**BUDGET AND FINANCE MEETING MINUTES**

October 6th, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairperson Jim Harp. Committee members present were Justices James Widner, Glenn Redding, and Fred Woehl. Also attending were Justices Jim Milum, Rodney Sullins, Ralph Guynn, and Bryan Snavely.

Ordinance No. 1 concerns funds received from a pandemic-related premium relief payment received from Blue Cross Blue Shield. 50% of dental premiums are being refunded to the employees who were covered during the month of July, 2020. Justice Redding made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 2 concerns funds received from Association of Arkansas Counties for the total loss of a Sheriff Department vehicle. Chairperson Harp made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 3 concerns funds received from a 911 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grant for COVID-19 relief. Justice Widner made the motion with Justice Redding seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 4 concerns establishing a fund on the books for the Arkansas Community and Economic Development Program Grant. This grant was for North Arkansas Regional Medical Center to meet any expenses related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Justice Woehl made the motion with Justice Widner seconding. Later on in the meeting, Justice Redding pointed out that Justice Woehl had been the only one to vote against the grant originally so he does not think it would be appropriate to have Justice Woehl be the sponsor of this Ordinance. Justice Woehl decided to yield his sponsoring and Justice Redding will now be the sponsor with Justice Widner seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 5 concerns funds that have already been deposited into the County General fund from the Corps of Engineers for the Sheriff’s Department. It was stated that the Sheriff’s Office and Treasurer’s Office both have ETF receipts from the Corp of Engineers to verify this amount. Justice Redding made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 6 concerns an unpaid balance of $2,635.00 for the month of August and $5,270.00 for the months of September and October. This is to cover the cost to continue the incarceration of a juvenile being charged as an adult. The Sheriff, Tim Roberson, was asked if he knew when this would end. Sheriff told the Court that because of COVID-19, there are very few criminal cases being held and we might not see an end to this until next year- 2021. Chairperson Harp made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 7 concerns fuel that the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) purchased from the Boone County Road Department between the dates of 12/10/2019 through 9/8/2020. This money is being appropriated back into the Road Department budget. Justice Snavely made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 8 concerns authorizing the County Judge to acquire financing for 6 (six) new or reconditioned road graders, with extended warranties, for the budget years of 2020 through 2026. Cost not to exceed $225,000.00 per grader. Justice Woehl spoke about how the Judge has been working extremely hard on this negotiation. Judge Hathaway added that the graders he is considering cost half of what Caterpillar does. He stated that CAT cannot match the price of the Sany brand graders that he is looking at purchasing. Justice Woehl made the motion with Justice Snavely seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 9 concerns funds received in 2018 from a Historic Preservation Grant. This grant was for masonry work on the Old Federal Building. The grant has a remaining balance of $939.00 that needs to be appropriated so that it can be used by the end of this year to close out the grant. Justice Widner made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 10 concerns funds requested for security of county employees, to employ two temporary COVID-19 Security Screeners. This is new funds. Judge Hathaway explained that last time we appropriated money for these positions we just appropriated enough for one person until the end of the year, and decided to split that between two people which was then not enough to cover both positions until the years end. Justice Snavely will sponsor it with Justice Redding seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 11 concerns a check for State Aid from FEMA. These funds were used out of County General budget, and therefore, will need to be appropriated back into the Road Department budget. Justice Woehl made the motion with Justice Snavely seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 12 concerns a need to establish a fund on the books to create a sub-fund of the County General to track the revenues, expenditures, and/or appropriated transfers of federal assistance through the CARES Act as received by the county from the State of Arkansas. This will be referred to as the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Judge Hathaway explained to the Court that this money would be used to cover COVID-19 related expenses. He stated that this would help with salaries for the Sheriff’s Department, 911, and dispatchers. The money that is left over with be put into County General fund. This grant will close out in December. Justice Milum asked if it would cover the cost of the Security Screeners (Ordinance No. 10) and Judge Hathaway said that it would in fact cover the cost of the Screeners. Justice Milum made the motion with Justice Woehl seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 13 concerns funds received from a 911 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Grant for COVID-19 relief. Judge Hathaway explained that this money needs to be appropriated back into the Road Department Safety line because when COVID-19 first begun, we used funds from that line item to cover the cost of PPE items. Justice Milum asked if the CARES Act grant (Ordinance No. 12) would cover this cost as well. Daniel Bolen, the 911 Director, said that it would not because these are funds from a different grant. Justice Sullins made the motion with Justice Snavely seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 14 concerns funds received from the United States Department of Justice Grant to reimburse for fuel and mileage expenses and other COVID-19 expenses. Justice Guynn made the motion with Justice Redding seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Ordinance No. 15 concerns a grant that the Election Commission received, based on the number of voters in our County, to help cover COVID-19 expenses. Justice Snavely asked if the CARES Act would cover election costs and the Judge said not through the CARES Act. Justice Widner made the motion with Justice Guynn seconding. All voted Aye. This will proceed to the full Quorum Court.

Chairperson Harp asked Justice Woehl to speak on the Boone County Fair Board. Justice Woehl explained that they will apply for a grant next spring since COVID-19 stopped them from applying this year. This will be a $4,000.00 matching grant. They have to apply for the grant before the work is done.

Chairperson Harp brought up the Broadband Grants for our area to have better connections in rural areas. He asked the Judge to explain what we are doing. Judge Hathaway explained that NATCO approached us first to provide better service to the Lead Hill and Omaha area. Windstream then approached us and they will cover areas in Bellefonte, Gaither Mountain, Batavia, etc. He explained how great this will be for those who are now working from home, doing school work from home, or even need to communicate with their doctors from home. This is at no cost to the county.

Chairperson Harp proposed that two weeks from tonight, they meet to get started on the 2021 Budgets. They will meet on October 20th, at 5:30 P.M. at the OEM Building.

Dismissed at 6:00 P.M.

Judge Hathaway asked if Bob Largent, President/CEO of the Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce, wished to speak. He invited all the Justices to attend the Economic Development Strategic Planning event at the JPH conference center at the North Arkansas College. He stated that he has invited all mayors to attend and that he strongly encourages the Judge and Justices to attend in person.