

# Committee of Thirteen Report

September 9, 2008

The Committee of Thirteen of the Benton County Quorum Court met Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

11 JPs Present: Brown, Harrison, Hill, Hobbs, Moore, Stephenson, Summers,  
Williams, Winscott, Wolf, Wozniak

2 absent: Glass, Hubbard

Others Present: County Judge Gary Black, Richard McComas

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

Chair Tim Summers called the meeting to order.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. Prosecuting Attorney Office Lease Approval**

JP Stephenson made motion to approve the lease as discussed in the September 2, 2008 Finance Committee meeting, seconded by JP Wolf. JP Summers stated that the only question they had at the meeting was the possibility of a longer lease. Comptroller Richard McComas stated that the County Judge was able to negotiate an additional year to the proposed lease, making it three years instead of two, at \$4,800 per month. He said they will make the adjustment in the year-end adjustment ordinance, and use that amount when budgeting for 2009.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

### **2. Road Department Equipment Purchase Approval**

JP Winscott made motion for approval, seconded by JP Stephenson. Richard McComas stated that the Road Department was able to purchase all of the equipment that they needed this year, and are requesting to use the money left over to go ahead and make the equipment purchases they were planning for 2009. He said at this time it does not appear that they will need additional money, but wanted the committee to be aware that they are making a purchase that was not initially approved in the 2008 budget. He added that other than some maintenance and repair costs to overhaul some existing equipment, he does not think the Road Department will be requesting any funds for equipment purchases in the 2009 Budget. The committee agreed to discuss the Legislative Audit Report at the October Quorum Court meeting.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

### **3. Funding Request: Ozark Regional Transit— \$5,000 Increase**

JP Williams made motion to forward to the September 25, 2008 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Wolf. JP Summers stated that the county currently appropriates \$15,000 annually to Ozark

Regional Transit, and they have recently received a grant and are asking local entities to help with necessary match. He said that Ozark Regional Transit has received \$5,000 from the cities of Bentonville and Rogers, and Northwest Arkansas Community College is participating as well. JP Hobbs asked if the county has a contract with Ozark Regional Transit regarding what areas they serve. JP Summers stated that Phil Pumphrey shared at the Finance Committee meeting that citizens can call and request transportation if they are unable to get to doctor's appointments, etc., in addition to their fixed routes. JP Hobbs stated that she believes that the citizens need help with transportation, but she just wants to make sure the county is being served since they are giving them money, and she is hearing conflicting information from Ozark Regional Transit and people in the county.

JP Summers also stated that they had talked at the Finance Committee meeting about this being the right time to support public transit due to high fuel costs.

Richard McComas asked if this item will be included in the Budget Adjustment Ordinance to be discussed next, or if they want to forward it as a separate item. JP Summers stated that he would rather include it and treat it as one item.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

#### **4. Ordinance Request: 2008 Budget Adjustments**

JP Stephenson made motion to forward the budget adjustment ordinance request to the September 25, 2008 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Williams. Richard McComas stated that this budget adjustment ordinance will take care of the 27<sup>th</sup> payroll in 2008, the adjustments for fuel in several departments, the expenses for the Tucker Building remodeling, and several other adjustments that were previously approved by the court.

JP Hobbs asked if items #3 and #4 could go to the Quorum Court separately since two members are not present. JP Summers stated that if they do it as a separate appropriation, there will be two publication costs. The committee agreed to include the Ozark Regional Transit request in the Budget Adjustment Ordinance as a separate article, so it can easily be discussed separately if the Quorum Court so desires.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

JP Summers stated that they should have received their copies of the Legislative Audit Report for 2006, so they will need to be looking at it. JP Stephenson stated that because of the nature of some of the findings of the audit committee, it would behoove them to ask County Attorney Robin Green to advise them as to what their response should be. JP Stephenson made motion to request that copies of each Elected Official's response to the Legislative Audit be made available to the Quorum Court members, seconded by JP Hobbs.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

JP Summers stated that regarding Washington County's request for funding for the HIV Clinic, JP Williams has agreed to meet with them to get more information and report back to the next Finance Committee meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

After motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.