

Committee of the Whole Report

December 08, 2015

The Committee of the Whole met Tuesday, December 08, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, Benton County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

15 JPs Present: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco*, Slinkard, Leadabrand, Moore, Meyers, Moehring

Others Present: Comptroller Brenda Guenther, County Judge Robert Clinard

Media: Tom Sissom – Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

JP Tom Allen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Clifford voiced his disappointment with the decision of the Finance Committee regarding giving employees who are maxed out on their pay range a one-time lump sum merit pay. He feels that this is paying a premium for employees to perform their usual tasks.

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

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

1. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) to Appropriate Additional Monies and Authorize Additional Expenditures in Department 0107, Quorum Court, Fund 1000; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Jones stated that this is to allocate additional monies for the Quorum Court.

JP Jones made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Slinkard.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

2. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) to Amend *Schedule 1 – Revenues by Fund* by Authorizing a Transfer from County General, Fund 1000 to County Road, Fund 2000; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Jones stated that FEMA is late with reimbursements. They need to appropriate \$1.5 million and, if they do not get it back this year, they will get it back next year. It can then be fixed in the Finance Committee and additional appropriation ordinances can be drafted as needed.

JP Jones made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

3. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Dept. 0300, County Health Department, Fund 1000; Sponsor: JP Barry Moehring

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Moehring stated that this is a transfer of funds within the department that does not affect the budget. It allows the Health Department to purchase a vaccine refrigeration system.

JP Moehring made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

4. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) to Amend *Schedule 1 – Revenues by Fund* by Authorizing a Transfer from County General, Fund 1000 to Sheriff's Aviation, Fund 3410; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Jones stated that this is to appropriate an additional \$2,000 to the Sheriff's Aviation fund. There were some unforeseen maintenance issues as well as insurance issues that were corrected this year.

JP Jones made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

5. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance Amending Appropriation Ordinance No. O-2014-84 (2015 Benton County Budget) Authorizing a Transfer of Funds Between Categories and Line Items; Dept. 0418, Jail, Funds 3412 & 3017; Sponsor: JP Michelle Chiocco

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Moehring volunteered to sponsor the proposed appropriation ordinance in JP Chiocco's absence.

JP Moehring made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

JP Jones stated that this is to move \$50,000 from one fund to the other so that the cash balance is positive in both funds; there is no budget impact.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

6. Proposed Resolution Expressing the Intent of the Quorum Court to Transfer 2015 Turnback of Budget Appropriations to the Capital Projects Fund; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed resolution request by title only.

JP Jones stated that, at the last Finance Committee meeting, they discussed turnback and extra revenue totaling about \$3 million that they expect to receive this year. This resolution states the intention of the Quorum Court to move those funds into the Capital Projects Fund.

JP Jones made a motion to forward this resolution request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

7. Proposed Appropriation Ordinance to Establish the Benton County Annual Operating Budget for the Calendar Year 2016; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

Committee of the Whole chair JP Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance request by title only.

JP Jones made a motion to forward this appropriation ordinance request to the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams.

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reviewed the 2016 Benton County Operating Budget Ordinance and Schedules 1-5 on the dashboard. She also reviewed the 2016 Capital Requests from the dashboard.

JP Allen reminded the JPs that this budget does include 2% raises that were done with the stipulation that the elected officials can choose those to be 100% merit, with a cap not to exceed 5% for any individual. The Budget Committee did not approve all capital and personnel requests that were submitted. He stated that they had a good discussion with the Road Department about the future purchase of a track-hoe, which was ultimately left out of the budget.

JP Anglin asked if anything was ever decided about giving long-range raises for elected officials. Brenda Guenther stated that they never got back to that discussion but they can speak to it at the beginning of the year. The subject of pay raises for elected officials was briefly discussed.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Discussion: Request for Qualifications for Architects for Justice Facility Project, County Judge Robert D. Clinard**

County Judge Robert Clinard reported that a sub-committee consisting of John Sudduth, Jay Allen, Circuit Judge Tom Smith, JP Slinkard and himself listened to the presentations from the nine architectural firms that responded to the Request for Qualifications for the Justice Facility Project that was sent out in October. He reported that all of the firms' presentations have been excellent and they will be narrowing the choices down to the top three or four firms by Friday, December 11, 2015. Once they have chosen the top firms, he would like to request that the Quorum Court hear the presentations from these firms. He suggested scheduling one or two meetings in January for the firms to come and present to the Quorum Court, so that they can reach a decision by January 15, 2016.

*JP Chiocco entered the meeting.

Lengthy discussion was held regarding how to proceed on scheduling these meetings with no consensus being reached. It was decided to resume the discussion at the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court meeting.

JP Easley stated that he got a call from Jerry Oliver, the Fire Chief for the Rocky Branch Volunteer Fire Department; he wants to apply for a GIF Fire Protection Grant with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. This would be used for a fire and rescue boat to be stationed at the Rocky Branch volunteer fire station. He has support of \$15,000 already but he needs an additional \$13,115 to apply for this grant. The deadline to apply for this grant is December 18, 2015, the day after the next Quorum Court meeting.

Brenda Guenther stated that this is similar to the GIF grant resolutions passed last month for three other fire departments.

JP Moore called for an informal show of hands vote to have a resolution drafted for the December 17, 2015 Quorum Court meeting, which passed unanimously.

JP Allen stated that it is fine to bypass the Finance Committee since they have a tight deadline for this resolution to be passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JP J. Harrison reminded the committee that the Quorum Court meeting is a week early this month on December 17, 2015.

JP J. Harrison made motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.