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

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
5:30 p.m.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

- 404.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met for a special meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Marilyn Edwards.
- 404.2 S. Lloyd led the Quorum Court in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 404.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Harvey Bowman, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Sue Madison, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 404.4 MEMBER ABSENT: Eva Madison and Joel Maxwell.
- 404.5 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, County Chief of Staff George Butler, County Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 404.6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 404.7 **A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 404.8 TREASURER'S REPORT: County Treasurer Bobby Hill reported that he will have the 2016 preliminary revenue projections for the September 10 meeting. He stated that there will not be a magic bullet to solve all the County's problems in the projections, but there is some optimism, stating that there will be growth in property taxes with a possible \$300,000 - \$400,000 increase in General alone. He stated that he believes that sales tax will continue to grow as well, but that would change if gas prices increase. He does not believe that this will be enough to balance revenues and expenditures, but every little bit helps.
- 404.9 Mr. Hill reported that the General Fund began at \$14,086,729 and ended at \$13,261,287, stating that it was not that uncommon at this time of the year for expenditures to be over revenues. He reported that both the Road and Jail Funds are doing well. The Road Fund ended the month with a cash balance of \$1,881,476 and the Jail Fund ended with \$777,671. As far as new revenue, he stated that at this time of the year they should have 58% of projections received in at the end of July and General Fund is just over 60%, Road Fund is at 59%, and Jail Fund is at 68%. He noted

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the reason that Jail Fund is almost at their projection is because the State brought in \$300,000 for the County in July and an additional \$300,000 in August.

- 405.1 Mr. Hill stated that it was another good month for sales tax, bringing in \$562,205 which finally surpasses the 2010 sales tax numbers from the old census. He reported from the 1-cent sales tax, they have seen an increase in 15 of the last 16 months. With regard to the Jail ¼-cent sales tax, there has been an increase over this same time in July 2014 by \$370,000; and they are at a 7.23% increase with a projection of only a 1.5% increase. Mr. Hill reported that the Road ½-cent sales tax came in at \$109,939, virtually the same as 2014 and for the year up 4.3%.
- 405.2 Mr. Hill stated that he was asked to include the Employee Insurance Fund in his report stating that the month ended at \$1,236,618 and on August 3rd the Quorum Court appropriated \$500,000 was transferred so the balance of the Fund is currently at \$1.6 million.
- 405.3 R. Cochran asked if Nelson Driver gave any indication of an additional influx as he knows they need to be at \$1.8 million in August or September; to which Mr. Hill responded that he has not spoken to Mr. Driver since his illness, and after the \$500,000 transfer, they are below the \$1.8 million. R. Cochran stated that this concerns him because it affects the rates that they pay on their side of the fence.
- 405.4 Executive Assistant Karen Beeks stated that when the transfer was made, Nelson Driver did not express concern about this deficit, but she will make sure that he is aware of the situation.
- 405.5 R. Cochran noted that he had asked Nelson Driver to provide the Employee Insurance printout each month and that he did not need to come to the meetings unless he had good or bad news to report. He pointed out that the report shows the income for the revenues of the Fund and expenses for claims paid out. This month they had a \$62,000 drain on the net balance.
- 405.6 COMPTROLLER'S REPORT: Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger addressed Unappropriated Reserves, noting that changes this month for County General was the \$508,386 for the ordinances passed last month. She noted that the Summary of Revenues and Expenditures did not show encumbrances, but shows County General 57% expended for the year. The Summary Statement of Operations-Expenses by Fund and

Department does include encumbrances and shows County General 64% expended for the year along with the total liability.

