limiting every JP's individual opportunity to influence the process of spending. On Monday night, the Finance & Budget committee heard a lot of good ideas and even tried to include some, and could not even get a second to vote on them. Several of the court members got up and left, in my opinion, out of disgust with what was going on. As I see it, there are two possibilities for resolving this issue; first, is to begin voting no on every request that comes to us for funding. That's a harsh way to deal with things. Second, to abolish the Finance & Budget Committee so the entire Quorum Court will be responsible for all the finance and budget decisions and every one of us has that responsibility to our constituents to be involved in the process of deciding what kind of monies we spend. Somehow we have to remember that the task of Quorum Court is to manage the budget. We took a huge step last year in reducing planned expenditures by \$4 million and now we are receiving requests to go back and even provide more than what was previously budgeted. In 2009, the income from the county exceeded expenditures by \$3,635,039. In the next five years, the total expended above income was \$12,453,000. Guys, we wonder where our surplus has gone and that's where it's gone. The last five years spending has

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exceeded income by over \$12 million. Our reserves have been dramatically depleted. I know the Quorum Court during that time had an influence, but the contrast in the before and after is striking, and now we have multiple legal issues that could cost us untold dollars in addition to continuing a request for more funding. I believe the majority of this court is very displeased and if we have the majority, we have the authority to exert our influence over county funds until the issue is resolved. I hope we can do this in a unanimous kind of way, but it remains to look like it is not going to be possible. I think it's time for the Quorum Court to take a stand. I think we need to decide where the majority is in the situation and make some decisions. If no one agrees with me that's fine; however, if others agree, I am requesting that somebody makes a motion to take some action to change this situation."

- 366.1 County Attorney Steve Zega addressed H. Bowman stating, as he has expressed in the past and in concurrence with an Attorney General's opinion or two, the Quorum Court has the ability to organize themselves in the committees and inherent in that power is the power to abolish committees, but they have to do that by ordinance. Therefore, he stated if there is going to be an ordinance brought forth to make the changes that he suggested, they will have to draft an ordinance to do that and bring it before the Quorum Court for passage.
- 366.2 E. Madison addressed County Attorney Zega stating that our current ordinance actually provides for a Committee of the Whole, so they do not actually have the committee the way the ordinance is drafted now because of the Judge's power to object. So, if they are not functioning according to ordinance, why does it take an ordinance?
- 366.3 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that they chose to do the ordinance to organize themselves and if they want to abolish that ordinance or a committee, that it should be done by ordinance.
- 366.4 E. Madison stated to amend an ordinance you have to have an ordinance. However, the ordinance in its currently drafted form is not being observed because of subsequent state law, so she does not understand why it takes an ordinance to amend something that is not in effect.
- 366.5 County Attorney Zega stated that he would like to give the court a written opinion on this because he has given it a great deal of thought and knew that this question was coming eventually. He stated that this is not a simple question and talking about it at the tail end of a meeting does not give it the consideration that it is due. He stated if they want him to just

give his hip pocket analysis, he will do that, but he believes that they are all better served with having it in writing.

