

## Committee of the Whole

December 10, 2013

The Committee of the Whole of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

13 JPs Present: McKenzie, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison,  
Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Curry, Meyers,  
Moore, Moehring  
2 Absent: Hernandez, Carr

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, County Attorney George Spence,  
Comptroller Sarah Daniels, Assessor Glenn "Bear" Chaney

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record

Chair Kurt Moore called the meeting to order.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

JP J. Harrison made motion to move the EMS discussion ahead of Item "A" on the agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

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

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

### **A. EMS Discussion:**

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that a referendum petition has been filed with respect to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fee adopted by the Quorum Court on October 1, 2013. He stated that the referendum petition filed asks for a referendum vote at the General Election in November 2014. County Judge Clinard stated that he is asking the Quorum Court to give him some indication as to whether they would support holding a Special Election to be held in February on the proposal to set an \$85 EMS fee for emergency medical services on rural households in unincorporated areas of Benton County. He stated that in order to get the fee collected in 2015, the \$85 fee has to be on the 2014 tax bills. He stated that a Special Election has to be called at least sixty days in advance of the election date, and because of state limitations, the only available date to call an election is February 11, 2014.

Lengthy discussion was held on supporting County Judge Bob Clinard to call a Special Election February 11, 2014 proposing the \$85 EMS fee to be levied on the 2014 property tax statements for emergency medical services in rural households in the unincorporated areas of Benton County.

JP McKenzie made motion that the Committee of the Whole recommend to County Judge Bob Clinard and the Quorum Court that the election be held at the General Election in November, seconded by JP Anglin.

Further lengthy discussion was held on calling a Special Election for February 11, 2014 to vote on the \$85 fee for EMS service to be levied on the 2014 property tax statements.

Chair JP Kurt Moore called for a roll call vote to hold the election at the General Election in November.

5 Yeas:	McKenzie, Anglin, Chiocco, Moore, Meyers
8 Nays:	J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin. Curry, Moehring
2 Absent:	Hernandez, Carr

Motion failed.

The committee took no further action on the question.

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that this is all of us trying to do their best to determine what is good for the county. He said that he would sleep on the decision tonight and let them know tomorrow.

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

JP J. Harrison stated that this is to replace exterior lighting damaged by lightning striking the Jail Complex.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by show unanimous of hands vote.

**C. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Road Revenue, Dept 00, Fund 010 to 020**

JP J. Harrison stated that this is to transfer \$800,000 from County General to County Road to pay for storm damage.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**D. Appropriation Ordinance Request: County Road, Dept. 44, Fund 020**

JP Jones stated that this appropriation is to transfer \$10,000 from “Supplies” to “Capital” to pay for easements on Windmill Road.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**E. Ordinance Request: Adopting the Revised Planning and Development Regulations of Benton County**

JP Allen stated that this is a major improvement to the ordinance and that it has been an effort to make it a better working document for the stakeholders

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed ordinance to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**F. Ordinance Request: Adopting a Revised Fee Schedule for Planning Review and Exempting Agricultural Land Use from Planning Review and Fees:**

JP Allen stated that this is a revised fee schedule for planning review and exempting agricultural land from planning review and fee.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed ordinance to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**G. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Establishing the Benton County Annual Operating Budget for the Calendar Year 2014**

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed 2014 Benton County Operating Budget to the December 19, 2013 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

JP Allen stated that because of the costs involved to call a Special Election, and since Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has only been funded through the first three months 2014, that an additional appropriation will have to be made in the 2014 Budget.

Discussion was held on approving the 2014 Budget as proposed, and appropriating additional funds for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) when needed.

JP Meyers called for the question.

Motion passed by show of hands vote:

12 in favor - McKenzie, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Sandlin, Anglin,  
Chiocco, Curry, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

1 against - Jones

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Clifford of Bentonville expressed his appreciation of the Justices of the Peace and all their hard work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.