

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 3, 2012

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Allen, Moore, Jones, J. Harrison, Douglas, Winscott, Curry

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, Assessor Glen “Bear” Chaney, JP Dale King, Comptroller Richard McComas, Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels, Grants Administrator Kati Rose

Tom Sissom – Benton County Daily Record

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

1. Discussion: Northwest Arkansas Intergovernmental Working Group Water and Wastewater Districts

Rob Smith, Northwest Arkansas Council Policy Analyst and Communications Director, stated that the Northwest Arkansas Intergovernmental Working Group was formed a year ago by Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers, Siloam Springs and Springdale to address water quality and protection issues of the Illinois River in Northwest Arkansas. He stated that the group is working closely with the NWA Regional Planning Commission, and added that the Washington County Quorum Court voted in December to join the group, recognizing that the issues involving the Illinois River will affect cities and counties. He stated that all members are being asked to contribute \$40,000 each in 2012. He stated that the Northwest Arkansas Intergovernmental Working Group’s goals for 2012 include hiring a coordinator to manage the group’s efforts, which will focus on persuading the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to do an Uncertainty Analysis regarding the agency’s proposed methods of achieving Oklahoma’s 0.037 standard set 10 years ago. He stated that the group also plans to pursue financing a Stressor Response Project to identify the most important stressor (phosphorus, sedimentation, etc.) elements in water quality for the river and to determine which have the greatest impact on the river’s habitat, and the project has been estimated to cost \$200,000 a year for three years. He added that a high phosphorus level promotes algae, which can affect water quality, fish, and other wildlife. He stated that Oklahoma has agreed to review its 0.037 standard which was set 10 years ago. He added that the Intergovernmental Working Group strongly believes any requirements or future costs should be based on good science.

Lengthy discussion was held on the effect of the attempts to reduce phosphorus levels and reaching the 0.037 standard set by Oklahoma.

JP Douglas stated that the Stressor Response Projects are the most important because everyone wants healthy streams and waters.

JP Winscott made motion to forward the \$40,000 request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Douglas.

JP Allen stated that he does not like voting on something that is not before him, and that he wanted to make sure the county will be an equal partner in deciding how the money is spent, so he wanted to see what other contracts said.

JP Moore stated that if the study is not funded, then the only study the EPA will have to go by is Oklahoma's.

Comptroller Richard McComas stated that this is for a flat fee, separate from the interlocal agreement. He added that County Attorney George Spence will need to prepare an Interlocal Agreement between Benton County and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission for consideration, and that a \$40,000 appropriation ordinance request would be prepared and returned to the Finance Committee.

JP Jones made motion to table the current motion until the February 7, 2012 Finance Committee meeting, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion to table passed by unanimous show of hands.

Richard McComas introduced Kati Rose and welcomed her as the new Grants Administrator.

2. Grants Administrator Report

Grants Administrator Kati Rose reported that: 1) the Administrative Office of the Courts – Courthouse Security Grant for the Courthouse security cameras is nearing completion and will be closed out by January 16, 2012; 2) the Arkansas Economic Development Administration – Arkansas Energy Office CNG Vehicle Conversion program has not named those who qualified for the grant, but that Benton County was the only county that had applied; 3) the Department of Rural Services – GIF-2 Grant, Beaver Lake Volunteer Fire Department is completed and the closeout is in process.

3. 2011 Clean up Appropriation Ordinance Requests

Richard McComas stated these appropriation ordinance requests are to transfer monies between categories and line items, and additional appropriations in various departments and funds which are necessary to cover expenses for 2011.

a) Health Claims Expense, Accounting/HR, Dept 19, Fund 240.

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

b) Emergency Services, Dept 30, Fund 288

JP Douglas made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

c) Public Services Building, Dept. 23, Fund 440

JP Douglas made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

d) SAMHSA Grant, Dept. 01, Fund 462

JP Winscott made motion forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

e) Visitation & Exchange Grant, Dept 01, Fund 471

JP J. Harrison made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Winscott.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

f) Historical Preservation Commission, Dept 01, Fund 980

JP Winscott made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

4. 2012 Budget Amendment Appropriation Ordinance Requests

a. Non Departmental – Maintenance, Dept 23, Fund 010

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$10,000 for Engineering & Architectural Fees to begin the remodeling of the existing Juvenile Detention Center and Public Defenders Office.

JP Moore made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

b) Public Safety Services, Dept 66, Fund 010

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$30,000 for an analysis of the Emergency Medical Services in the unincorporated areas of Benton County which was approved in 2011, but will not be completed until 2012.

JP Douglas made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

c) County Road Department, Dept. 44, Fund 020

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$324,209 for Dump Trucks purchased in 2011 but not delivered until 2012 and to appropriate \$60,000 for Storm Damages that occurred in 2011 but not reimbursed until 2012.

JP Winscott made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

d) EECGB Recovery Grant, Dept. 01, Fund 191

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$249,539 for EECGB Grant Expenditures carried over to 2012.

JP Winscott made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

e) Public Services Building, Dept. 23, Fund 440

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$197,500 for expenditures associated with remodeling the Public Services Building which will carry over to 2012.

JP J. Harrison made motion to forward an appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

f) West Side Road Facility, Dept 44, Fund 440

Richard McComas stated this appropriation ordinance request is for \$425,000 for the construction of the West Side Road Facility which will carry over to 2012.

JP Winscott made motion to forward the appropriation ordinance request to the January 10, 2012 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

5. Sales Tax Numbers

Richard McComas reported that the county's sales tax numbers are showing a 1.66% year-to-date increase over last year, and they are staying flat.

6. Jail Collections

Richard McComas stated that \$2,059,188 had been collected in 2011, which was \$459,188 over 2010. He added that \$1,750,000 has been budgeted for jail collections in 2012.

7. Fuel Analysis

Accounting Manager Sarah Daniels reported that because of fuel prices being up and the costs for the storm damage that the Road Department is at 118% of their budget and the Sheriff's Department is at 103%. She reported that average costs for unleaded fuel have increased 15%, with a 20% increase for diesel.

8. Monthly Fund Summary

Sarah Daniels reported on the Monthly Fund Summary Report, stating that the General Fund has a remaining balance of \$1,875,957.61.

9. Review of 2011 Revenue

Richard McComas reported the General Fund has a balance of \$17,885,423 left, and stated that the county is in good shape.

9. Other

JP Winscott announced that the next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held January 5, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

JP Allen announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held February 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

JP Moore announced that the next Committee of Thirteen meeting will be held January 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.