- 367.1 T. Lundstrum stated that he has always been displeased with the State Legislature's decision to pass the law that they passed which he thinks violates the separation of powers. He stated that the Legislature does not choose to pass the same law with regard to their ability to create committees, just Quorum Court's abilities; but, even in that decision, they still allow the County Judge the right to allow the Quorum Court to have a Committee of the Whole. He stated that he is very dedicated to having a Committee of the Whole so that he can personally vote on whether something comes out of committee, what goes into an ordinance, or what goes into a budget or not. He knows that he can do that when it finally comes to the Quorum Court, but there is a whole lot of compilation and so forth that takes place before it gets to the Court that they are not privileged to deal with. He stated that he is prepared to start voting no on what comes out of the Finance & Budget Committee and you can imagine what kind of problem that would cause this County if 8 people votes no. There is not any law that says that he has to vote yes on anything. He would like to cordially settle this issue and asked if someone could explain to him what huge problems a Committee of the Whole would cause.
- 367.2 R. Cochran stated at the first Finance & Budget Committee meeting this year, there was considerable contention amongst both members and non-members. He stated that Judge Edwards is well within her right to do as she has chosen to do and there is no fault-finding in that. He stated that he has tried to bring the Committee's discussion from Monday to tonight's meeting so that all could vote on it and yet it is still going nowhere. He is at a loss of what to do now. He stated he has tried to include everyone and make them understand that their ideas are completely welcome and needed, but unfortunately a couple of motions were made that did not receive a second and so could not be voted up or down, which speaks to the fact that they would have probably been voted down, but that does not mean that this is the feeling of the majority of the Court. He stated it is his understanding that the motion made by H. Bowman at the beginning of the year to disband the Finance & Budget Committee failed to pass and the only people that can bring that same motion forward are any that voted against it and asked County Attorney Zega for verification.
- 367.3 County Attorney Steve Zega responded to R. Cochran stating he did not know the answer to the first question, but did feel comfortable in addressing the second part. He stated being a little greener than he is now, it was his position then that it would take an ordinance to disband the Committee of

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- the Whole, but did not think about that until after the meeting. He stated that it would not, in his opinion, be the same procedural motion because it was not presented in form of an ordinance, but by simple voice vote, so with due respect, he thinks an ordinance would not be the same thing. He reiterated that this gets into what he wanted to give them in writing, but he thinks that they could reexamine that position in the proper format and the proper way.
- 368.1 R. Cochran thanked County Attorney Zega for his opinion and stated not seeing that this Committee of Finance & Budget can cooperatively go forward and effectively discharge the duties of the budget. He would make a motion that it be dissolved.
- 368.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to dissolve the Finance & Budget Committee. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 368.3 County Attorney Steve Zega explained the conundrum stating the way he reads both Act 985 of 2013 and the one ordinance that they passed in 2011 organizing themselves as a committee, it is his belief that there is merit to what E. Madison said about the committee is not organized in accordance with the ordinance anyway because the County Judge has withheld her consent to a Committee of the Whole. He stated the problem that comes up with that is that he does not know that there was a severability clause in the ordinance that created the rest of the committees, so to undo that ordinance is to undo all of the committees. He noted that he is giving this opinion out of his hip pocket on some things that he had previously researched. He explained a "severability clause" stating that it says in essence if any part of the ordinance is found to be null and void, the rest of the ordinance shall be in full force and effect. Therefore, he believes that they need an ordinance reestablishing all of their committees, but this cannot be done at this meeting, but rather at the next County Services and full Quorum Court meeting.
- 368.4 E. Madison stated that she recalls from a discussion a few months ago that much like an organizational ordinance, it is only effective for the term for which it is enacted. Therefore, the ordinance was passed by a previous court and she was never sure if that committee structure was still binding on them because when the new term began, they should have created an entirely new ordinance. She asked whether at the end of the 2014 term, if their current committee structure ordinance effectively became null and void. Since they do not necessarily have to declare their committee structure by ordinance, why could they not make a motion at this meeting to cover the whole thing?

