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

Monday, October 19, 2015  
5:30 p.m.  
Washington County Quorum Court Room

- 672.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met for a special meeting on Monday, October 19, 2015. The meeting was called to order by County Judge Marilyn Edwards who stated the purpose of this meeting was to continue working on matters pertaining to the 2016 budget process.
- 672.2 J. Maxwell led the Quorum Court in a prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 672.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Harvey Bowman, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Ann Harbison, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Gary McHenry, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 672.4 MEMBER ABSENT: R. Cochran.
- 672.5 OTHERS PRESENT: County Judge Marilyn Edwards, County Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 672.6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Judge Edwards asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 672.7 **S. Lloyd made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. A. Harbison seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 672.8 REVIEW 2016 BUDGET REQUESTS: Roger Morris, Washington County Coroner, addressed the Quorum Court to present his budget for 2016.
- 672.9 In response to a question from A. Harbison, R. Morris stated that he was not getting a vehicle this year.
- 672.10 **A. Harbison made a motion to approve the Coroner's budget as presented. S. Lloyd seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Coroner's budget was approved as presented.**
- 672.11 Chief Deputy Jay Cantrell addressed the Quorum Court regarding the Sheriff-Enforcement budget for 2016.
- 672.12 A. Harbison noted that with the new vehicles that the Court had already approved, his entire budget is up \$71,000 from last year with cuts made in other areas.

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- 673.1 A. Harbison noted that with the new vehicles that the Court had already approved, his entire budget is up \$71,000 from last year with cuts made in other areas.
- 673.2 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the Sheriff-Enforcement budget as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Sheriff-Enforcement Budget was approved as presented.**
- 673.3 Sheriff Tim Helder stated that his department really worked hard at paring down its budget with many innovative ideas on behalf of the staff and ways that they can be more efficient. He gave the example that with a cheap water filtering system, his staff can fill their own water bottles from the tap and save about \$8,000 a year.
- 673.4 S. Madison asked about the food budget of \$5,000; to which Sheriff Helder explained this budget is primarily to fund the monthly Chief's Breakfast Meeting that he hosts where state, federal, and local law enforcement officers congregate to discuss common problems that are being had in Northwest Arkansas. Having vetted it through the court and County Attorney to make sure everything is being done in accordance with the audit and laws. He noted that through the year, he has ten breakfasts and one lunch meeting with 45 or more people. Sheriff Helder noted the benefit received from these meetings is tremendous and he thanked the court for this funding.
- 673.5 Major Rick Hoyt with the Sheriff's Office addressed the Quorum Court regarding the Sheriff-Communication's budget for 2016.
- 673.6 S. Madison asked why this budget had medicine and drugs in it; to which Major Hoyt explained that he has first aid kits around the building and should those kits need to be replenished, the money is taken out of individual budgets.
- 673.7 **A. Harbison made a motion to approve the Sheriff-Communication budget as presented. T. Lundstrum seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Sheriff-Communication budget was approved as presented.**
- 673.8 Sheriff Helder noted that the Communications Fund under Small Equipment has \$175,000 budgeted, which is to replace all of the Sheriff's Department's mobile video recorders in their cars. Having installed 3 cameras this year, his department will be installing 33 cameras next year.