- 406.1 S. Madison noted when the Animal Shelter was being discussed last night and the issue came up about donations for the Shelter flowing into the General Fund, it was felt by some JPs that this money should somehow automatically go back to the Shelter since the donations were made for that purpose. She asked Ms. Bolinger to explain specifically what happens to that money; to which Ms. Bolinger responded that part of it has already been projected in the revenue projections and as she explained last month, that will be part of the quarterly ordinance that they present. She stated that you do not want to predict donations, but rather recognize them after the monies come in, noting that there are other funds that do this such as the Drug Enforcement Funds. Ms. Bolinger further stated that the donations are shown in a separate revenue line item. In the future these donations will not be budgeted until they are actually received since there is no guarantee of a donation.
- 406.2 A RESOLUTION ENDORSING PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN TUBING, INC. IN THE SALES AND USE TAX REFUND PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003 AND ARK. CODE ANN. 15-4-2706(d): County Attorney Steve Zega explained that this is a Quorum Court meeting instead of a committee meeting, so the Court can act officially tonight without referring items on and in fact are obligated to do so unless they table something to a certain later date. He suggested that he read the resolutions and ordinances then afterwards the Quorum Court can make a motion to pass, and vote to take whatever action they deem appropriate.
- 406.3 B. Ussery introduced **A Resolution Endorsing Participation Of American Tubing, Inc. In The Sales And Use Tax Refund Program Authorized By The Consolidated Incentive Act Of 2003 And Ark. Code Ann. 15-4-2706(d)**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the resolution.
- 406.4 B. Ussery stated that American Tubing is adding onto their plant creating a significant number of jobs.
- 406.5 Lance Eads with the Springdale Chamber of Commerce addressed the Quorum Court stating that in the last couple of years American Tubing went through an expansion, but they are already out of room. The company will be adding a new building, which is approximately an \$8

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million project, adding 100 additional \$14-\$15 per hour jobs. He stated that this is a great opportunity for Springdale to be able to build their manufacturing base and American Tubing wants to participate in the tax back incentive program through the State as part of building this new structure.

- 407.1 **B. Ussery made a motion to adopt the resolution. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 407.2 A. Harbison stated that she would like see the amount of money tracked that the County is donating to these business by the Quorum Court approving their participating in the State's program. It would be good to have some idea at the end of the year how much tax relief they have given on equipment and building materials, etc. She noted that participation in this program is approved for businesses that are going to increase jobs in the County and this is something that the general public needs to know.
- 407.3 B. Pond stated he believes this is not revenue that the County ever receives, but rather are new revenues that they are not going to receive for a period of time in order to allow an industry to grow.
- 407.4 R. Cochran asked if there was an estimate of how much money participation in the State's program will actually be saving American Tubing; to which Mr. Eads responded that he does not have that figure. The lots that American Tubing is purchasing and the actual building will be approximately \$8 million, but he is unsure how much of the \$8 million will be for building materials.
- 407.5 S. Madison asked whether the sales tax being talked about was not just county sales tax, but also the statewide sales tax; to which County Attorney Steve Zega responded that it was only the local sales taxes and that state sales tax is unaffected by this particular statute. He stated that the sales tax is paid and then the company is refunded through the state and our County Comptroller does not track this. S. Madison stated that in order to comply with A. Harbison's request, the Court would need to request the information from the Department of Finance and Administration to which Attorney Zega responded that the Department of Finance and Administration could be asked through the Freedom of Information Act.
- 407.6 Mr. Hill stated that there is a report that he can request through the Department of Finance & Administration that shows the total rebates on sales tax per month and as far as he is aware, this statute only applies to

local sales tax.

408.1 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-18, BOOK NO. 3, PAGE NO. 114

408.4 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE TO APPLY FOR AN ARKANSAS SUPREME COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT ON BEHALF OF CIRCUIT COURT III - JUVENILE DIVISION: R. Cochran introduced **A Resolution Authorizing The County Judge To Apply For An Arkansas Supreme Court Improvement Grant On Behalf Of Circuit Court III - Juvenile Division**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the resolution.

408.5 R. Cochran explained that this grant will authorize the County Judge to apply for a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the Circuit Court III - Juvenile Division.

