

## Committee of Thirteen Report

December 11, 2012

The Committee of Thirteen of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

13 JPs Present: King, Winscott, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Hawkins, Jones, Douglas, Sandlin, Blaty, Curry, Carr, Moore

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, Assessor Glen "Bear" Chaney, Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen, Comptroller Sarah Daniels, D.E.M. Director Robert McGowen

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record

Chair Kurt Moore called the meeting to order.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all resolutions and ordinances by title only, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

#### **A. Resolution Request: Declaration of Vacancy in the Office of Justice of the Peace, District 2**

JP Allen stated that due to JP Frank Winscott's recent move out of his district this resolution request is to declare a vacancy in the Office of the Justice of the Peace, District 2.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Members of the court expressed their pleasure in serving with JP Frank Winscott and commended him on his hard work while serving.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

#### **B. Appropriation Ordinance Request: County Clerk, Dept. 02, Fund 010**

JP Allen stated this resolution request is to cover the postage expenses involved with re-zoning several school districts.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**C. Appropriation Ordinance Request: County Coroner, Dept. 27, Fund 010**

JP Allen stated this resolution request is to cover the expense for the additional deputy coroner calls.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**D. Appropriation Ordinance Request: County Jail, Dept. 67, Fund 010, County**

JP Allen stated this ordinance request is to transfer funds from the County Jail budget to a line item in the Sheriff's Office budget to pay for a new truck. Allen stated this request first came through the Finance Committee and that the Justices of the Peace had asked Sheriff Keith Ferguson, or his representative, to attend the Committee of Thirteen meeting to answer questions about the purchase.

Comptroller Sarah Daniels stated that she was told that the truck was bought for Sheriff-elect Kelley Craddock to drive while he is making the transition to sheriff.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Carr.

JP Douglas stated this it is not a question of how fancy a truck it is, it is just breaking protocol and not getting approval before you do something. He said it is bad form, and stinks in his opinion.

Lengthy discussion was held on the appropriation ordinance request to pay for the purchase of a new truck and how the truck was bought outside of the normal policies and procedures.

JP Jones stated that he was troubled by the purchase of the truck without prior approval. He stated that he didn't think anyone on the court would have had a problem with it if they had come and requested it at the Finance meeting He added that he has a real problem with anyone just spending money and getting an item like this which is not in the budget.

JP Allen stated that he would not vote for this. He added that it was requested at the Finance Committee meeting that someone from the Sheriff's office be here to talk about this, and someone from the department could have been here.

Sarah Daniels stated that Sheriff-elect Kelley Craddock was not aware that we were going to have to move money to purchase the truck. She reminded the committee that the Sheriff's Capital and vehicles were cut and that there was some concern that something needed to be done one the front end because there would not be money in 2013 Budget.

JP Blaty stated that since this still needs to be passed by the Quorum Court that she would like to request the Sheriff or someone from his office attend the Quorum Court meeting.

JP Allen asked how to prevent this from happening again, and asked if we need to send a letter out to dealers in the area, telling them that they should not sell a car unless they have paper work saying the court has approved it.

Sarah Daniels stated that in order to purchase something over a certain amount, you have to have a purchase order signed by the elected official, which then comes to the accounting office before the money can be spent. She stated we have never had this problem, and that she does not see this as a problem going forward. Sarah Daniels stated there is policy in place if people would just follow it. She added that there was no purchase order requested on the front end; she was brought an invoice.

Further discussion was held on forwarding the proposed appropriation ordinance to the Quorum Court meeting, with the proviso that somebody representing the Sheriff's Office be in attendance.

Motion passed by show of hands vote.

12 in favor: King, Winscott, Harrison, K. Harrison, Hawkins Jones,  
Sandlin, Douglas, Blaty, Curry, Carr, Moore  
1 opposed: Allen

**E. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Establishing the Benton County Annual Operating Budget for the Calendar Year 2013**

JP Allen stated that the Inspector position approved for Centerton has been pulled, and that the budget still reflects that position and the revenue and expenditure. He said although the position is still in Schedule 4, there is no intent to fill the position.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Administrator of General Services Elizabeth Bowen stated that there is no intention of filling the Planning Inspector position.

Lengthy discussion was held on leaving a funded position open in the Budget.

JP Douglas stated that he would be in favor passing the budget, as long as there is assurance that the Planning Inspector position will be brought back to the Quorum Court before it is filled.

Further discussion was held on passing the budget as is, and amending the budget to take the Inspector position out of the department after the first of the year.

JP Douglas stated that he is concerned with the pumper trucks that have been budgeted for 2013 and the weight load limits on the county's bridges.

Further discussion was held on the purchase of the pumper trucks and the concerns of the weight load of the bridges.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**F. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Department 10, Circuit Court, Division 5, Fund 010**

JP Allen stated this appropriation ordinance request is to transfer funds to purchase a copier.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Hawkins.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**G. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Transfer of Funds from General Fund to Road Department**

JP Allen stated this appropriation ordinance request is for transfers which were approved throughout the year from the General Fund to the Road Department.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**H. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Accounting/HR, Dept. 19, Treasurer, Dept. 04**

JP Allen stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$182,000 to purchase a new financial management system for the Accounting/HR and Treasurer's Department.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 20, 2012 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

JP Moore announced that the next Quorum Court meeting will be held Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

County Judge Bob Clinard announced that the "Swearing-In" ceremony will be Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at the Benton County Courthouse, Division I Courtroom, Third Floor, 102 NE "A" Street, Bentonville. He added that either he or Judge Schrantz will be available on January 1, 2013 to swear anyone in who has a conflict in their schedule.

Judge Clinard announced that the Quorum Court Organizational meeting will be held on January 2, 2013 at 10:00 in the Benton County Administration Building, Quorum Court room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion and second meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.