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- 674.1 E. Madison stated that it seems like these cameras should be a capital expense - a one-time expenditure of a significant amount instead of in small equipment that seems more recurring.
- 674.2 Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger responded to E. Madison stating that the individual pieces are not over \$5,000.
- 674.3 E. Madison stated that she may need to speak to someone in audit because these are the kinds of things that the Court needs to be able to see year-to-year that would not be recurring.
- 674.4 Sheriff Helder stated that his office bought the cameras in late 2005 and installed the first one in 2006 and they have going ever since.
- 674.5 Major R. Hoyt stated that everyone is just following the rules as they are interpreted and he is putting it where he was told to.
- 674.6 H. Bowman commended the Sheriff's Department who seems to have worked hard to keep its numbers in line.
- 674.7 S. Madison asked where the Sheriff's Department is renting land or buildings; to which Major R. Hoyt responded that is rent for land where some of the department's radio towers are located and equipment for the radio towers around Washington County, as well as utilities. He further stated that Director of Emergency Management John Luther is in charge of the radio system for the County that all entities in the county use and he is just paying the department's share of the expense.
- 674.8 Sheriff Helder noted that his department accesses about 10-12 towers to get coverage in the whole county.
- 674.9 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Sheriff-Communications budget.**
- 674.10 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Sheriff-Communications Budget was approved as presented.**
- 674.11 Major Randall Denzer addressed the Quorum Court with the County Jail budget for 2016.
- 674.12 A. Harbison stated there was something in the newspaper about the Legislature placing a cap on what could be charged for a phone call at the Jail and asked whether it would affect his office.

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- 675.1 Sheriff Helder stated that this will first have a huge impact on the State prison system. In a trickle-down effect it will affect County Jails in that the percentage of fees that are recouped by the County will be reduced which affects the revenue coming into the Communication Fund. This revenue affects the Jail in that this helps them pay for a lot of equipment in the Jail so they are really hoping it does not come to pass and there are a lot of people lobbying against it.
- 675.2 A. Harbison stated that the County Jail Department has a requested budget of \$14,266,132 with \$13,175,735 available to budget, and asked if R. Denzer included the holdback in that amount. That way his department would have enough money to run the Jail.
- 675.3 R. Denzer stated that this includes Ron Wood's maintenance budget so the requested budget of the County Jail is \$13,338,000.
- 675.4 A. Harbison stated she understands from speaking to Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger that the holdback is used before they have the amount for infusion for the Jail. She stated that the \$1,090,397 needs to be put back into inappropriate reserves and if they run short, they can come back and ask the Quorum Court for more money which should not be a problem.
- 675.5 **A. Harbison made a motion to move \$1,090,397 into unappropriated reserves. B. Pond seconded.**
- 675.6 E. Madison stated she does not think they can put that in unappropriated reserves because it is the Jail's dedicated revenue source and is earmarked money.
- 675.7 C. Bolinger stated she thinks that A. Harbison is talking about is that \$1,090,397 would be coming from County General and she discussed the holdback with A. Harbison and explained that last year she stated there would be no holdback in Jail because they will not hold 10% back and take money from County General to pay the Jail's bills. She stated they will use all the money in County General in Jail and if there is not enough money there to cover the budget as the expenditures are going out, then they would move money into that. She stated that she was requested to put the holdback back in there and it is in there now. She stated the only way to do what A. Harbison is suggesting would be to reduce their budget request by \$1,090,397.
- 675.8 E. Madison stated the point is that their projected revenue stream is not quite covering the cost of the Jail plus the Jail Operations budget from Ron Wood, so they are needing the \$1,090,397 from the General Fund to

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balance out and the only way to get that back into unappropriated reserves would be to cut their budget by that amount.

- 676.1 Sheriff Helder noted that last year the infusion was \$2.7 million.
- 676.2 E. Madison stated she cannot support A. Harbison's motion that way. She thinks the point is if the Jail has money in their fund, it may be holdback, and she will dedicate that to it before she borrows from the General Fund and they may not ever need that from the General Fund, but they are going to have to have it for budget purposes to have things balance out.
- 676.3 A. Harbison stated that revenue for the jai that they produce of \$13,654,150 and if the infusion is from General Fund, it is not in the Jail budget, so you cannot cut it from the Jail's budget if it is not in there.
- 676.4 C. Bolinger concurred with A. Harbison, stating what they have done in the past is actually show a negative unappropriated reserves for Jail and the \$1,097,397 in unappropriated reserves would show that much more in County General. She stated it was requested by the Quorum Court that they not do that, but go ahead and show that there would be an infusion if the budget passed as presented.
- 676.5 A. Harbison stated that the Jail's money available to budget is \$13,175,735 from jail revenue and of that \$478,415 is holdback, so if that is added to \$13,338,000 that is dedicated jail money and if they go over that, then they draw from the \$1 million. She stated that they do not do any other department like this that if they need additional money, they can come back to the Court. She stated that is not reducing the budget by \$1 million because that money is in General.
- 676.6 C. Bolinger stated that A. Harbison is suggesting what they have done in the past. She stated they would actually show the \$478,000 holdback at zero because that is not going to happen because they are not going to have \$478,000 in the Jail fund and take money from County General. She stated if they make that a zero, it would end up showing unappropriated reserves for Jail at a negative \$611,982 which would in turn be added to the County General side; then at the end of year when they do appropriations for transfers, bring them to the Court's attention at that time and go ahead and pass an ordinance to pass the money.
- 676.7 **T. Lundstrum called for the question on A. Harbison's motion. E. Madison seconded.**

- 677.1 VOTING FOR: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, A. Harbison, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. VOTING AGAINST: B. Pond. **The motion passed with thirteen members voting for and one member voting against the motion.**
- 677.2 **Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to move \$1,090,313 from unappropriated reserves back into General Fund.**
- 677.3 VOTING FOR: B. Pond and A. Harbison. VOTING AGAINST: E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, G. McHenry, J. Patterson, B. Ussery, D. Balls, H. Bowman, R. Dennis, L. Ecke, S. Lloyd, and T. Lundstrum. **The motion failed with two members voting in favor and twelve members voting against the motion.**
- 677.4 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the County Jail budget as presented. E. Madison seconded.**
- 677.5 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the County Jail budget as presented.**
- 677.6 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The County Jail budget was approved as presented.**
- 677.7 Sheriff Helder stated he wanted to brag on Major Randall Denzer's ability to negotiate with their Food Services as even though their detention numbers have been at an all-time high, their food budget is not increasing in the Jail.
- 677.8 H. Bowman stated he noted that they had \$1 million projected on the Medical/Dental/Hospital line item and asked how the service that the Jail has contracted with is working because that is a big jump from the \$880,000.
- 677.9 Sheriff Helder stated a lot of that is attributed to the number of detainees that they are housing and they are anticipating the costs will increase. He stated that their expectations during the first quarter they were with this company were not met and they are anticipating getting another competitive bid. He noted the main problem the company they are with is having is with getting staffing which may continue to be a problem in this area as their unemployment rate is low and this is probably not the most desirable job. Additionally, he stated that the biggest problem is meeting payroll standards that people here are accustomed to for that service provided. He believes this is still a great idea that will work out fine, whether it is with this company or another.

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- 678.1 Comptroller Cheryl Bolinger addressed the Constables Budget stating that they now have three Constables the Other Professional Services is \$22.50 because they make \$7.50 a year. She noted the big expense is Workers' Comp which is \$49.65 for a total budget of \$73.00.
- 678.2 S. Madison asked if the County is reimbursed for the Workers' Comp to which C. Bolinger stated that they are not and they have to pay this for them noting that it is there to protect the County.
- 678.3 In response to S. Madison's question, C. Bolinger stated that all Constable positions were filled. Court Secretary Karen Beeks further stated that the three Constables were John Dugger for District 1; Clint Edward Thomas for District 2; and Kyle Woodruff for District 3.
- 678.4 S. Madison asked what the Constables were doing; to which Sheriff Helder responded that Constable Dugger is active with the Tontitown Police Department to assist them as needed. He pointed out that constitutionally, Constables have the same ability within their district to do anything that a law enforcement official can do. He noted that they have reduced the number from 15 to 3, but this expanded the areas of the 3 and he is not aware of any problems.
- 678.5 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the Constable's Budget as presented. J. Patterson seconded.**
- 678.6 **With no further discussion, Judge Edwards called for a vote on the motion to approve the Constable's Budget.**
- 678.7 **The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The Constable's Budget was approved as presented.**
- 678.8 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were no citizen comments made.
- 678.9 ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge  
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter