

MINUTES  
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING  
2:00 P.M., MONDAY JUNE 21, 2021

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, June 21, 2021, in the Sevier County Courthouse Courtroom with County Judge Greg Ray presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by Judge Greg Ray followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent: Roger Whitmore ( Arrived later). Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by David 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 – Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roger Whitmore. The motion passed.

**Committee and Other Reports** - Lori House, CEO of Sever County Medical Center was present to report on the progress of the new hospital construction. She stated that the sales tax for April was great. Lori informed the court that construction is on schedule. It appears the metal framework is complete. Ms. House attended Sr. Citizen Celebration. She stated that she tried to see every vendor and that it was a great day. She thoroughly enjoyed it. The hospital is now searching for a Chief Nursing Officer. They have advertised on Indeed and Zip Recruiter.as well as on Social Media. Two applications have been received as a result of this so far. A Master's Degree is one of the requirements to apply. She stated that the hospital Facebook page has had a lot of traffic. There will be a meeting with Horn Group this week. They are conducting the Community Health Needs Assessment survey. Decisions need to be made soon regarding the services that the hospital will provide. Meditech was chosen for the medical records provider. The contract issues have been negotiated and that contract has been agreed upon. Ms. House talked about the system that they will have that houses the images for the medical records. These images will be accessible immediately after being taken. Talks are starting with ER coverage providers. So far, she has contacts with UAMS and the hospital in Fort Smith. Only one will be chosen. Lori said they are working to get a sign up at the office space that has been rented so that people know where she is and can stop in as necessary.

**Old Business** – Request for appropriation to hire a full time Deputy Clerk in County Clerk's office. Clerk Akin stated that she had met with the Budget Committee to discuss this request. The need arises due to increased work load as well as upcoming retirement of Clerk and possibly one deputy. Angie Walker of the budget committee stated that the budget committee is in agreement to fulfill this request. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Greg Wright to approve the appropriation. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed.

**New Business** –

1. The first agenda item is a request for confirmation of the re-appointment of Teresa Brewer to the Sevier County Housing Authority Board. Greg Wright made a motion to approve the re-appointment and David Wright seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. Absent – Roxy Stephens. The motion passed.
2. Item two on the agenda is a request for an additional \$8786.33 to the Circuit Court Budget for 2021. \$8400.58 is for charges from previous years that was not billed till November of 2020. \$385.75 is for the last quarter of 2020. This is to be paid from Circuit Court budget line 3100. David Wright asked if we had just discussed this recently. Clerk Akin explained that it was discussed and approved in November but was inadvertently overlooked for payment in 2020. Roger Whitmore made a motion to approve the appropriation. Earl Battiest seconded the motion. A Roll call vote was taken. Yes - Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
3. The third agenda item is a request to confirm the re-appointment of Jimna Stinnett to the Sevier County Hospital Board of Governors. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Roxy Stephens to approve the re-appointment. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
4. Next on the agenda was a request to appropriate grant money from the COAPG grant. Line 1001 Salaries - \$23,520, 1006 Social Security - \$1800, 1010 Work Comp - \$600, 1011 Unemployment - \$600, 2001 Supplies - \$8500, 3100 Other Professional services - \$9580, 3101 Training - \$5400. The total grant is \$50,000. This is grant that is reimbursed at 100% of the \$50,000. David Wright asked if the Sheriff if he had it in writing that we would get it again next year. Sheriff Gentry stated that he had it in writing for this year and that he had spoken with the lady in charge of this grant and she pretty much said that we would get it again for next year beginning in October. A motion was made by Greg Wright to approve the appropriation. The motion was seconded by Angie Walker. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
5. Item five on the agenda is a request for an additional appropriation of \$7885 to the Assessor's budget line 1025 health insurance paid. This is to cover cost of insurance for a retired employee who chose to keep county insurance. The retired employee pays the county each month in advance. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Greg Wright to approve the appropriation. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
6. The next agenda item is a proposed resolution authorizing the Sevier County Judge to accept a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for work on the airport taxiway and apron. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by David Wright to approve the resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest,

Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.

7. The seventh item on the agenda is a request for an additional \$2635 to the Sheriff's 2021 budget to cover a raise promised to a deputy upon completion of the training academy. \$2112 to line 1001 – salaries; \$161 to line 1006 – Social Security; \$324 to line 1007 -Retirement; \$38 to line 1010 Work Comp. Earl Battiest asked how much he was making. Sheriff Gentry said \$14.27 or 14.72? David Wright asked how much this raise would have him making. The Sheriff said \$15.27. Roxy Stephens asked if this would put him at the same rate as the other deputies. He said yes that would be certified deputy pay A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Greg Wright to approve the resolution. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
8. Next is a request to appropriate \$2550 for purchase of grill guards for patrol vehicles. This is money received from a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. The Sheriff stated that he has already received the grant money and has already purchased the grill guards. David Wright said so you are spending money before it is approved. The appropriation will be to line 4004 Machinery and equipment. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the appropriation. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
9. The last agenda item is a request to transfer \$3070 from line 4005 to line 2023 in the Sheriff's dept. 2021 budget. There was money left in capital outlay after the purchase of vehicles and it is needed for vehicle repairs. A motion was made by Angie Walker and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the transfer. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed.
10. The Judge asked if anyone would entertain a motion to suspend the rules in order to hear a non-agenda item. Greg Wright made a motion to suspend the rules to hear a non-agenda item. The motion was seconded by Angie Walker. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed. The Judge made a request to transfer \$60,000 within the Road Fund budget from line 4003 to line 4004 for the purchase of an excavator. This transfer will put enough in the line item for the purchase. It is not the cost of the equipment. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the transfer. A roll call vote was taken. Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None. The motion passed

**Announcements** - There were no announcements.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Greg Wright 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