

# Committee of Thirteen Report

May 12, 2009

The Committee of Thirteen of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Courtroom, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Present: Wozniak, Wolf, Sandlin, Brown, Lewis, Hubbard, Moore, Allen, Douglas, Blaty, Winscott, Harrison, Stephenson

Others Present: County Judge David Bisbee, County Clerk Tena O'Brien, Director of Public Services Chris Glass, Director of Public Safety Greg Hines, Comptroller Richard McComas, Kevin Monroe, Cassie Elliott, Kenneth Knight, Bob Kossieck

Media: Tabatha Hunter – Daily Record; Scarlett Simms – Morning News

JP Bob Stephenson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

JP Stephenson stated that Item #8 is not available at this time and will be presented at the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bob Kossieck spoke in opposition on the Illinois River Watershed local match request.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Illinois River Watershed – Local Match Request: Ed Clifford Northwest Arkansas Council – Water and Utilities Committee Co-Chair**

Ed Clifford reported on the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Illinois River Watershed and the benefits that the program would provide. He stated that the project would help shore up the Illinois Rivers' shorelines and that grasses and trees would be planted. He stated that it would also help prevent fertilizers and additional sediment from entering the watershed.

Lengthy discussion was held on the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Illinois River Watershed and the local match request that would allow the county to donate the \$15,000 over a period of three years through a combination of monetary and in-kind donation in which the county will perform services rather than contribute money. JP Douglas stated that the Conservation Replacement Enhancement Program (CREP) focuses on environmental sensitive areas and that he feels like this is a great program, and he has pledged personal money to this program.

JP Hubbard made motion to postpone until the July Finance Committee meeting, seconded by JP Blaty

Further discussion was held in support of the program, and the concerns of tightening the budget.

JP Hubbard stated that he would like to amend his motion and send this request back to the June 09, 2009 Finance Committee meeting, seconded by JP Frank Winscott.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Resolution Request: Confirming Appointment of Kevin Monroe to 911 Administration Board (Fire Chief Position) 9-1-1 Manager of Operations Mary Kay Sullivan**

Benton County Judge Dave Bisbee introduced Kevin Monroe, his appointee to the 911 Administration Board (Fire Chief Position.)

Kevin Monroe stated that he is the Fire Chief of Highway 94 East Volunteer Fire Department and that he has been the Vice-president of the Benton County Fire Association for ten years. He stated that he works for Glad Manufacturing and before moving here was on the police force in Wichita, Kansas.

JP Moore made motion to forward the proposed resolution to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Wolf.

Motion passed by unanimous voice.

**Resolution Request: Confirming Appointment to the Rural Development Authority (T.B.A.) – Unexpired Term Ending in 2012**

County Judge David Bisbee stated that he would like the Quorum Court to confirm his appointment of Greg Hull to the Rural Development Authority and that Mr. Hull was unable to attend this meeting tonight.

JP Allen stated that he knows Greg Hull and that he highly recommends him for the position.

JP Wolf made motion to forward the proposed resolution to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Hubbard.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution Request: Confirming Appointment to the Rural Development Authority – (T.B.A.) 5-year Term Ending in 2014**

County Judge Dave Bisbee stated that he would like to re-appoint Cassie Elliot to the Rural Development Authority.

Cassie Elliot stated that she has served on the Rural Development Authority for ten years, and that she has been on the RDA board for the last five years and would like to continue to serve. Cassie Elliott reported on projects completed by the RDA.

JP Wolf made motion to forward the proposed resolution to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution Request: Confirming Appointment to the Benton County Planning Board Commission**

County Judge Dave Bisbee stated that he would like to appoint Kenneth S. Knight to the Benton County Planning Board Commission. He stated that most of the planning board is from the east side of the county, and that Kenneth Knight is from the west side, and would be beneficial to the Board.

Kenneth Knight reported on his qualifications for the planning board commission appointment and that he had been on the Siloam Springs Planning Commission for five and one half years, and that he has a great interest in the area of Planning and Development of Benton County. He stated that he would like to see the cities and counties working together.

Some discussion was held on Kenneth S. Knight's qualifications for the appointment to the Planning Board, and the different planning needs of the county.

JP Allen made motion to forward this proposed resolution to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Appropriation Ordinance Request: Budget Adjustment – Piney Point Fire Department Rural Services Grants, Fund 479**

JP Moore stated that this was forwarded by the Finance Committee and that the funds were not expended from last year's budget and that this is a carry over.

JP Hubbard made motion to forward this proposed appropriation ordinance to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Appropriation Ordinance Request: Budget Adjustment – County Clerk's Automation Fund 430**

JP Moore stated that this was for updating the County Clerks office Marriage License program and that this appropriation would be coming from the automation fund 430.

JP Sandlin made motion to forward proposed appropriation ordinance to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Wolf.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Ordinance Request: An Ordinance to Allow Burning of Certain Structures**

JP Wozniak stated that County Attorney George Spence had provided the changes to the Burn Ordinance, and that the ordinance will be going before the Quorum Court for three readings. He reported that Fire Marshal Will Hanna will be enrolled in an Asbestos Class in June and will become certified to do the asbestos inspections.

Discussion was held on the corrections to the Burn Ordinance.

JP Winscott made motion to forward this proposed ordinance to the May 28, 2009 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Hubbard

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Ordinance Request: An Ordinance Increasing Additional District Court Fine From \$5.00 to \$20.00**

JP Stephenson stated that this ordinance has been pulled from the agenda.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Director of Public Services Chris Glass reported that two bids had been received for the remodeling of Judge Schrantz's courtroom and that Sumrall Construction Company of Gravette turned in a bid of \$11,500 and Dave Lawson Construction of Rogers bid was \$13,600 and that they both carry commercial license and insurance. The bids include carpet, painting, staining, wood paneling, and lowering of the rail on the bench, and that the county will perform the fiber optic work. He stated that we anticipate that we may get money back, because they had provided allowances for the carpet and painting and the work should take about five days and be complete before Judge Schrantz begins jury trials in mid-June. Chris Glass stated that Judge Schrantz had approved the new courtroom plans developed by Gary Jackson of Hight Jackson Associates.

JP Winscott made motion to accept and move the expenditure to the Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Some discussion was held on Judge Schrantz's courtroom and the work to be done and the cost involved. JP Douglas questioned spending more money, when sales tax revenue is showing a decline. JP Stephenson stated that not having a courtroom could create a backlog and it is something that we need to do. Comptroller Richard McComas stated that the money is in the county maintenance budget and any adjustment to the budget will be made at the end of the year.

JP Winscott made motion to withdraw his motion, JP Sandlin withdrew her second.

JP Hubbard then made motion to approve this expenditure for the renovation of Judge Schrantz leased courtroom in the amount of \$11,500, seconded by JP Sandlin

Motion to approve expenditure passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chris Glass stated that fixing the courtroom will be much cheaper than renovating the county Health Department satellite in Siloam Springs. He stated that Gary Jackson with Hight Jackson Associates estimated renovation to run about \$100,000, and that the county plans to take open bids for the work.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chris Glass stated that Saturday May 16, 2009 is the county spring clean up day. He reported that a new satellite location will be open in Garfield from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the Bentonville site will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

JP Winscott announced that the Long Range Planning/Real Estate and Buildings Committee meeting to be held on Thursday May 14, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. has been cancelled.

Richard McComas reported that two checks have been received from FEMA, and that we expect more next week.

JP Moore proposed to move the Finance Committee meeting from Tuesday June 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to Tuesday June 09, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. to meet with the Elected Officials. Finance Committee members approved to move the next Finance Committee meeting to Tuesday June 09, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.