

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY MAY 11, 2020

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 11, 2020, in the De Queen High School Cafeteria 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent: None. 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. 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 a little behind schedule as projected. He told the court that they are meeting often. The last meeting was by Zoom which allowed more involvement by all parties.

He stated that there is an updated floorplan to be sent out by the Judge today. Phase one environmental and soil testing have been done and both are good. We are not ready yet for construction. The legal consultants are currently reviewing contracts. We should have final cost projection late in the Summer. Bonds are projected to be sold in the late summer or early fall. The Quorum Court will be required to pass an ordinance just prior to the beginning of the sale of the bonds. Bonds don't all have to be sold at once. Sales tax revenue will begin to flow in July. Bonds will be sold as taxable bonds. Interest rates are really low. IT and EMR services are the next issues to be addressed. We signed a Food Service Consulting Contract. This consultant will be working with the architect and construction people.

The Board voted to lease equipment from GE to equip the hospital. This is going to be a lease agreement due to the fact that this equipment becomes obsolete so quickly. This will help the hospital to have up to date equipment all the time.

Monte Bartek has drones and has volunteered to start a time lapse drone video footage of the entire building process. We are getting ready to put a billboard up on the hospital site. Shur-Copi products will be making the billboard and cost is \$6800.

Mr. Cole explained that fees that are being accumulated will be paid as we begin getting money in. The people we are working with are very accommodating in this regard.

Tiffany Maurer introduced herself as the new economic development person. Her contact information is available on the website.

Old Business

New Business

The First agenda item is a request for an additional appropriation of \$139 to the 2019 Budget to the Juvenile Probation Fee Fund 3031, line 0414.3094 Meals and Lodging. This addresses a shortfall in the budget. David Wright asked if this was due to an error. Clerk Akin explained that the county doesn't know how much will have to be spent each year to house juveniles as they have to go to a juvenile detention center. This year we just spent this amount over what was budgeted. A motion was made by Earl Battiest to approve the appropriation. The motion was seconded by David Wright. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

The next agenda item is a request for an additional appropriation of \$299 to the Law Library Fund 6009, line 0401.3102 Computer Software Support and Maintenance. This is due to an increase in cost of software programs. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Greg Wright to approve the appropriation. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

The third agenda item is a request additional appropriation and transfer of funds to the 2019 Jail Budget Fund 3017 - \$11017 to line 1002 Salaries Full Time, \$122 to line 2001 Supplies, \$23,178 to 3006 Medical. This transfer comes from The Jail Operation and Maintenance Reserve Depreciation Fund 3404 line 3404.0418.9999 transfers out. This is to balance the 2019 Budget. .A motion was made by Roxy Stephens to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Currence. . Earl Battiest asked what we are going to do to help this . It is getting worse each year. Sheriff Gentry tried to explain by stating that the original RSAT Budget was not enough and things were paid from the wrong place and he doesn't know where the RSAT reimbursements are being received into. He also stated that medical leave for several employees has caused overtime issues. Earl stated that there is not money to carry over each year and that is giving us nothing left to draw on other than projected revenue. David Wright said that we need to cut out all wants and just concentrate on the needs. The Sheriff stated that with 2% pay increases everything in the budget goes up. Mike Archer stated that we know the sales tax revenue us going to be down. Angie Walker asked if the Jail Committee had met. There was no response. There was some discussion regarding positions that have been added over the past several years. David Wright asked how the COVID-19 is affecting the Sheriff and Jail. The Sheriff said they are not putting anyone I jail unless they have committed a violent crime. They are quarantining new admissions. The jail is down to 35-45 inmates rather than the 70 previously being held. The deputies are not making as many traffic stops. After this lengthy discussion a roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

Agenda item four is a request additional appropriation and transfer of \$58,582 to RSAT Fund 3503 from Jail Operation and Maintenance Reserve Depreciation Fund 3404 for 2019 - \$24,287 to line 1001 Salaries Full Time, \$1,352 to line 1002 Salaries Part Time, \$1,826 to line 1005 Overtime, \$3,107 to line 1006 Social Security Matching, \$6,163 to line 1007 Retirement Matching, \$7,564 to line 1009 Health Ins. Matching, \$133 to line 1016 Life Insurance, \$3,173 to line 2001 Supplies, \$245 to line 2006 Clothing and Uniforms, \$9,607 to line 3006 Medical, Dental Hospital, \$593 to line 3054 Other Sundry Insurance, \$535 to line 3094 Meals and Lodging. The Sheriff explained that this budget was not fully budgeted for the full amount of the approved grant. He also stated that he didn't understand where the reimbursements were being receipted into. He said he thinks this makes him look bad and it makes him feel bad. He states the revenue is almost if not equal to expenditures. He feels that this year's budget is a full budget and it will not look like this at the end of the year. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

The next item on the agenda is a proposed ordinance amending the 2019 Sevier County Operating Budget. This final amendment ordinance was read by Clerk Akin. All items in this ordinance have been prior approved by the Quorum Court. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the Ordinance. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed. This ordinance was passed with a single reading with the required 2/3 vote.

The sixth agenda item is a request to re-activate Fund 3405- Disaster Recovery and re-name it 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic. This is to track and pay expenditures directly related to COVID-19. This will run in a negative status until such time as re-imbursements may be received. A motion was made by Roger Whitmore and seconded by Greg Wright approve this request. . A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Charles Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

Agenda Item seven is a request for an appropriation of \$70,000 to the 2020 County General Reserve Airport Budget Transfers Out line 1001.0900.9999. This is due to an omission from the original budget ordinance. A motion was made by Angie Walker 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

Next on the agenda is a request to transfer funds within the 2020 County Road Budget. \$1,600 from line 2001 Supplies to line 2006 Clothing and Uniforms. This is to purchase safety/rain gear for the road crew. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by David Wright 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

Next is a request to transfer within the 2020 Solid Waste Budget \$400 from line 2001 Supplies to line 2006 Clothing and Uniforms. This is to purchase safety/rain gear for Solid Waste employees. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Charles Keels 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

The tenth item on the agenda is a request to approve a transfer of funds within the 2020 Road Budget of \$12,000.00 from line 4005 vehicles to line 4004 Machinery and Equipment. This is to cover sales tax on a tractor and boom hog. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Greg Wright 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

The last agenda item was a request for an additional appropriation to RSAT Fund 3503 2020 Budget of \$4776 to line 0418.4004 Capital Outlay Machinery & Equipment. This is 4 I-Pads and cases. According to the Sheriff DF&A has approved reimbursement for this request. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Angie Walker 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, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No- None. The motion passed.

Announcements – David Wright asked about the time clock situation. Clerk Akin stated that she wanted to commend the Departments that were getting ready to start using the time clock system. These are the Jail, Collector’s Office, Assessor’s Office, and Treasurer’s Office.

Sheriff Gentry informed the Quorum Court that the proposed Documentary is in a preliminary stage. They have a crew at the jail now. They will be working toward selling the documentary to a network. This is in relation to the RSAT Program at our Jail.

Suzanne Babb of the Chamber of Commerce stated that she had been surveying some of the local businesses. She said there are none that have shut down completely. Some are struggling. She encouraged everyone to shop with local businesses all that they can.

With no further business to discuss, Charles Keels 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