

Quorum Court Minutes

9/26/16

FILED
SEP 28 2016
KADÉ HOLLIDAY
COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

AGENDA
CRAIGHEAD COUNTY QUORUM COURT
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016
5:30 P.M.

- ✓ ASSEMBLY AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- ✓ OPENING PRAYER
- ✓ I. Roll Call
- ✓ II. Approval of minutes for August, 2016.
- ✓ III. Committee Reports:
 - ✓ a. Public Service Committee Report.
 - ✓ b. Finance and Administration Committee Report.
 - ✓ c. Roads and Transportation Report.
- ✓ IV. Old Business:
None
- ✓ V. New Business:
None

September 27th, 2016

13 Justices of the Peace Present

Judge Ed Hill called the meeting to order

Justice Barbara Weinstock moved to approve the minutes from the meetings occurring during August 2016 with no changes, this was seconded by Justice Richard Rogers. All voted to approve the motion and accept the minutes from the August 2016 meeting.

Justice Billie Sue Hoggard read the Public Service Committee report – *Appendix 1*

Justice Richards Rogers added that the committee inquired when meetings concerning insurance would occur. Judge Hill stated that the County was waiting on the insurance information to become available. Justice Rogers remarked that this time last year meetings were already being held concerning insurance proposals. Justice Terry Couch stated that waiting for insurance information gave better accuracy and thus better estimates. Justice Rogers stated that that may be the case, but at this time last year meetings were being held.

Justice Josh Longmire read the Finance Committee report – *Appendix 2*

Justice Barbara Weinstock asked for more information on the subject of drainage districts discussed in the minutes. Justice Garry Meadows explained that he inquired about the ability of the County Judge and the Quorum Court to consolidate inactive drainage districts. Justice Meadows praised the Eastern District on the consolidation of their drainage districts and wished to mirror this in the rest of the county. Judge Hill pointed out that while the Quorum Court and County Judge appoint the board of directors of the drainage districts the control of the county stops there. Justice Ken Stacks stated that it may help to contact Charles Frierson, Donn Mixon, and Alec Farmer as they are the attorney of record on the majority of the drainage districts in Craighead County. Assistant to the Judge Tony Thomas stated further discussion could take place after Purchasing Agent Al Haines finished compiling the necessary information concerning the drainage districts. The information gathered should be available during the upcoming Finance Committee meeting and may be advanced to the full court at a later date.

Justice Terry Couch read the Roads and Transportation report – *Appendix 3*

Justice Weinstock asked when the dedication of Bono Lake could begin to be planned. Judge Hill stated the County was waiting on the finalized agreement.

Judge Hill briefed the court on the Bono Bridge project. Bidding has been completed though the low bid has not been finalized yet. Director Scott Bennet of the Highway Department must complete his review before the project can be formally accepted. The project is to be funded as follows: 80% Federal, 18% State, and 2% County funds. The counties expected contribution will

be roughly \$72,000 of which \$48,000 has already been paid. Once the project is fully accepted the remaining \$24,000 will be authorized for payment and Craighead County's financial obligation will be fulfilled.

After the reading of the committee reports Judge Hill asked if there was any further business. Justice Meadows passed out a letter (*Appendix 4*) which he then read to the Court. The letter requested a resolution stating the Court is not pleased with the actions of the Tax Collector Marsha Phillips including her hiring practices and ability to work with other elected officials. Motion was made by Justice Meadows and seconded by Justice Hoggard. Justice Meadows spoke about the hiring of Phillips' immediate family and the issue of security when making daily deposits. Justice Stacks rejected the notion of creating a resolution condemning an elected official for nepotism. In past years when voting on nepotism the Court was not in favor in creating a policy that would eliminate the hiring of family members. Justice Stacks said he would be in favor of such a policy but since there was not one in place at present the Court could not denounce the actions of Phillips on this particular matter. Justice Fred Bowers stated that Justice Stacks did not vote to eliminate nepotism at one time. Justice Stacks did not recall that and questioned the time at which this instance would have occurred.