408.6 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the resolution. A. Harbison seconded.**

408.7 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-19, BOOK NO. 3, PAGE NO. 115

408.10 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$31,880 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE PLANNING BUDGET FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced

An Ordinance Appropriating \$31,880 From The General Fund To The Planning Budget For 2015, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

- 409.1 R. Cochran explained that this is appropriation was discussed at the August 10th County Services Committee meeting with the Planning Director to fund the County's portion of the FEMA study for the amount of \$31,880, which is about 4% of the total cost of the study. Springdale, Fayetteville, and some of the smaller towns will pay an amount that is fairly close to what the County is paying with FEMA paying for the majority of this study. He stated that this will allow the County to get a new FEMA floodplain map which gives the folks who live in those areas the knowledge that they are in a floodplain so they can get flood insurance. He noted that these maps were only updated about ten years ago and were done on a basis of a lot less technology than what is being used today to create these maps.
- 409.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. B. Pond seconded.**
- 409.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 409.4 **VOTING FOR:** J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-57, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 226

- 409.5 AN ORDINANCE REDUCING THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND BY \$20,000; APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE ANIMAL SHELTER BUDGET; AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 FROM THE CIRCUIT CLERK COMMISSION FEE FUND TO THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S BUDGET IN SAID FUND FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Reducing The Circuit Clerk's Budget In The General Fund By \$20,000; Appropriating The Amount Of \$20,000 From The General Fund To The Animal Shelter Budget; And Appropriating The Amount Of \$20,000 From The Circuit Clerk's Commission Fee Fund To The Circuit Clerk's Budget In Said Fund For 2015, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.**

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- 410.1 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance will be funding from the Circuit Clerk's budget in a total amount of \$20,000 to go toward providing supplies, medicine and drugs for the County Animal Shelter.
- 410.2 County Attorney Steve Zega suggested amending Article 1 in Ordinance 10.1 to read as follows: "The following line items **are hereby reduced** in the Circuit Clerk's Budget of the General Fund in the total amount of \$20,000 for 2015."
- 410.3 **R. Cochran made a motion to amend Article 1 of Ordinance 10.1 as stated. B. Pond seconded.**
- 410.4 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to amend the ordinance.**
- 410.5 VOTING FOR: J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was amended.**
- 410.6 **B. Ussery made a motion to adopt the ordinance as amended. A. Harbison seconded.**
- 410.7 S. Madison asked from what budget in the Circuit Clerk's office did the money come and how does it happen that they have an extra \$20,000 to give away; to which Circuit Clerk Kyle Sylvester responded whenever they have judicial foreclosures and have to sell property per court order, there is a fee called the commissioner's fee that goes by legislation into an account called the Commissioner's Fee Fund and is used to offset administrative expenses and expenses of the Circuit Clerk's Office. This money is used for projects or new equipment in their office to offset the strain on the Circuit Clerk's General budget. He stated that the fee is 1/10 of a percent of the selling price of the foreclosure sale and the amount in the Fund will vary. Mr. Sylvester further stated that in order to spend these funds, he has to come before the Quorum Court requesting an appropriation ordinance. He noted that his office is currently not in need of these funds for any purpose. He stated that the Circuit Clerk's Office has been able to help the county out on several different occasions and at this time, unless there is an emergency, his office's needs are met. He further reported that after this \$20,000 is given to the Animal Shelter, this fund will have a balance of a little over \$30,000.
- 410.8 R. Cochran thanked Mr. Sylvester for these funds for the Animal Shelter.

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A round of applause was given to Mr. Sylvester.

