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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES

February 26, 2024

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February 29, 2024

February 26, 2024, Quorum Court Minutes

12 Justices of the Peace were present. Kevin Williams was absent.

Judge Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Invocation by Dr. Greg Ota, New Life Empowerment Ministries, Jonesboro

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance.

The first order of business was approval of Quorum Court minutes from February 12, 2024. A motion to accept was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Forrest. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously. Justice Cline read the road committee minutes. Justice Rogers read the Public Service committee minutes and Justice Longmire read the Finance report meeting minutes. Justice Cook asked about the Finance committee minutes not including his question regarding using American Rescue money being used for small towns to use on sewer and water. Judge Day explained that the Court does not necessarily approve these minutes, but Justice Cook could get with someone after the meeting to have the minutes adjusted accordingly.

No old business.

A resolution was read expressing the willingness of Craighead County to utilize federal-aid monies for the following projects of Highway 49, County Road 792, and County Road 960 intersection improvements. A motion to accept was made by Justice Cline to approve and seconded by Justice Tennison. Justice Barnes asked how likely the total cost would be less than 1.25 million dollars. Judge Day stated that there was not a chance that it would cost less than 1.25 million dollars. Justice Forrest asked about the cost of moving the utilities being 100 percent the County responsibility. Judge Day responded that would be if we stopped mid-stream and did not complete the project. Judge Day stated that the Highway gave an estimated cost of 1.8 million dollars and reminded the Court that they approved a pot of money for Highway 230 and that he was using that pot of money to fund this project. Judge Day stated the intention is for this not to come out of road department monies or County General. Judge Day took a vote and it passed unanimously.

A resolution was read to appoint Carole Farmer to the Craighead County Nursing Center Board of Directors. A motion was made to accept by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Allison. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

An emergency ordinance was read to adopt an interlocal agreement between Craighead County and the City of Jonesboro by and through their duly authorized and elected Mayor and County Judge and enter the interlocal agreement for the purpose of continuing the shared expenses of Craighead County Jonesboro public library of Arkansas, declaring an emergency, and for other purposes. Judge Day gave a little background on the reason for the agreement. A motion to approve was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Longmire. Judge Day opened for questions. Justice Barnes made a comment that he concurs with the clause about the enhanced children's reading, social and literacy skills. Justice Barnes stated there was not a section regarding board nominations and he felt that would be a pertinent

section to have in the agreement. Judge Day stated that the Quorum Court has no authority over appointments, that rests completely on the Mayor and County Judge. Judge Day explained that this was written to keep politics out of it completely and that the constitution is written specifically that the appointments are for the County Judge and the Mayor to make. Judge day stated we are truly trying to make this as uncontroversial as possible and follow the law. Justice Barnes stated that his follow up to that would be that Arkansas code annotated 13-2-508 does not specify and require the current arrangement that we have of four nominations by the Judge and three from the Mayor of Jonesboro. Justice Barnes stated that he agrees with keeping politics out of it moving forward. Justice Barnes stated that his question is routed in the current milage of 1 percent of that seventy-three percent is collected within the city of Jonesboro and the other twenty-seven percent is collected in the non-incorporated areas plus all non-Jonesboro cities, yet the County Judge has one more nomination than the Mayor of Jonesboro. Judge Day responded that he is the County Judge over one hundred percent of Craighead County not seventy-three or twenty-seven percent. Justice Barnes requested that Justice Cline consider withdrawing his motion to approve so that they may look into the current arrangement considering nominations. Justice Longmire called to question. Judge Day asked if anyone else would like to speak and opened it up for public comment. None were made. Roll was called and passed unanimously. No second or third reading would be required.

An Ordinance was read to adopt an Interlocal agreement between the counties of Poinsett and Craighead County. A motion was made to adopt by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day stated that by us partnering with Poinsett County we get a little extra money and help Poinsett County. Roll was called and passed unanimously.

An ordinance was read to amend the 2024 Budget to add fund 1000 Department 0128 to create the Arkansas Community Foundation Inc. to establish the Paul Ojo Memorial Scholarship Endowment fund in the amount of \$269,869.41. A motion to accept was made By Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Tennison. Justice Cook stated that in the Finance committee it was requested that the verbiage be changed to add technical college and made a motion to amend, Justice Pasmore seconded. Roll was called on the amendment and passed unanimously. A testimony by Annette Hufstedler was read by Judge Day regarding Paul Ojo. Justice Allison requested that wording be added to say that the scholarship would be for continuing a degree in social work or mental health. Judge Day pointed out that section A stated that special consideration would be given to students from Bay High school and/or planning to enter the fields of social work or mental health. Justice Allison stated that she was asking regarding renewability. Judge Day explained that he leaned on the advice of the Arkansas Community Foundation who advised that if you put in too many specifics the money doesn't get distributed because people do not ask for the scholarship. Roll was called and passed unanimously.