The discussion continued with Justice Rogers asking Sheriff Marty Boyd if there could be an officer available to the Tax Collector's office. Boyd stated that an officer could be available when notified but that his department did not have the man power to keep someone stationed with the Tax Collector's office all day. Justice Jim Bryant stated that when topics such as this come up, politics are always involved. Justice Hoggard responded that Justice Bryant's statement was not true and that the comments Phillips has made against fellow elected officials is embarrassing. Citizen Dale Phillips addressed the Court stating that a lawyer for Phillips was to be discussed during a Finance Committee meeting in which the members never brought the subject up. He insisted that before the Court can judge the job of its officials that they look in the mirror first. Justice Longmire stated that the matter was not discussed because Phillips never addressed the committee on the topic. Justice Weinstock recalled that the consensus of the group was to not look for a lawyer as Grant Deprow had offered his services at an earlier time. Dale Phillips reprimanded the Court insisting it was their responsibility to bring the subject up. Justice Weinstock stated this particular argument mirrored the "chicken or the egg" dispute.

Dale Phillips continued on to discuss why the Court had not asked for hired security for the Tax Collector's Office. Justice Hoggard stated it was irresponsible for Phillips to tell the public how much cash the office had on hand as well as when it was being transported with no security. Justice Couch admonished all involved stating that he despised all the bickering. Justice Couch and Justice Stacks agreed to let the voters decide on Phillips' future in the upcoming election. Justice Kidd agreed that Phillips should be left to do her job and echoed the opinion that this discussion was based on politics. Justice Meadows repeated the essence of his letter and stated that the Court could support or not support him. Discussion continued on the clarity of exactly what the resolution was stating. Justice Meadows continued to explain but finally stated that though he could vote in the upcoming election he also represented District 11 and as their Justice of the Peace he was not happy with Phillips' practices nor were those he represented. Longmire

called the vote to question. Judge Hill stated this was not an action that could be taken. Justice Longmire and Justice Cline requested the presentation of an actual resolution at the next meeting. Justice Rogers moved to table the vote until the next meeting, Justice Cline seconded. Motion passed by majority, 7 for – 4 against – 2 abstained.

With no further business to be discussed Justice Bryant motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Justice Render, all were in favor and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:30pm.

Distributed was the “Petition to Stop President Obama’s Surrender of the Internet” – *Appendix 5*

| | 9/26/2016 | Toble motion to have resolution written for 2 weeks | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Ken Stacks | ✓ | X | | | | |
| Fred Bowers | ✓ | X | | | | |
| Jim Bryant | ✓ | X | | | | |
| Billie Sue Hoggard | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Barbara Weinstock | ✓ | - | | | | |
| Max Render | ✓ | - | | | | |
| Richard Rogers | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| David Tennison | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Josh Longmire | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Steve Cline | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Garry Meadows | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Terry Couch | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Ray Kidd | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Last Ordinance 2016-5 | | | Last Resolution 2016-6 | | | |

7-4-2

Craighead County Quorum Court Meeting
Public Service Committee
September 12, 2016
5:30 p.m.

Public Service Committee assembled after the opening of the court meeting and briefing from Judge Ed Hill.

Chair Billie Sue Hoggard called the meeting to order 5:45 p.m. All members were present; Richard Rogers, Fred Bowers, David Tennison.

Brief discussion concerning the usage of available space for meetings in buildings owned and maintained by Craighead County.

Members also inquired about insurance information being available for the preparation of the 2017 budget, as we usually receive several proposals from different companies each year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting

September 12, 2016

Finance Committee Members present: Chairman Josh Longmire, Vice Chair Jim Bryant, and Justices Garry Meadows, and Barbara Weinstock. Justice Ken Stacks was absent.

Press: Jonesboro Sun

Others present: Al Haines, County Clerk Kade Holliday, County Treasurer Terry McNatt, Circuit Clerk Candace Edwards, County Assessor Hannah Towell, County Collector Marsha Phillips, and other guests.

Justice Longmire called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 5:45 PM and asked Treasurer McNatt to update the committee on current revenues and expenditures. McNatt noted that county general, capital, and road funds are in good standing and expenditures are at expected levels for this time of year.

Collector Phillips made the court aware that her office has collected \$29.3 million dollars year to date and that the outstanding delinquent tax has been collected down to \$329,000.

Assessor Towell informed the Committee that the Equalization board met with several clients in August and only made a couple of changes in assessments.

Justice Meadows had several questions concerning drainage districts in Craighead County as to revenues, expenses, work being done, forced consolidation with no activity, and who has authority over the districts.

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting stood adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Craighead County Quorum Court Meeting
September 12, 2016
Roads and Transportation Committee

Members of the Roads and Transportation Committee assembled after the meeting of the full court. Members present included: Steve Cline, Terry Couch, Ray Kidd, and Max Render.

Others present included Eugene Neff, Road Superintendent.

Justice Couch called the meeting to order after the meeting of the full court:

1. Eugene Neff updated the committee on the monthly road report also distributed during the meeting of the full court.
 - a. CR 422 has been completed. The project involved widening the existing road. Quotes are being sought to get some grass sown to restore vegetation and reduce erosion.
 - b. Crews began to work on widening the road leading to Bono Lake. This involved some clearing along the road and leveling. Neff answered various questions related to the work being completed on this road, especially in relation to the removal of the embankment. He indicated this project may be completed this year depending on the weather, when asked about a timeline for completion.
 - c. The north and south end of CR 745 was overlaid with striping. Patching was also taking place on Barnhill Road. After about 3 years, CR 714 is being set up for blacktop as well. This road runs between CR 755 and AR 141 and known as Edgewood Lane by those in the area. It takes about 2 to 3 years for a road to settle prior to asphalt being laid.
2. Justice Couch inquired about a shoulder machine after he had a discussion with a resident recently. Neff indicated they had borrowed one in the past on a few projects and it worked well. After additional discussion related to the use of the equipment, the consensus was that it would benefit the county to look into the acquisition of one.
3. Justice Kidd inquired if crews were finished with ditch work for now. Neff responded by saying that there were still some work needed in the eastern district. A few farmers desired to harvest crops before that work restarted.
4. Justice Cline reminded the committee of the upcoming bid letting for the Bono Bridge project and answered a few questions related to the new location of the structure in relation to where it once stood.

With no other business, the committee stood adjourned.

It is painful and comical to read the tax collectors reasoning for the actions of her office.

A county resolution is defined as the adoption of a formal statement of policy by the Quorum Court. A Resolution may be used whenever the Quorum Court wishes to express an opinion of County affairs and a resolution shall not serve any executive action.

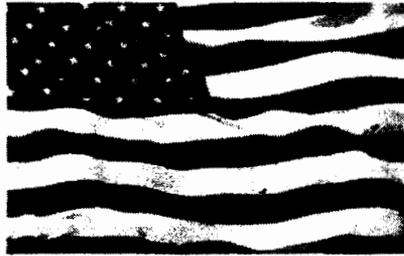
The holding of the collector office is employment of public trust, which will create Confidence of all elected offices and employee carrying out all duties by law for the people of Craighead County.

I, Garry Meadows, in two different public meetings ask Marty Boyd if it would be possible for his department to take the deposits to the bank for her office. He said that it would not be a problem at all. All I need is a phone call and I will send a deputy over there a.s.a.p. after the call.

The tax collector said deputies stopped when circuit clerk began duties and that is NOT True. Deputies work for Marty Boyd and clerk has no power over them.

The tax collector, Marsha Phillips, added two members to her staff, her daughter and granddaughter. She said hiring two members made sense, giving the uncertainty of the results of the election.

I, Garry Meadows, would like to introduce a Resolution to the Quorum Court justices that we are not pleased with actions of the tax collector with her hiring practices or with her ability to work with all of the elected officials.



September 2016

PETITION TO STOP PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SURRENDER OF THE INTERNET

The internet was created here in America. However, the Obama administration as of October 1 will allow The U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to surrender the key functions of the United States' internet oversight to members of the international community and will allow them to take control of Internet domain names and give them to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, an international organization that includes 162 foreign countries including Russia, China, and Iran, possible enemies who could attempt to censor our speech.

The Petition

We, the undersigned, strongly oppose the Obama administration's plan to cede the United States' position of oversight of the Internet.

We strongly disagree with giving the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) over to world communities and leaders who may be enemies of our way of life, and who may oppose freedom of speech or any of the other freedoms we take as a matter of course in our country. The internet has become the freest, most open invention in the world and has changed communication, business, and how we live our lives. To endanger that invention and its profound effect on this world for some ephemeral political gain is beyond dangerous. Such an action could destroy the gains made across the world in numerous areas.

We strongly urge congressional action to ensure that the United States' oversight of the Internet is NOT ceded to the international community. To do so, we are calling for the passage of Senator Cruz' S.3034 - *Protecting Internet Freedom Act* and the House of Representatives' companion bill offered by Congressman Sean Duffy.

Signed:

PETITION SIGNATURE PAGE

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

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