

Committee of Thirteen Report

June 08, 2010

The Committee of Thirteen of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, June 08, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

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

Others Present: County Attorney George Spence, Comptroller Richard McComas, Grants Administrator Richard Redfearn

Media: Tabatha Hunter – Daily Record

JP Stephenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arnold Harp of Gentry, Arkansas expressed his concerns regarding the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge being closed, and the inconveniences caused by having the bridge closed. He stated that he feels that the county owes the people living around the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge an explanation as to how much it would cost to repair the bridge and asked that the committee consider repairing the bridge. He added that it takes a resident an additional three minutes to navigate around the closed bridge, and three minutes is not much, but if you are having a heart attack, three minutes makes a difference. Ginger Holloway of Cave Springs commented on how she is affected by the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge being closed. She reported that residents who live on the west side of Colonel Myers Road are in the Springdale School District, and that those families have to drive their children around the closed bridge to meet the school bus. She added that during the ice storm her family was without heat and landlocked.

April Elsea expressed her concerns about the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge.

Bruce Ferrer voiced his support for re-opening the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge.

JP Marge Wolf made motion to delete “Item 5”, an appropriation for Architect Fees for “Phase I” for the Benton County Master Plan, on the agenda and asked that it be sent back to the Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee agenda, seconded by JP Allen.

Motion carried by voice vote.

JP Wolf made motion that all ordinances and resolutions be read by title only, seconded by JP Douglas.

Motion carried by voice vote.

1. Ordinance Request: Amending Ozark Regional Transit Interlocal Agreement

JP Winscott made motion to approve the proposed ordinance request and forward to the June 24, 2010 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Appropriation Ordinance Request – County Judge – Department 01, Fund 483

JP Moore stated this appropriation is for the Rocky Branch Fire Department to purchase personal protective equipment.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance request to the June 24, 2010 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Lewis.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Jail – Department 67, Fund 010

JP Moore stated this appropriation request is to appropriate \$8,975 for the reimbursement of a cancelled training seminar.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance request to the June 24, 2010 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Wolf.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Emergency Services - Department 30, Fund 285

JP Moore stated this appropriation request is to appropriate \$10,883.71 from Department of Homeland Security – FY08 Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program that was appropriated in 2009 but not used.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance request to the June 24, 2010 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Wozniak.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Architectural Fees – Phase I, Benton County Master Building Plan

JP Wolf made motion at the beginning of the meeting that this item be deleted from the agenda and sent back to the Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings Committee agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

**1. Discussion: Emergency Services – Local Emergency Training/Terrorism Prevention Grant
By: Comptroller Richard McComas**

Comptroller Richard McComas stated we have two Homeland Security Grants with balances remaining that must be spent by June 30, 2010. He stated that the ordinances being presented are asking for unallocated funds to be moved from one line item to another. He stated the Fund 287 - LETTP – FY 2007 grant is to purchase ballistic helmets. He added that Fund 286 – SHSGP FY 2007 – Homeland Security Grant is to transfer funds from Capital Machinery to Small Equipment for the proper categorizing of expenditures

JP Wolf made motion to approve and forward the two appropriation ordinances presented by Richard McComas to the June 24, 2010 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Allen

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

JP Hubbard requested that a breakdown of the \$9.3 million Road Department budget be presented at the next Finance Committee meeting. He added that we have an ordinance requiring such a report, but he has not seen it since he has been on the court.

JP Moore stated we need to really look at our priorities in the county; decide what we are going to do with our funds and whether or not the people out in the unincorporated areas are important. He added they pay their taxes and they expect a certain amount of return. He stated that we do have the capital improvements fund, and besides looking at bricks and mortar, maybe we should be looking at roads and bridges.

JP Allen stated we were presented with the idea of going forth with an engineering study on the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge that would have cost many thousand of dollars. He added that the committee struggled with concerns of the area being in a flood plain. He added that the committee has talked in general discussions about exploring railroad car bridges, a new bridge, or repairing the bridge with certain weight limits and loads.

Richard McComas stated Garver Engineering has told the committee that it will be \$15,000 to \$20,000 to do an engineering study, and at that time no action was taken.

JP Allen stated that to have a study, a lot of red tape is involved. He added that he has heard that it was on the Historical Registry and that the Highway Department would have to get involved. He stated that the committee should have everything presented to them, along with what the next steps are, and the most efficient way to repair or replace the bridge and then act on it.

Richard McComas stated that Garver Engineering's estimate is \$15,000 to \$20,000. He added that if the committee wants to go forward with that cost estimate study, then the money will need to be appropriated.

JP Moore stated that something that since Coronel Meyers Road is listed as an alternate route for the airport that it might qualify as a state aid project, which would require a 20% match from the county.

Lengthy discussion was held on proceeding with an engineering study to be done on the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge.

JP Allen made motion that an appropriation ordinance in the amount not to exceed \$20,000 be prepared and presented to the next Quorum Court for the court to consider engaging an engineering firm to do a study of the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge to estimate the cost of rehabilitating it, seconded by JP Wozniak.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

JP Stephenson stated that reports on the Colonel Meyers Road Bridge and the Fisher Ford Bridge will be sent to the Long Range Planning/Real Estate & Buildings committee when completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Elverston expressed concerns regarding county planning and costs in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.