

MINUTES
SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
2:00 P.M., MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2022

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, August 8, 2022, in the Sevier County Courthouse Courtroom with County Judge Greg Ray presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by Sheriff Robert Gentry followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Judge Ray. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent – None. 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 –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. 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 and Financial report for same. Ms. House presented a Financial statement produced by Horne Group. She reported that the expected completion date is firm for the Hospital keys to be turned over on October 3. Lori introduced a new employee: Morgan Miller – Therapy Director. Lori was asked earlier if there had been another theft at the hospital site. Lori explained that a sub-contractor may have had a few gallons of diesel taken, but this has not been confirmed. She states that work is moving quickly on the hospital. There are extra workers helping currently. Financial report was given. Lori explained that some invoices have to be paid from county funds and not by the bond company. She stated that there is a \$45,000 charge per month for services that comes from county money. She states that this can not be paid from bond money. Lori said that they had done 57 interviews with over 200 more to be done. The remainder of employees will be brought on about 30 days prior to opening.

David Boone Ministries provided a financial report. This is a paper report and no action is required.

Megan McMahan was present to make report for SWEMS. She reported on the number of calls handled over the last quarter. She told the court that the Ambulance service would be moving to the downtown area in the future. They have purchased a lot across from Smiles Dental Clinic.

New Business –

1. The first agenda item is a request to approve a transfer of \$5000 from Sloid Waste budget line 4002 – Buildings, to line 4003 – Improvements other than Buildings. David Wright made a motion to approve the transfer. Earl Battiest seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was taken- Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None, Absent - None. The motion passed.
2. Agenda item 2 is a request to transfer \$1200 from the sale of hay cut at the airport from County General Fund to Airport Fund. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Angie Walker to approve the transfer. A Roll Call Vote was taken- Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. No – None, Absent - None. The motion passed. Angie Walker made a motion to suspend the rule to hear another item concerning the Sevier county Airport. Greg Wright seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. The motion passed. Airport Board Chair Dick Tallman was present and gave a report on the Airport. Mr. Tallman informed the court that the courtesy car at the airport is no longer running and is not worth repairing. He stated that the city has a 2014 Tahoe that they are willing to sell the Airport for \$5000. The Tahoe will need tires and possibly some other upgrades. Angie Walker made a motion to appropriate \$7000 to the Airport Budget for the purchase and upgrade of the Tahoe. Roger Whitmore seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. The motion passed. Judge Ray suggested they sell advertising to put on the car.

3. Next on the agenda was a request to approve the appointment of Debbie Neel to the Sevier County Library Board to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Joan Moore. Greg Wright made a motion to approve the appointment. Roxy Stephens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. The motion passed.
4. Item four on the agenda is a proposed ordinance making appropriation for the Stipend payment for full time law enforcement officers. This is a one-time payment of \$5000 that was approved in the last legislative session and is mostly paid to the county by a State Grant. The county’s portion of this will be APERS retirement match. County Clerk, Debbie Akin read the proposed ordinance. David Wright asked if we are suggesting we pay them another \$5000? He was referring to the recent pay raise that was given. Judge Ray stated that this was money coming from the state as well as the retirement amount that was an unfunded mandate. Clerk Akin stated that the County’s portion, APERS is \$12,256.00. David said We don’t have to approve the appropriation. The Judge explained that the mandate came from the State even though part of it us unfunded. David said he was not against the police getting what the were due, he just has a problem with us being told to do it and then having to pay part of it. Roxy Stephens made a motion to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Angie Walker. A Roll Call Vote was taken- Yes – Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No – David Wright. Absent - None. The motion passed.
5. Item five on the agenda is a request for an additional appropriation of \$3850 to Jail Construction Reserve Fund 1800, line 2023 parts and repairs to replace the compressor on an A/C unit at the Jail. Sheriff Gentry said he has someone come look at the A/C and it was going to cost \$12,000 to replace the unit and \$3850 to replace the compressor. There was brief discussion with the Sheriff stating that they take repairs or replacement of units into consideration at budget time each year. He also stated that this is the first repair to A/C units this year. Earl Battiest made a motion to approve the appropriation. Angie Walker Seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. The motion passed.
6. The sixth item is a request for an additional appropriation of \$3500 to Sheriff Communication Fund 3014, line 4004 – Equipment. This is for the purchase of 3 new car radios. David Wright asked who carries these radios. Robert told him Motorola radios would come from Max Jones. The Sheriff stated that these would be put in the three new vehicles ordered. David asked if they did not figure this in the cost of the cars. Sheriff Gentry said that he did not. A motion was made by Roxy Stephens and seconded by Roger Whitmore to approve the appropriation. A roll call vote was taken. Yes –Marilyn Archer, Earl Battiest, Kenneth Currence, Evelyn Keels, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, David Wright, and Greg Wright. Absent –None. No – None. The motion passed.
7. The last agenda item is discussion regarding the use of ARPA funds. Judge Ray made a recommendation that the County pay County General Payroll cost from the ARPA monies. David Wright asked about paying for hospital expenses out of this money. The Judge stated that there were requirements and stipulations on the money if it was spent for that. He indicated that if it was in County General Fund it could be spent for just about anything. Lori House mentioned that the attorney Linda Johnson had talked to the hospital board this past week about how the money could be used to reimburse the hospital for the sewer system. She said she would have her talk to the court about how this could be done. In the meantime, the judge asked if they would be agreeable to pay salaries from ARPA money. Earl Battiest made a motion seconded by Greg Wright to go ahead and have the County Attorney draw up an ordinance for the salaries and to table spending more until next month allowing us to hear from Linda Johnson about how to pay for sewer system from these funds.

Old Business

Announcements

Adjournment –With no further business to discuss, Earl Battiest 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