A resolution was read regarding Arkansas Rural Community Grant program to furnish Philadelphia Fire Department three complete sets of PPE equipment. A motion to accept was made by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Pasmore. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

An appropriation ordinance was read to amend the 2024 annual operating budget to add a Case Manager position to fund 3523 Star Court Adult Treatment Court Discretionary Grant Program. A motion to approve was made by Justice Rogers and seconded by Justice Cline. Judge Day reminded the Court that this is a federal grant that is 100 percent funded and they have added this position. Justice Forrest inquired about the minus numbers on the appropriation for some line- items being decreased to add

another position. Judge Day confirmed that was correct. Roll was called and the appropriation passed unanimously.

An appropriation regarding the 2023 transfers was to be read. Justice Rogers asked if it could be read by title only. Justice Cline stated it had to be read by reference. Justice Cline made a motion to read by reference and Justice Rogers seconded. The appropriation was read by reference. Judge Day explained that this was to approve all the court orders that were done throughout 2023. Roll was called and passed unanimously.

No announcements were made.

Public comment. County Clerk reminded everyone about early vote taking place until March 4th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Justice Allison and seconded by Justice Forrest.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

February 29, 2024 Quorum Court Minutes

11 Justices of the Peace were present. Barbara Weinstock and Kevin Willimas were absent.

Judge Day called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Invocation by Justice of the Peace Terry Couch

Assembly and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll was called.

Minutes were not prepared for the February 26, 2024, meeting.

No old business.

A resolution supporting a moratorium for all construction and business activity surrounding used tire collection centers and processing facilities in Craighead County. A motion was made to bring the resolution to the table by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Pasmore.

Judge Day spoke on the background concerning the current tire program and that in the last Legislative session it was changed to have four tire districts in the state. Craighead County is in district two. That board met and mentioned that they were planning to put a tire processing facility in Craighead County. Judge Day stated his concern was that other Counties have had these processing plants in their County that have gone bankrupt, and the County was left with large piles of tires.

Justice Pasmore stated he thought this was a good move.

Justice Cook asked if it would affect anyone currently in this business. Judge Day stated, no the resolution specifically stated that it would not prohibit Legacy landfill from its continued and existing operations. Judge Cook stated he did not like telling private landowners what they could do with their land if it was legal. Justice Cook asked if the time limit could be shortened to three months. Judge Day stated that that would be up to the Court. Justice Cook asked if there could be a bond put on business wanting to do tire business in the County. Judge Day said another resolution could be made concerning this if the need arises.

Justice Couch asked about who paid for granules that were passed out for West Nile virus in years past due to standing water in old tires and ditches. Judge Day said he did not know but could have been the health department.

Justice Longmire asked if we were still operating under the current waste management district. Judge Day stated that will technically dissolve April 1, 2024, it will then fall under tire district two which is controlled out of Pulaski County. Justice Longmire asked how many tires we are dealing with out of Craighead County, Judge Day stated 120,000 a year. Justice Longmire asked how much the disposal fee was per tire. Judge Day stated you pay that when you purchase the tire, and it is three dollars a tire.

Justice Barnes asked if Judge Day knew how much local discretion would be given by the Legislature. Judge Day explained the reason we are doing this is because one of the criteria for the tire processing to be located here would be if it met local jurisdiction. Justice Barnes asked if we could add standards beyond what is required.

Justice Longmire asked to get a copy of the contract between who we currently use, and the new one being put in place. Judge Day stated that they were having a Landfill board meeting next week to discuss this issue.

Justice Cook asked what board decides who can put a processing plant in. Judge Day responded that there is a tire board that decides how these tires will be dealt with for twenty- seven counties.

Justice Cook states he is for six months. Judge Day states this will give us time to study and think about it.

Call to question by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day asked for a vote, and it was unanimous.

Justice Allison asked if an ordinance could be done instead of a resolution. Judge Day explained that an ordinance could be appealed to the Circuit Court and the County would have no say in it.

Motion to adjourn by Justice Barnes and seconded by Justice Forrest.

The meeting ended at 5:19 PM.

Road Committee Meeting
2/26/2024

Justice Cline called the meeting together at 6:26 pm. Those present were Justice Cline, Justice Couch, Justice Tennison, and Justice Barnes. The Road Committee reviewed a plat for Dana Erwin CR 903. Justice Couch motioned to approve, 2nd by Justice Tennison, all were in favor. We then reviewed a plat for Deborah and Ronald Nunnally, Highway 18. The middle lot doesn't own land that joins the highway, so Justice Barnes motioned to have it replated, 2nd by Justice Couch, all were in favor. With no other business, Justice Barnes motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Justice Tennison. The committee adjourned at 6:38 pm.