- 411.1 In response to H. Bowman's inquiry about the three new staff members he was going to need next year, Mr. Sylvester stated that at this point the new staff members would not be requiring any new equipment as there were stations outfitted with computers and scanners and other things that they would need to do their job.
- 411.2 H. Bowman commended Mr. Sylvester for his generosity and he hopes that this gesture can be reflected throughout the Courthouse because everyone helping each other is a very positive outreach. He noted that Animal Shelter Director Angela Ledgerwood made a comment at their last meeting that she would be able to make it through the year and he thinks that they should give her a chance to do so.
- 411.3 Shelter Director Angela Ledgerwood stated when she said she would be able to make it through the remainder of the year was with the assumption that this ordinance would pass. The money that she needs to get through the rest of this year is included in this ordinance. Originally she asked for \$35,000, Minus the \$5,000 was graciously donated through the Animal League of Washington County and the \$10,000 appropriation made previously, leaves the \$20,000 in this ordinance. She stated that she would need this additional appropriation in order to continue services at the Shelter through the remainder of the year.
- 411.4 L. Ecke stated that she continues to receive emails blaming the Quorum Court for removing these funds from the Shelter budget and asked that Ms. Ledgerwood to explain that the \$44,000 that Buildings & Grounds had designated to the Animal Shelter was not an error on the part of the Quorum Court; and they did not misappropriate or set an ordinance or legislate that the Buildings & Grounds to do so.
- 411.5 Ms. Ledgerwood explained that last year after the budget was finalized, there was some discussion as to whether or not Buildings & Grounds would be able to carry the janitorial supplies for the Animal Shelter as they had done in the past, and it was decided at that point that they could not and that she would need to be responsible for this cost. Since the budget had been finalized there was no way to come back and ask for it in the 2015 budget; however, going forward in the 2016 budget, she will be requesting these funds.
- 411.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance as amended.**

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- 412.1 **VOTING FOR:** B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Madison. **VOTING AGAINST:** J. Patterson, H. Bowman, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion failed with eight members voting in favor and four members voting against the motion.**
- 412.2 S. Zega responded to A. Harbison stating that a special meeting can be called to hear this ordinance on second reading, or it can be placed on second reading at their next regular Quorum Court meeting, or with ten votes tonight the majority can still pass it on three readings as an appropriation ordinance.
- 412.3 B. Pond stated that instead of holding a special meeting, they can still get this passed at their regular Meeting; to which S. Zega explained that they can by suspending the rules at the August 20 meeting and agree by 2/3rds vote or place it on third reading at the next special meeting scheduled on September 10th.
- 412.4 In response to a question by B. Pond whether the Animal Shelter could get by until September when they can hopefully get this ordinance passed, Ms. Ledgerwood responded that she cannot accurately answer that question because everything depends upon the number of animals taken in and she can make it until then by limiting the number of intakes.
- 412.5 **A. Harbison made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading by title only. R. Cochran seconded.**
- 412.6 **VOTING FOR:** B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, and S. Madison. **VOTING AGAINST:** J. Patterson, H. Bowman, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion failed with eight members voting in favor and four members voting against the motion.**
- 412.7 Judge Edwards stated that she would place this ordinance on the agenda for the next regular Quorum Court meeting on August 20.
- 412.8 **AN ORDINACE ANTICIPATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF \$7,500 IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING \$7,500 FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUND TO THE DHS-JDAI GRANT BUDGET FOR 2015:** R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Anticipating Additional Revenue Of \$7,500 In The Law Enforcement Grant Fund; And Appropriating \$7,500 From The Law Enforcement Grant Fund To The DHS-JDAI Grant Budget For 2015,**

and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

- 413.1 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance was for a \$7,500 grant they are anticipating for the DHS-JDAI which stands for Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.
- 413.2 Grant Administrator Renee Biby addressed the Quorum Court and stated that this grant was for the Juvenile Court. Judge Zimmerman will be taking four people to attend an out-of-state Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Conference with \$1,000 will be used for in-state meetings.
- 413.3 In response to a question from R. Cochran about what is covered at the JDAI conference, Director of Juvenile Court Services Norma Frisby addressed the Quorum Court and stated that it is a national conference held every year that provides a lot of information for programs that they can provide in the county for their youth and families to prevent them from going into detention. She stated their main goal is to provide diversion programs and alternatives and this conference is where they get their information.
- 413.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 413.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 413.6 **VOTING FOR: J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-58, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 227

- 413.7 **AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING ADDITIONAL REVENUES OF \$31,167 IN THE JDC GRANT FUND; AND APPROPRIATING \$31,167 FROM THE JDC GRANT FUND TO THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER GRANT-IN-AID 2015/2016 BUDGET FOR 2015: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Recognizing Additional Revenues Of \$31,167 In The JDC Grant Fund; And Appropriating \$31,167 From The JDC Grant Fund To The Juvenile Detention Center Grant-In-Aid 2015/2016 Budget For 2015**, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.**
- 413.8 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance recognizes revenue in the

amount of \$31,167 in their Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) Grant Fund and appropriates it into various line items.

