

MINUTES

SEVIER COUNTY SPECIAL QUORUM COURT MEETING

2:00 P.M., MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2020

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, October 12, 2020, in the Cossatot U of A Weyerhaeuser Room with County Judge Greg Ray presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by Judge Ray followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent: None. Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by Greg Wright, the Quorum Court voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve the minutes as emailed. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Committee and Other Reports

Update from Hospital Board of Governors – Chairman, Steve Cole was present to give the hospital update this month. Mr. Cole reminded the Court that the funds from the bond sales will be available for the hospital construction after October 22. The final cost for the new hospital is not yet available. Mr. Cole said there had been a plan change to make 8 rooms in the hospital negative pressure rooms at a cost of approximately \$106,000. The ground breaking ceremony will be on November 6 at 11:00 A.M. barring any unforeseen problems. The sign at the site will be up by the date of the ground breaking. The actual work at the site will begin October 26 and is expected to be completed in 2022. In the last board meeting they approved the Safe Haven program for the hospital. This is a box accessible from the outside of the hospital for a person to place an infant to be placed and cared for rather than abandoning that child. The board also approved a Mission Statement. A 4-member furniture committee was appointed to help select the necessary furniture for the new hospital. A medical records committee was also appointed to work with Edafio Technology, the company who will maintain the electronic medical records for the new hospital. This committee is made up of Jonathan Hoyt, Brad Patterson, Skip Bell, and Hector Gallegos. Mr. Cole stated that an ad for and Administrator would begin on November 1. They hope to have an Administrator hired shortly after the first of January, 2021. The pay anticipated will be between \$150,000 and \$200,00 depending on qualifications. The Hospital Foundation is up and running. They can now accept donations and there is a party interested in donating. There is a possible project being discussed regarding a 1-mile walking trail on the new hospital grounds. Earl Battiest asked if the Hospital Board had discussed possibly using solar power. Steve said they had not. There was some general discussion regarding solar use in the county. The discussion then turned to Grant money that is available and several different areas of our County Government is taking advantage of these grants.

Old Business

There is no Old Business

New Business

The First agenda item is a Proposed Ordinance establishing Fund 1005 – Coronavirus Relief Fund (Cares Act) as directed by Legislative Audit and AAC. Treasurer Heather Barnes read the Ordinance. Earl Battiest asked if this would replace the Fund created earlier this year to track Covid expenses. Clerk Akin stated that the plan is to combine under this new Fund 1005. A motion was made by Kenneth Currence to approve the Ordinance. Roxy Stephens seconded the motion. A Roll Call vote was taken. Yes - Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Next on the agenda is a request to approve authorization for Sevier County judge to apply for and accept grant funds for Sevier County Elections to assist with operation of a safe and secure election. This request includes appropriation of \$11,574.75 to Fund 3504- CTCL Grant Fund. Clerk Akin explained that this grant is from a non-profit Civic organization that is reaching out to counties across the US to help with conducting a safe and secure election. There is no match required. The county has already been approved. The money received will be used for extra training that had to be done for this election. Possibly PPE and the extra costs involved with increased absentee voting. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Earl Battiest to approve the request. A Roll

Call vote was taken. Yes - Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

The third agenda item is a request to approve an ordinance establishing a new fund for grant funds to be received for conducting a safe and secure election. County Clerk Debbie Akin read the Ordinance. This Fund will be Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant – Fund 3504. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Earl Battiest to approve the request. A Roll Call vote was taken. Yes - Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Agenda item four is a request for an additional appropriation of \$5800.00 for the purchase of a Genie Scissor Lift for the Jail. This money is to come from Fund 1800 Jail Construction Reserve Fund. Sheriff Gentry explained that a scissor lift is needed to safely replace lighting or any other maintenance work that is at ceiling level. The maintenance person has been using an extension ladder to date. Previously there was a scissor lift left at the facility by the construction company that built the jail but they have picked that equipment up. David Wright asked about the cost of renting the equipment. Sheriff Gentry said he had checked into it and it would cost him \$900 to rent for a month. Roxy Stephens noted that there would be no way to know when you would potentially need the scissor lift since maintenance is ongoing. A motion was made by Michael Archer to appropriate \$6200.00 to cover cost and taxes. The motion was seconded by Greg Wright to approve the request. A Roll Call vote was taken. Yes - Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

The final item on the agenda is a proposed resolution declaring a vacancy in the office of Justice of the Peace, District 2 of Sevier County. This vacancy is created by the death of Charles Keels, Sr. The Resolution was read by Judge Ray. Several Justices commented on what a good person Charles was and that he served his District and the County well. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Michael Archer to approve the Resolution. A Roll Call vote was taken. Yes - Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – None. The motion passed.

Announcements

Beginning November 9 there will be a film crew in the county filming a documentary on the RSAT program. They will be on-site through February. There will be 5 -7 day-people hired to assist with errands for the filming crew.

There is a new non-profit organization called Impact for Development in Sevier County. Randy Wright is the President of this organization.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, David Wright made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Roxy Stephens. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Akin
County Clerk