

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

December 7, 2010

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Moore, Wozniak, Allen, Douglas, Winscott, Stephenson

Others Present: JP Millager, JP Sandlin, JP Harrison, Comptroller Richard McComas, Grants Administrator Richard Redfearn, and GIS Coordinator Elizabeth Bowen

Tom Sissom - Benton County Daily Record

JP Moore called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

1. Grants Administrator Report

Grants Administrator Richard Redfearn reported that the remaining three low bidders for the Septic System Installation will sign contracts following a pre-construction meeting scheduled for this week. He updated the committee on several other grants listed in the Grants Report, and said they are still awaiting an answer on the request to spend some leftover SAMHSA grant funds to pay 75% of the salaries for two Adult Drug Court grant employees.

GIS Coordinator Elizabeth Bowen was recognized, and said that there are National Spatial Data Infrastructure Funds available which would enable the GIS Department to complete a project that they have been working on for some time. She said the grant is for up to \$60,000, with a 50% match to be provided through in-kind services which the department already has in place. She said the project would allow them to upgrade their ArcServer software to a version which would allow online editing, and this will enable the creation of a website that various emergency responders could log into simultaneously in order to manage a large disaster response.

JP Allen asked if the county would be committing any future resources or funds by accepting the grant. Elizabeth Bowen stated that the equipment and personnel needed are already in place. JP Winscott asked how many times in the last year that this website would have been useful. Elizabeth Bowen stated that she could think of at least three occurrences.

JP Wozniak made motion to forward a resolution request to the December 14, 2010 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Stephenson.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

2. Appropriation Ordinance: Sheriff's Department

Richard McComas stated that they are appropriating a total of \$81,176 in the Sheriff's Office, \$10,576 of which is from Wal-Mart donations and State Police Grant funds for Small Equipment, with the remaining \$70,600 coming from various entities that reimburse overtime worked in the Sheriff's Office.

JP Stephenson made motion to forward an appropriation ordinance request to the December 14, 2010 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Douglas.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

3. Appropriation Ordinance: Road Department

Richard McComas stated that \$20,000 in insurance reimbursements has been received and needs to be appropriated for the purchase of some Road Department equipment. He said they have spent \$11,000 on two pickup trucks from State surplus, and are looking at some other equipment to purchase with the remaining \$9,000.

JP Winscott made motion to forward an appropriation ordinance request to the December 14, 2010 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Douglas.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

JP Stephenson noted that in the future, it would be good for the court to be informed about wrecked and stolen vehicles.

4. Sales Tax Numbers

Richard McComas stated that November was the second best month in 2010 with an 11.55% increase over the same time last year, and the fourth month in a row that showed an increase. He said that the same circumstances that caused City of Bentonville's 41% increase may have contributed to the county's increase, and noted that the deadline for businesses to file for refunds has not yet passed.

5. Jail Collections

Richard McComas stated Jail collections are also up for the month, and the 2010 projection of \$1.6 million has been exceeded. He noted that they projected the same amount for the 2011 Budget.

6. Fuel Summary

Richard McComas stated that the Sheriff's Department and Jail are still slightly behind budget compared to 2009's year-to-date usage, and the Road Department's budget is slightly ahead. He said that overall, we are still under budget for 2010. He said that they have budgeted \$3.20 per gallon next year, but if fuel costs continue to rise, they may have to make an adjustment in mid 2011.

7. Monthly Expenditure Report

Richard McComas reviewed the Monthly Expenditure Report, noting several adjustments that will need to be made before the year is closed out, including the Equalization Board and the Road Department. He said there will be some returned appropriations from the Road Department for work that will not be completed before the end of the year, but that money will need to be re-appropriated in 2011.

8. Other Business

JP Moore thanked Richard McComas and the Accounting staff for their excellent work in preparing the budget, and stated that he had enjoyed working with everyone on the Finance Committee over the last two years.

JP Moore stated that the date and time for the next Finance Committee would be determined at the Quorum Court Organizational Meeting to be held January 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.