

MINUTES

SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING

2:00 P.M., MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, September 12, 2022, in the Sevier County Courthouse Courtroom with County Clerk Debbie Akin presiding. 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 Angie Walker and second by David Wright, the Quorum Court voted to appoint Justice Earl Battiest to preside over today's meeting. Justice Battiest then lead the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Roxy Stephens made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve the minutes as emailed. 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.

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 date is firm for the Hospital keys to be turned over on October 3. She states that work is moving quickly on the hospital. Lori told the court that there have been some design issues. One at the check in desk where only one window has been made. Two windows will be needed. The second item is the CT room was not plumbed for Med gases. This is will be addressed as a negligent omission by Architect/Construction company. This will be corrected. Lori said that about 500 yards of concrete had been poured in the last few days. She also states that they should be completing the flooring. Financial report was given. Lori explained that she is working on a list of items that will need to be purchased between now and the opening of the hospital. It is a substantial amount of approximately 1.3 million dollars. They are waiting on some figures to complete their budget. Justice of the Peace Marilyn Archer asked if there was going to be a turn lane at the hospital entrance. Lori said this was something that Judge Ray had been working on. Earl Battiest explained that the 1.3 million dollars that Lori mentioned to be reimbursed for the sewer system, was discussed to be paid out of ARPA funds. He said there was some issues with legal wording. He asked about the discussed meeting with Lynda Johnson. Lori states that Lynda wanted to wait until after this meeting. She said Lynda would be available on Wednesday of this week. Earl said since it couldn't be addressed in this meeting, we could expect to do it in the October meeting. David Wright asked why the Hospital needed a line of credit from the bank. Lori explained that all Critical Access Hospitals pretty much to run on a line of credit because they receive a large lump sum payment once a year. She stated that they receive small amounts throughout the year and then it is reconciled once at the end of the year based on your cost report. She states that the line of credit will likely be from more than one local bank. Lori states that she is working on this with Lynda Johnson as well as Horne Group. She also said that there are times that CMS doesn't pay for months at a time, making a line of credit necessary. There are some companies that we have purchased equipment from that are holding payment requirement until 6 months after the hospital opens. Earl asked if that means we will be looking at a large debt coming due six months after the hospital opens? She said there would be some come due then. There was some discussion regarding ARPA funds and whether there was still going to be a meeting with Lynda Johnson about if or how funds from ARPA could be used. Lori said Lynda would be available this Wednesday.

New Business –

1. The first agenda item is a request to confirm the appointment of Joyce Lipsey to the Sevier County Housing Authority Board. A motion was made by David Wright and seconded by Roxy Stephens to approve the confirmation. 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 \$32,000 in the Sheriff's 2022 budget from line 1000.0400.4005 – vehicles; \$28,000 to line 1000.0400.2007 fuel & oils, and \$4,000 to line 1000.0400.2023 – Parts & Repairs. Roxy Stephens made a motion to approve the transfer. 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.
3. Presiding Justice Earl Battiest asked the court to move to item 4 on the agenda. This item was a review of property appraisal and offer for purchase of property in front of county shop by the ADOT. Retired Judge Dick Tallman informed the court that this is something that can be handled by the appointed Judge in County Court. The Quorum Court will not be required to act on this. This item is scratched from agenda.
4. The last agenda item is a proposed resolution declaring a vacancy in the office of the Sevier County Judge. County Clerk Akin read the resolution. David Wright made a motion to approve the resolution. 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.
5. Presiding Justice Earl Battiest asked if anyone would entertain a motion to suspend the rule and address a proposed resolution to fill the vacancy in the office of the Sevier County Judge. Greg Wright made a motion seconded by Angie Walker to suspend the rule. 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. Clerk Akin read the proposed Resolution to appoint Richard B. Tallman, Jr. to fill the position of Sevier County Judge for the remainder of this term which will end

on December 31, 2022. David Wright made a motion seconded by Greg Wright to approve the resolution. Prior to taking a vote, Justice Angie Walker asked that we observe a moment of silence in memory of Judge Ray. The moment of silence was observed. 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. Dick Tallman came forward and was sworn in by County Clerk Debbie Akin.

Old Business – There is no old business

Announcements – There was an opportunity given for comments regarding previous Judge Greg Ray. Several mentioned his friendship and his diligence as County Judge as well as his propensity to be emotional when discussing things.

County attorney Kaylen Owen stated that the direction we had been given by the SOS would be followed. In January we will have to declare a vacancy again. The Quorum Court will then have to appoint a successor to fill the term that ends December 31, 2026.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Akin
County Clerk