

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY March 9, 2020

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2020, in the Courthouse Courtroom 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, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. Absent: David Wright. Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by Roger Whitmore, 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, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

Committee and Other Reports

Update from Hospital Board of Governors – Board Chair, Steve Cole was in attendance to give an update. Mr. Cole told the court that they are on schedule as projected. He told the court that they are meeting often, that they are authorized to meet by e-mail also. He stated that they had gotten approval for Director & Operative insurance. They read a Resolution in their meeting last Thursday commending the people who worked diligently to keep the old hospital open.

The Board voted to lease equipment from GE to equip the hospital. The total bid for CT, 2 x-rays, 120 patient monitors, MRI, Mammogram, and Ultra-sound is 2.311 million. This is going to be a lease agreement due to the fact that this equipment becomes obsolete so quickly. We will have the option to purchase at the end of the lease. The floorplan was improved/changed. Floor plan should be approved this week. We anticipate the cost to be approximately 13 million. People have been asking about the land. We are waiting on the signature of the owners. We have purchased 18.5 acres for \$155,000.00 plus an additional \$29,000 for the timber that is on the land, as we don't want the timber cut. We expect to put a shovel in the ground in July. Bond sales are next. IT infrastructure will be addressed next. We will be choosing an IT company. We are taking names for persons who would like to serve on the Sevier County Hospital Foundation Board. Anyone can volunteer. There is no limit to how many can serve.

Old Business

1. Use of Timeclocks - Tabled until further notice
2. Proposed Ordinance revising Sevier County Employment Policy – Tabled until further notice
3. Purchase of replacement vehicles for Sheriff's Dept.

Sheriff Gentry informed the court that he had priced a used truck from Gentry Chevrolet and had also checked with De Queen Ford. He didn't know if the Ford dealer still had the truck. Gentry does have one for between \$27,000 and \$28,000. He will need an additional amount of \$5000 to make the purchase. This is to be added to the insurance settlement of \$23,261 for the two wrecked vehicles. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Angie Walker to approve an additional appropriation of \$5000 to be transferred from the County General Reserve Fund to the County General, Sheriff Dept. Fund and the \$23,261 received from insurance in the 2020 Budget. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed. The Sheriff stated that someone had gone behind him to verify that he had indeed ordered vehicles mentioned in the last meeting. He passed out an e-mail confirmation that included VIN numbers for the vehicles. Sheriff Gentry stated that he would not intentionally lie to the court members.

Justice Greg Wright stated that he wanted to address an issue from the last meeting. He said he was called by the tow truck driver that had picked up the vehicle that was wrecked and was said to be dirty. The driver told him that he had personally picked the trash up from the side of the road and threw it into the wrecked car.

New Business

The First agenda item is a request to amend the County Judge's Office Budget for 2020 to transfer a \$5000 appropriation from line 3005, Special Legal to 3009, Other Professional Services. This pertains to a contract for general legal services. A motion was made by Michael Archer to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded by Charles Keels. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

The last agenda item was an update on the Sr. Citizen Centers. Mr. David Boone of David Boone Ministries called and asked to remove this item from the agenda.

Judge Ray asked if anyone would entertain a motion to suspend the rules and hear non-agenda items. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Greg Wright to suspend the rules to hear non-agenda items. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

The first non-agenda item is a request to transfer \$300,000 from County General Reserve Fund to the County General, Quorum Court Fund Budget for the acquisition of land for the Sevier County Hospital. This would be transferred to Capital Outlay line 4001, Land. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Michael Archer to approve the transfer. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

The next non-agenda item was a requested additional appropriation of \$7500 to the Sheriff's budget for the purchase of bullet proof vests. Arvest Foundation has granted this amount to the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Gentry explained that the department has several vests that are reaching their expiration date. This will be appropriated to Capital Outlay line 4004, Machinery & Equipment. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve this request. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

The last non-agenda item was a request to move the April Quorum Court meeting to April 15 at 12:00 noon. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Greg Wright to approve this change. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No- None. Absent – David Wright. The motion passed.

Announcements – There were no announcements. The Judge asked if anyone wanted to make any comments. Bruce Jackson was in attendance and wanted to comment on some of the Facebook rantings that went on after last month's meeting. He said he appreciated what Greg Wright said. Greg said anyone who had a question could call him and he would do his best to answer the questions. Mr. Jackson said everyone has a right to comment on Facebook but that isn't always the right thing to do.

Mike Archer stated that the Criminal Justice Budget is "in the tank". He said they are spending about \$26,000 per month than is budgeted. We need to do something to cut back. Angie Walker if there had been any Jail Committee meetings. They have not met. Mike said all department heads need to come talk to the finance committee if they have any item in the negative. The finance committee will begin meeting on a regular basis. There was a brief discussion regarding the overage in the 2019 budget. This will be addressed in the upcoming finance committee meetings.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Akin
County Clerk