

MINUTES

SEVIER COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING

2:00 P.M., Monday, January 9, 2023

The Sevier County Quorum Court met at 2:00 P.M., Monday, January 9, 2023, in the Sevier County Courthouse Conference Room with County Judge Dick Tallman presiding. The roll was called with the following Justices present: Michael Barnes, Kenneth Currence, Callie Efird, Scottie Morris, Walter Smith, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, Greg Wright. Absent – None. Upon a motion by Roxy Stephens and second by Roger Whitmore, the Quorum Court voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve the minutes as emailed.

Committee and Other Reports –

1. Lori House, CEO of Sevier County Medical Center was present to report on the progress of the new hospital construction and financial report for same. House said the hospital had a really good finding for our ARPA Grant and the Sevier County Medical Center received the \$6,250,000.00 grant. Lori stated the Sevier County Medical Center building is completely ready to go and is ready to open with 118 employees as of this morning. She also stated that when they started talking to the pharmaceutical dispensing company about 15 months ago, she was told it would take it approximately 2 to 3 days to get the medication to them once they received the DEA number. The Medical Center received their DEA number over a week ago. The Medical Center reached out to pharmaceutical company and learned that they had additional priorities and restrictions put on them from the DEA. The pharmaceutical company came on site this morning to inspect our pharmacy, which passed inspection with no problems. Lori then stated that this afternoon when she checked the mail, she received their form 222 to be able to order medications. Now that they have received the form, they will put the order in this afternoon. The Medical Center should receive the non-narcotic medication by January 10, 2023 and hopefully by January 11, 2023 have the narcotic medication. She said the hospital could be open as soon as the weekend, but stated that one thing they had to do in order to get open is Meditech their ERM system has got to basically turn them live. She stated it would take about a day for this process to happen. It was then stated that the Medical Center would have to use their consultant group to help them with the go live, because Meditech does not do go lives over the weekend and does not have a go live date scheduled for the Medical Center until January 30, 2023. Lori stated that with the help of the consulting group they should be open with the next week or so. Angie Walker asked on the ARPA monies that was received did it need to be offset with your expenditures. Lori stated that was correct, that when they requested the funds, they gave them a specific list of expenditures. A meeting had already taken place with the Medical Center, the County Clerk, County Judge and The County Treasurer talking with APRA experts to make sure the ARPA monies are expensed correctly. Lori presented financial information for December. Judge Tallman addressed Mrs. House asking if they had found the invoicing for the Helipad. Mrs. House stated they have not received all the invoices as of yet and has requested to get those as soon as possible.

2. A report was given to the Quorum Court from the David Boone Ministries, and no action was required.

New Business –

1. The first agenda item was to Appoint a delegate to the Arkansas Quorum Court Association for 2023. A motion was made by Greg Wright and seconded by Angie Walker to appoint Angie Walker to be the Quorum Court delegate for 2023. A roll call vote was taken Yes – Michael Barnes, Kenneth Currence, Callie Efird, Scottie Morris, Walter Smith, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, Roger Whitmore, and Greg Wright. No-None. The motion passed.
2. The second agenda item was to approve ordinance raising the pay for the County Library Employees and appropriating same. Judge Tallman read the ordinance, and Clerk Bailey stated they are requesting an additional 3%. Roxy Stephens said that from her understanding is that when the library submitted their budget for 2023, they only requested the 3% that has been given in the years past. That upon realizing their mistake, the library is requesting an additional 3%. Roxy also stated that it is her understanding that the additional monies the library is requesting they have the Finical means to support the request. Roxy also addressed that this money does not come from County General but from the County Library Fund. Michael Barnes made a motion to give the library the additional 3% seconded by Callie Efird to approve the change in allocation. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Barnes, Kenneth Currence, Callie

Efird, Scottie Morris, Walter Smith, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, and Greg Wright. Absent - Roger Whitmore, no – None. The motion passed.

3. The third agenda item was to request for confirmation of the appointment of Ken Erickson to the Sevier County Airport Board. Judge Tallman addressed the Quorum Court stating that Mr. Erickson is currently getting his pilot license, and is interested in have his own airplane. Judge Tallman stated that he felt Ken Erickson would be a good guy to have on the Airport Board. Roxy Stephens made a motion seconded by Scottie Morris the appointment of Ken Erickson. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Barnes, Kenneth Currence, Callie Efird, Scottie Morris, Walter Smith, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, and Greg Wright. Absent - Roger Whitmore, no – None. The motion passed.
4. The fourth agenda item was a resolution declaring and filling a vacancy in the office of County Judge of Sevier County, Arkansas. Judge Tallman read the resolution. Roxy Stephens made a motion seconded by Angie Walker to appointment Sandra Dunn as the Sevier County Judge until December 31, 2026. A roll call vote was taken. Yes – Michael Barnes, Kenneth Currence, Callie Efird, Scottie Morris, Walter Smith, Roxy Stephens, Angie Walker, and Greg Wright. Absent - Roger Whitmore, no – None. The motion passed. Sandra stated that she is very honored that the Quorum Court has put their trust in her, and she will try to live up to that, and earn their trust more.

Old Business – There is no old business

Announcements – Judge Tallman addressed the Quorum Court about 2 additional items that does not require any action. He stated that we are losing a tree over in the corner by the Maintenance shed. It is at the point of becoming dangerous because it is leaning toward power lines, and transformers. The County has already taken a bid to remove that tree and it should be gone within a couple of weeks. Judge Tallman stated he knows everyone loves those trees and hates to see them go. The next item he wanted to talk about was we had an employee who had been terminated and has filed for a grievance hearing. By definition the Counties Policy the Quorum Court is the grievance committee. It also states that Quorum Court members of the committee has to be holding office at the time of the incident. At that time four of the current Quorum was not holding office, so they may or may not be able to be on the committee. The grievance committee is much like a trial, everyone will have to be sworn in and there will have to be a court report present to take notes. The meeting is also open to the public. Once the committee has been presented the facts, the committee will then go into executive session. Once the committee has made a decision the answer will only need to be yes or no whether you agree or disagree with the complaint. The grievance will have to be set up once the County Judge and County Clerk speak with a Court Reporter. Sandra Dunn added that the committee's decision yes or no is not binding its just a recommendation. The decision is aimed toward the County Judge whom has the final say on the yes or no where the complainant gets what they are asking for.

Judge Tallman stated he appreciated the fact that he was accepted back into the County Judge's position. He knows that nobody wanted him to have it this way. He appreciates trusted him to come back and hold the fort down until we could get the new judge in office. He stated that he knows Sandra will do a good job, because she knows more about it than the rest us.

Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Greg Wright made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Callie Efird. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

RENEA BAILEY

Renea Bailey
County Clerk