- 414.1 JDC Director Jeane Mack addressed the Quorum Court stating that this is a grant that they have received from the Department of Finance & Administration since the early 1990's, given to all JDCs and is based on a formula on how many beds at JDC. She stated that they use the food to feed their kids in the diversion programs that the JDC participates in, and the computer/IT equipment is for their classroom to upgrade to virtual education so the kids can stay at the same level as public schools.
- 414.2 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 414.3 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**
- 414.4 **VOTING FOR: J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-59, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 228

- 414.5 **AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REVISED 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 A Revised 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 which was on first reading.**
- 414.6 R. Cochran explained that this ordinance is needed to augment their whole Washington County Ambulance Services now that three more cities have been added.
- 414.7 S. Zega further explained that the contract attached to the ordinance is essentially the exact same contract that the Quorum Court approved last month when Washington County Regional Ambulance Authority (WCRAA)

was expanding their ambulance service into the northern 15% or so of the county. The two phases are: (1) hiring and training personnel; and, (2) buying the truck and equipment. He drew the contract between WCRAA, the County, and the three affected cities, which included Elm Springs, Tontitown and Johnson. The Elm Springs and Johnson City Attorneys advised him that they wanted to add a guarantee that they will be participating in the WCRAA, which had originally been discussed, but it had not been added to the contract.

- 415.1 **R. Cochran made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on second reading by title only. R. Dennis seconded.**
- 415.2 VOTING FOR: J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. **The motion passed unanimously by those present.**
- 415.3 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Approving A Revised 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.
- 415.4 **R. Cochran made a motion to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on third and final reading by title only. B. Pond seconded.**
- 415.5 VOTING FOR: J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, and S. Madison. **The motion passed unanimously by those present.**
- 415.6 County Attorney Steve Zega read **An Ordinance Approving A Revised 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.
- 415.7 **R. Cochran made a motion to adopt the ordinance. L. Ecke seconded.**
- 415.8 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.
- 415.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the**

motion to adopt the ordinance.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-60, BOOK NO. 10, PAGE NO. 229

- 416.2 **UPDATE ON 2016 BUDGET PROCEDURES:** Judge Edwards stated that she would be chairing these meetings and making suggestions through the budget process, but the process and product outcome belongs to the Quorum Court. She noted that the Comptroller has sent out budget forms to all Elected Officials and Department Heads to begin developing their budgets for 2016, and once returned, they will be compiled into one document along with the revenue summary. This document will be distributed at the next special Quorum Court meeting that she has scheduled for September 10 at 5:30 p.m. At that meeting, Treasurer Bobby Hill will be presenting the breakdown for the preliminary revenue projections for 2016. It is of no benefit to start talking about those substance items until the revenue is known.
- 416.3 Judge Edwards stated that she is also scheduling a special Quorum Court meeting on September 24 at 5:30 p.m. that will only consist of the 2016 budget items and Washington County Salary Consultant Blair Johanson will be giving his salary presentation at this meeting.
- 416.4 S. Madison requested that the budget information note those departments that have special funds like the Circuit Clerk's Commissioner's Fee Fund. The special funds are a puzzle to her as she has known that there are automation funds such as the fee collected by the Treasurer's Office, but did not know about the commissioner's fee until today.
- 416.5 County Attorney Steve Zega addressed S. Madison stating that former County Treasurer Roger Haney used to put on a PowerPoint about those exact issues. The PowerPoint showed alternative revenue sources that did not come from either the millage or sales tax. He is not sure whether this PowerPoint is still available, but will speak to Mr. Hill about it.
- 416.6 S. Madison stated that the screen for her to view anything on is worthless, so if they are going to have a meaningful PowerPoint, it will need to be larger or on her laptop.

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- 417.1 S. Madison stated that from past experience, it is good for the Quorum Court to know if the department had a grant that may not be continuing and therefore, they do not want to continue to fund that grant's purpose. She stated that sometimes grants are one time only or for a short duration and they do not need for them to become an ongoing part of a budget.
- 417.2 Grant Administrator Renee Biby explained that each grant has its own budget and separate delineation. She stated that the grants come before the Quorum Court through an appropriation ordinance whenever they are applied for and received, but they are never a part of a general department budget.
- 417.3 Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger referred to the Summary Statement of Operations-Expenses by Fund and Department from her report which shows the grant funds broken down by departments and included their budgets, expenditures, and percent used. The Treasurer's report will also show the actual cash balance, what has come in, and what has been spent. She noted that the grants used to be in the General Fund but they are now in separate funds. The monthly reports the Quorum Court is provided should give them all the information that they are requesting but to let her know if there was something else needed.
- 417.4 In further response to a question about the length of grants, Judge Edwards stated that grants can be for any length of time.
- 417.5 R. Dennis stated that he attended the recent meeting of Department Heads. He wants to express his confidence and trust in them because they know more about their departments than he will ever know. He wants to see in the budget requests what they have to have to operate or actual costs, and then separate variables. He does not want to touch the figure given for what they need to operate their departments.
- 417.6 Judge Edwards thanked the Quorum Court for attending this meeting to get this issue off of high center and noted that that they would all be spending a lot of time together over the next three months.
- 417.7 CITIZEN COMMENTS: Mike Emery, a citizen of Washington County and former staff member at the County Animal Shelter, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he believes the results of the vote on the Animal Shelter appropriation are shameful. He noted at their last meeting in a heated debate the proposal to remove funds from other departments without their prior knowledge to the Shelter was rightfully denied because you do not take money from other departments without at least speaking with them

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first. He stated tonight they had a fine example of teamwork by the Circuit Clerk's Office on assisting the Shelter without duress to the Circuit Clerk's budget. It is irresponsible to deny this fund transfer and is a disservice to the citizens and animals of the county. Mr. Emery urged those on the court who voted against this to put aside their petty political differences and reconsider this funding because the citizens of Washington County deserve better.

- 418.1 H. Bowman stated they have a checkbook that they have to balance and try to keep their costs under control and \$12.4 million in the last five years and \$4.5 million last year in excess of what they took in in tax revenue cannot continue to work. He stated that there was a misunderstanding between Ms. Ledgerwood and him as when she said she was going to be okay through the end of the year, he did not know that she meant with this \$20,000. He urged the public to have patience because they will have some disagreements and noted that it is very difficult for the Court as well.
- 418.2 L. Ecke stated the way she sees it is that Mr. Sylvester offered a portion of his budget to the Animal Shelter and that is an interworking community trying to do the best thing with what they have. She stated that the money is already there and it will not cost the county anything. She urged her colleagues to reconsider their vote on this issue, as who is the Quorum Court to deny such.
- 418.3 B. Ussery stated that the Court is thanking Mr. Sylvester for this, but the Department of Finance and Administration is actually the one that collected a percentage for commissioner's fee from the auction of repossessed property. In 2008 or 2009, the General Assembly passed a law saying they could not do that and the money started going into this Commissioner's Fee Fund. He stated that this money has been sitting there unused and now it is time for them to use those funds and balance their budgets to keep from having an increase.
- 418.4 In response to a question whether they could have another vote on ordinance #10.1 tonight; Judge Edwards stated that it would have to wait until their next meeting.
- 418.5 H. Bowman pointed out that Mr. Sylvester has advised the Court that he will need to add staff to his office next year and he will need some additional equipment. Even though it will not cost the county anything today, next year Mr. Sylvester will be back asking for more money for equipment and salaries. If it gets to the point that the Quorum Court absolutely needs to do something at the Animal Shelter, he will vote for

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this, but he wants the Animal Shelter to do the absolute best it can to make this budget stretch. He also wants to see all of the County's departments doing everything possible to try to bring their costs under control.

419.1 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cary Sandidge
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter