

January 28, 2019 Quorum Court Meeting

All Justices of the Peace present.

Judge Day presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes for December 17, 2018 were approved by Justice Steve Cline and Justice Richard Rogers.

Committee Reports: The Public Service Committee minutes were read by Justice Richard Rogers. A copy of same is attached as **Appendix 1**. The Finance Committee Minutes were read by Justice Josh Longmire. A copy of same is attached as **Appendix 2**. Lastly, the Transportation Committee Minutes were read by Justice Steve Cline. A copy of same is attached as **Appendix 3**.

Old Business: None to discuss.

New Business: Deputy Clerk, Whitney Jackson, read a proposed ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Establishing the Craighead County Judicial Effectiveness Committee and for Other Purposes.” Justice Cline made a motion to adopt the ordinance and was seconded by Justice Tennison. After discussion by Justice Cline and Judge Day on the current rules of reading and passing ordinances, Justice Cline made a motion to suspend the rules and vote by title only on the ordinance at hand and was seconded by Justice Weinstock. The motion was put to a vote and unanimously passed. Second reading was read, title only. Motion was made by Justice Couch to suspend the rules. Same was seconded by Justice Cline. Judge Day requested a verbal vote. The Ordinance was unanimously passed. The Ordinance was read by title only and motion made to suspend the rules. Same was approved by Justice Cline and seconded by Justice Rogers. Roll was called and the Ordinance was passed unanimously.

Proposed Appropriation Ordinance entitled “An Ordinance amending the 2019 Annual Operating Budget to add Fund 4890 Crisis Stabilization Unit and transfer \$700,000 from Fund 1892 Capital Fund into Fund 4890 to pay for constructing and equipping this new facility” was read. Motion was made by Justice Weinstock and seconded by Justice Longmire. Judge Day opened the floor for discussion. Justice Cook inquired if the County had received any written bids regarding the property as of now. Judge Day informed the Court that options have been reviewed and an architect has been selected. Once plans are complete, advertisement for bids will begin and the cost of the building, as designed, will be available in order to get a total scope of the costs involved. Currently, Judge Day plans to advertise for bids on March 3, 2019. The bid opening will be on March 21, 2019. Quorum Court will be held on March 25, 2019 to approve the contract and the bid awarded on March 28, 2019. It was Justice Cline’s understanding that the County as an architectural estimate of the cost. Judge Day confirmed Justice Cline’s understanding sharing with the Court that the numbers we are basing the project off estimates used were the architect’s two (2) general contractors estimates provided on earlier schematic drawings. Justice Cook

asked for clarification regarding the grant and exactly what it would cover. Judge Day referred the question to a representative from Mid-South Health Systems, Ruth Allison Dover. Mrs. Dover informed the Court that there are two pots of money, one of which is a onetime start up amount of \$30,000 to pay for beds, refrigerators, or anything related to the client. Justice Cook inquired about the utilities the facility will be using and who is responsible for the payment. Mrs. Dover has asked for verification from the state. Justice Cook then inquired how many patients will the \$1.6 million grant take care of and how long will that money last. Mrs. Dover stated that at compacity, 16 beds full, with an admission every 96 hours, which is about 8,000 admissions per year, the best guess is the total operation cost for one year will be about \$1.9 million. The shortfall of about \$300,000 will be covered by payer sources, such as Medicaid. That is at one payer source per week. Though there is no memorandum of understanding at this moment between Craighead County and Mid-South Health Systems, Mrs. Dover stated that Mid-South does not intend on coming back to the County for additional money. Justice Cook asked if there is any foresight in how to prevent law suits against the County, referring to a pending law suit on Craighead County Nursing Center by employees of the Nursing Center. Judge Day stated that with a memorandum of understanding showing who is running the facility and who the employees belong to will prevent a future law suit. Mrs. Dover stated that all training, payment, and benefits will be done through Mid-South Health Systems for their employees. Justice Price asked how much the other counties will be responsible for when they bring in patients to the Craighead county facility and will the money go to Mid-South or to Craighead county. Judge Day proposed that any revenue taken in will be to recoup capitol cost. As the process continues, the funds will build up and will be used toward future maintenance and miscellaneous expenses. This revenue will come from a daily cost for other entities to bring someone into the Craighead county facility. Examples were given of Sebastian County with a \$5 daily fee and Pulaski county with a \$50 daily fee. Justice Price then asked would there be a way to stop other counties from bringing in patients if payment were in arrears? Judge Day stated that there would be signed contracts with between Craighead County and any entity bringing patients to the facility. The contract will show who pays and exactly what the fees are. Justice Weinstock inquired if a bill could be attached to the entity's tax base if payment was not made. Judge day referred the question to the Craighead county Tax Collector, Wes Eddington. Mr. Eddington stated that it is not possible to do. Judge Day stated that there was a possibility, if the entity was thirty (30) or sixty (60) days in arrears that no more drop offs would be allowed without payment being processed. Justice Price asked if we have spoken to neighboring counties to see if they are willing to use this facility. Judge Day said Sheriff Marty Boyd had spoken with the Poinsett County Sheriff and they are very supportive and that he does not see that we will have a problem from law enforcement bringing people in. Justice Cook asked what if the bid where to come back astronomical and it is decided not to move forward with the project? Will the architectural fees and blue prints be the only money lost by the county at approximately \$90,000? Judge Day informed the Court that the contract with the architect is 6% and that includes 10 sets of blueprints for the bidders which is approximately \$120,000 if the low bid is \$2 million. Judge Day also stated that he decided to hire a Geotech firm to ensure that the building site for the facility will be built is suitable. Justice Price

asked if there was room for outside funding. Judge Day said that anything is possible but at this point, there has been no response. Justice Longmire suggested that people from the public that wanted naming rights could pay to do so. He followed up by stating that if there were a shortfall in funding in the future, these funds could also become an issue for the county. Justice Price stated that there are other ways to raise money and Judge Day followed by stating that he and the city are looking for grant opportunities. Judge Day then commented that the county will get its money back with the fee. The fee currently being considered is \$35 - \$40 as a daily charge per individual staying at the facility. Clerk called roll and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further new business to discuss, an announcement that our Jonesboro Sun representative, David, is moving away was made.

With no other announcements, Justice Cline made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Justice Cook. Judge Day adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Quorum Court Minutes

01/28/2019