

MINUTES OF BENTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

November 20, 2008

A regular meeting of the Benton County Quorum Court was held on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Benton County Administration Building, 215 East Central Avenue, Bentonville, Arkansas, pursuant to proper call and notice.

County Judge Gary Black called the meeting to order.

In the absence of County Clerk Mary Lou Slinkard, Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell called roll as follows:

11 JP's Present:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore, Stephenson, Summers, Williams, Winscott
2 Absent:	Wolf, Wozniak

JP Williams made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances by title only, seconded by JP Hill.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The presiding officer led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Prayer was led by Jim Laudell of the Life Church.

A moment of silence was held in support of the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

MINUTES:

JP Stephenson made motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of October 23, 2008 as distributed, seconded by JP Hill. Motion to approve the minutes carried by unanimous voice vote.

COUNTY JUDGE'S REPORT:

County Judge Gary Black stated that he is preparing an extensive report for the December meeting, and announced that Benton County has been named an Arkansas Community of Excellence.

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORT:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Sheridan, representing the NEBCO Volunteer Fire Department, presented a plaque of appreciation to County Judge Gary Black for his efforts in obtaining up-to-date equipment for the volunteer fire departments in the county. He said volunteer fire departments previously purchased used equipment, which was expensive to repair and maintain, and all of the volunteer fire departments appreciate the county's help in purchasing new fire trucks.

Jeff Wyant said that the Assessor's Office could save \$1.65 million by subcontracting appraisals, elected officials should not get a raise because they will get one when Benton County becomes a Class 7 county, and the 3-minute time limit for public comments restricts his right to free speech.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Proposed Resolution Authorizing a Property Tax Levy For Benton County General Fund and Benton County Road Fund For the Year **2008** To Be Collected In the Year 2009; Sponsor: JP Tim Summers

Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell read the proposed Resolution in full. JP Summers made motion for approval, seconded by JP Hobbs.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

11 yeas: Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Hubbard, Moore,
Stephenson, Summers, Williams, Winscott
2 absent: Wolf, Wozniak

Resolution duly adopted and assigned **No. R-2008-19.**

- (B) Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2007-30 (**2008** Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer Of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Appropriating Additional Monies and Authorizing Additional Expenditures In Various Funds and Departments; Sponsor; JP Tim Summers

Deputy Clerk Betsy Harrell read the proposed ordinance by title only. JP Summers made motion to adopt, seconded by JP Stephenson.

There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was recorded as follows:

9 yeas:	Brown, Glass, Harrison, Hill, Hubbard, Moore, Stephenson, Summers, Winscott
2 nays:	Hobbs, Williams
2 absent:	Wolf, Wozniak

Appropriation Ordinance duly adopted and assigned No. **O-2008-33**.

OTHER BUSINESS:

JP Hill stated that he contacted Human Resources Director Barbara Ludwig concerning a letter that they all received from the Pinnacle Law Firm regarding County Attorney services, and she told him that the law firm is basically by-passing the hiring process which is the County Judge's responsibility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JP Summers announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be December 2, 2008 at 2:30 p.m., the Committee of Thirteen meeting will be December 9, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., and the Quorum Court meeting will be December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

County Attorney Robin Green stated that she would like to clarify some information contained in the letter from the Pinnacle Law Firm concerning salaries in the County Attorney's office. She said that although salaries for two law clerks are listed in the County Attorney's budget, they do 95% of their research for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and are available to her if she needs them.

JP Glass commented that in his experience, contracting with a local law firm to provide attorney services for cities and other government entities has been very problematic in terms of getting the services needed and dealing with billable hours.

There being no further business to come before the court, upon motion and second the meeting was recessed at 6:35 p.m., to be reconvened on December 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Slinkard,
County Clerk

Prepared by: Betsy Harrell