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- 369.1 County Attorney Zega responded to E. Madison stating that the concept of which she speaks of says organizational ordinances somehow expire on their own terms when the court that passed them goes out is news to him and he will need to research that question. Regardless, the Attorney General's opinion is clear on this as is the statute, that they all organize themselves into committees and the Judge then appoints the members to that committee; and if the ordinance did not expire or have a severability clause, he is not sure that it would be legally effective dissolve the Finance & Budget Committee at this meeting by voice vote.
- 369.2 E. Madison stated that a related question would be if County Attorney Zega is saying that the ordinance itself is not severable and effectively, by the County Judge objecting to one portion of it, knocked the whole thing out; to which County Attorney Zega concurred, stating that is part of what he is getting at. He stated that the combination of the County Judge's objection, lack of severability clause, and the operation of the statute. He stated that everything that they have brought before this entire court they voted on every resolution and ordinance up or down and in his opinion are all legally sound. He stated what they have before them now is the question of what do they do with Finance & Budget Committee.
- 369.3 J. Maxwell stated that a lot of where they are now might be because of the Judge exercising her ability to not have a Committee of the Whole for the Finance & Budget Committee; to which County Attorney Steve Zega responded yes, though technically the statute reads that there may not be a committee of more than a quorum without her consent and a Committee of the Whole obviously is. He further stated by that if she made a separate decision that was different from that such as to withdraw that action, would that resolve this back to the way it was; to which Attorney Zega responded that he does not think it does for a variety of reasons. J. Maxwell stated that he has an observation that he makes as a relatively new member of the court not knowing any of the personalities and he makes it as a non-member of the Finance Committee. In the last 6-7 months, the current set-up has certainly lent itself to several arguments; the facts, one is a lack of efficiency as they are still sitting here talking about this and this probably will not be the last discussion. He further stated that it has used up a lot of time and resources of this Quorum Court, the Finance & Budget Committee, etc. He stated that this has put them in a quagmire and really slowed down progress which is not very helpful or productive for the County.
- 369.4 S. Madison stated at this point, she is not sure whether they are debating generalities or whether they are actually talking about a valid motion on the



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floor; to which County Attorney Steve Zega verified that there was a valid motion on the floor that has been seconded, but encouraged them to think about whether they wanted to do that tonight or adopt an ordinance along these lines.

- 370.1 S. Madison stated she understood Attorney Zega to say that there was an original ordinance proposed that included this Budget & Finance Committee as a Committee of the Whole that failed and further asked for explanation regarding some discussion about needing somebody not prevailing that needed to make a motion to reconsider.
- 370.2 County Attorney Steve Zega responded to S. Madison stating that in January, H. Bowman made a simple motion to dissolve the Finance & Budget Committee without doing it by ordinance and that motion was debated and failed to pass on the merits. He further responded to her question whether there was a mechanism for reconsideration of a motion, stating that there is although R. Cochran had asked whether one of the people who voted against it had to bring it up, and that was probably why he made the motion that he did. He continued that his suggestion is that they have other problems in addition to whether they have a Finance & Budget Committee and that is that it was provided for by an ordinance and, if it does not turn out that it expired when the Court left its past term as E. Madison suggested, then that is the ordinance on the books today, and in his opinion because it did not contain a severability clause, the whole ordinance is in jeopardy.
- 370.3 S. Madison further asked if they were in a posture of a motion to reconsider and was notice given to reconsider or did his motion effectively become notice to reconsider; to which County Attorney Zega responded R. Cochran's motion is in his opinion is an order, but he is suggesting that it is not the only thing they need to deal with about this entire issue.
- 370.4 S. Madison stated talking about the big issue here, whether it is a motion to change our structure or a motion to reconsider H. Bowman's original motion, she wholeheartedly concurs with H. Bowman's comments with one minor correction. She further stated that she did not leave the Finance & Budget Committee meeting on Monday night in disgust, because she thought it was a very fruitful meeting. She was glad to hear the proposal by J. Maxwell and believes they had a very healthy discussion. She noted that Chair R. Cochran has bent over backwards to recognize everybody and treat them all as equals when the general procedure in a meeting is to give preference to members as far as recognition. She stated the reason she left the meeting was that they had spent a lot of time and had not

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accomplished what was clearly the consensus of the group. She stated that she does not want to sit through meetings from now until the budget is approved where most of them present are spinning their wheels. Whatever the County Attorney comes up with, they need to change their direction so they can be productive.

- 371.1 A. Harbison stated that they have beat this horse ever since this term started and if she understands County Attorney Zega, they can form the committees, but the Judge is going to appoint them, so they are back to where they started. She stated that the Finance & Budget Committee of the Whole is a relatively new thing because back in Judge Hunton's term, they had a Finance Committee and they all participated just like they are doing now, but they did not have power hungry people wanting to be in charge all the time. In the past when she was not on this committee, she did not hear all of the whining about not having a say in what was going on.
- 371.2 L. Ecke called for a point of order.
- 371.3 County Attorney Steve Zega noted that Roberts Rules of Order states that a motion to reconsider is subject to certain time limitations; it can happen during a meeting, during a session it must be made on the same or following day of that session which would have had to be during the February meeting. Therefore, to reconsider it as R. Cochran has suggested in this form would have had to been made in February and reiterated what he had previously said that it is out of order tonight.
- 371.4 H. Bowman asked what that did to R. Cochran's motion; to which Attorney Zega reiterated that in his opinion the way to fix the problem he perceives they are talking about is with an ordinance.
- 371.5 T. Lundstrum stated that he likes a Finance & Budget Committee and R. Cochran as Chairman because he is well-qualified and doing an admirable job, but he would rather see a Finance & Budget Committee of the Whole or, if separated, have a Finance Committee with seven members and then a Budget Committee of the Whole. He stated the budget is a big issue that every member of the Quorum Court should be intimately involved in and this is not currently happening. He stated if they would have had a Committee of the Whole on Monday night, J. Maxwell's recommendation would have passed instead of not getting a second.
- 371.6 J. Patterson stated that he has been on the Quorum Court quite a while, served on every committee, and been Chairman of a few, and the problem that he has which is real simple to fix, as alluded to by T. Lundstrum, is for

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everyone to be included in the budget committee meetings as it is not fair if they are not all on a level playing field. He stated that he is greatly concerned about the County's financial condition because the reserves are gone.

- 372.1 E. Madison concurred that R. Cochran has done an admirable job as Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee under less than desirable circumstances and her frustration with the meeting was not with him, but with the hand that he has been dealt. She thinks the procedural answer to his issue is that they are not seeking to reconsider the motion, but R. Cochran is renewing H. Bowman's motion and according to Robert's Rules of Order, if a motion is made and disposed of without being adopted which is what happened, and is later allowed to come before the assembly after being made again by any member, the motion is said to be renewed. She stated this is not the same as reconsideration and there is no time limit on that which would mean the Quorum Court could never revisit an issue that had been previously declined.
- 372.2 **E. Madison called for the question. S. Lloyd seconded.**
- 372.3 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to end debate on R. Cochran's motion.**
- 372.4 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. VOTING AGAINST: B. Pond **The motion passed with thirteen members voting in favor and one member voting against the motion.**
- 372.5 County Attorney Steve Zega explained that he has given his opinion that the motion on the floor is out-of-order because it is not timely; however, they may appeal Judge Edwards' ruling as the Chair and vote to overturn it.
- 372.6 **Judge Edwards made the ruling that R. Cochran's motion was out-of-order.**
- 372.7 **E. Madison made a motion to appeal Judge Edwards' ruling.**
- 372.8 County Attorney Steve Zega explained that E. Madison's motion to appeal was not debatable and did not require a second.
- 372.9 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to appeal her ruling.**

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- 373.1 **VOTING FOR:** E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **VOTING AGAINST:** B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and A. Harbison. **The motion to appeal passed with nine members voting in favor and five members voting against the motion.**
- 373.2 County Attorney Steve Zega explained that they are now onto R. Cochran's motion to dissolve the Finance & Budget Committee and debate has been cut-off.
- 373.3 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to dissolve the Finance & Budget Committee.**
- 373.4 **VOTING FOR:** E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **VOTING AGAINST:** B. Ussery, D. Balls, and A. Harbison. **ABSTENTION:** B. Pond abstained. **The motion passed with ten members voting in favor, three members voting against and one abstention. The Finance & Budget Committee was dissolved.**
- 373.5 **E. Madison made a motion that all finance & budget issues go directly to the full Quorum Court. S. Madison seconded.**
- 373.6 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that they have to do something with finance and budget issues and this is one way to do that as a practical matter.
- 373.7 L. Ecke addressed Judge Edwards asking her to share with them her concerns and reasons for not wanting a Committee of the Whole as far as a budget committee. She stated that she looks forward to working with everybody, including Judge Edwards and County Attorney Zega and asked how they can all work together on this issue and resolve it tonight.
- 373.8 Judge Edwards stated that it has come to her attention from a very, very reliable source that there has been statements made by members of this Quorum Court that they want to do whatever they could to disallow anything for the County Judge's Office and make it just as difficult as they possibly can.
- 373.9 L. Ecke stated that she is unaware of any such discussion at all, and she wants to work towards the good of the County and asked how they can overcome that and move together as a united body.

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- 374.1 Judge Edwards stated that she was not going to discuss this further.
- 374.2 L. Ecke stated that she respects what R. Cochran has done as Chairman of the Finance Committee and respects everyone's opinion on the Quorum Court.
- 374.3 S. Madison stated that she had a point of order and asked County Attorney Steve Zega if the current motion was necessary or has it been dealt with. They have dissolved the Finance & Budget Committee and those issues have to go somewhere. She asked if they would have to go to the full Quorum Court.
- 374.4 County Attorney Steve Zega responded to S. Madison, stating that he believes she has a point of information and not a point of order. He stated that E. Madison's motion is not out of order. He explained if they do not have a committee to deal with these issues, they will naturally come before the entire Quorum Court, but how they handle that, whether they convene in special meetings just to deal with finance & budget issues, has not yet been resolved.
- 374.5 L. Ecke asked if they could make a motion to have a Committee of the Whole for the Budget Committee; to which County Attorney Zega responded that such a motion would be out-of-order because they have a main motion on the floor to bring all matters previously referred to the Finance & Budget Committee to the full Quorum Court.
- 374.6 In response to a question from A. Harbison, County Attorney Zega stated that there will be no Finance & Budget Committee and the County Judge is by statute the Chairman of the Quorum Court.
- 374.7 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion.**
- 374.8 **VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. VOTING AGAINST: B. Ussery and A. Harbison. The motion passed with twelve members voting in favor and two members voting against the motion.**
- 374.9 J. Maxwell asked if they needed to continue scheduling that additional meeting outside of their normal Quorum Court meetings so that they have enough time to handle the budget and finance issues. The Quorum Court does a lot of this work in two different meetings so there are still two different

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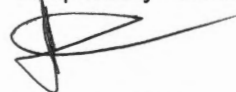
meetings worth of work to do. He made an observation that there may be a long meeting for a regular Quorum Court meeting if everything is addressed in a single meeting.

- 375.1 R. Dennis thanked Judge Edwards and the County Road Department for starting back on Stonewall Bridge, noting that he visited the site and they are working diligently and hard on this project. He also reported that Warren Adcock will let the County Judge's Office know about serving on the Board of Equalization. Further, R. Dennis stated that he had been contacted by constituents regarding the Orr Bridge and asked when it was on the schedule.
- 375.2 Judge Edwards responded to R. Dennis that as of right now, there will be nothing done to the Orr Bridge as the engineer has advised the County that it would be too expensive to try to redo this bridge, which is unsafe.
- 375.3 L. Ecke asked if it were proper that they continue having a Quorum Court meeting on the first Tuesday of the month that used to be Budget & Finance Committee and then their regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month be for all other business; to which County Attorney Steve Zega responded that they can regularly schedule another meeting, although their meetings are established by ordinance and if they are going to have another regular meeting and establish a time on the first Tuesday of the month, they need to do that by ordinance.
- 375.4 E. Madison stated that temporarily she believes that the majority of the Quorum Court can call a special meeting for at least the first interim and then they could deal with the rest by ordinance which they should probably clean up anyway.
- 375.5 **L. Ecke made a motion that they set a special meeting for August 11, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. S. Madison seconded.**
- 375.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion.**
- 375.7 **VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. The motion passed unanimously by those present.**
- 375.8 **CITIZEN COMMENTS: There were no citizen comments made.**

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376.1      ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge  
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter