

*Motion - N. Brown
2nd - Lemings*

VAN BUREN COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
February 16, 2023

BOOK 2023 PAGE 34
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PAM BRADFORD
County Clerk
VAN BUREN County, AR

The Van Buren County Court met Thursday, February 16, 2023 at the Van Buren County Courthouse Annex in Clinton, Arkansas for the regular monthly meeting, with Judge James presiding. Members of the Quorum Court attending were Justice of the Peace D. Holcomb, N. Brown, S. Brown, M. Bradford, J. Bradford, B. Page, V. Lemings, E. Bass. Also in attendance was P. Bradford, County Clerk and Attorney J. Franklin for C. Crews.

Next: PRAYER: Given by J.P. D. Holcomb

Next: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was recited by VBC 4-H Club (Southside)

Next: ROLL CALL: J.P. M. Philips was absent

Next: AGENDA: J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to dispense with the audible readings of the Transfers, seconded by J.P. S. Brown. All agreed.

J.P. N. Brown made a motion to add additional Ordinance and Resolution to Agenda, seconded by J.P. S. Brown. All agreed.

J.P. V. Lemings made a motion to add tabled an Ordinance from January 2023, seconded by J.P.

Page. All agreed.

J.P. E. Bass made a motion to move the order of Ordinance for Quorum Court pay and Ordinance for Quorum Court added monies, seconded by J.P. Page. All agreed.

Next: MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT, APPROPRIATION ANALYSIS: J.P. N. Brown motioned to accept the Minutes, Treasurer's Report and Appropriation Analysis as printed. J.P. V. Lemings seconded the motion. Judge James asked for discussion, there was none. The Minutes, Treasurer's Report, and Appropriation Analysis were approved unanimously.

Next: COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT: [Report Attached]

Next: SHERIFF'S REPORT: [None]

Next: COUNTY JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Judge James addressed the snow storm, ice storm and floods. County Road department is working hard to clean up debris and potholes left from the storms.

OLD BUSINESS: J.P. N. Brown, Budget Committee Chairperson, gave an update on the Budget Committee meeting from February 6, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. NEXT: J.P. V. LEMINGS READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # O-2022-58, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$2,500.00 FOR THE VAN BUREN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT #1000-804.** After reading the ordinance, J.P. Lemings made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-08**
- B. NEXT: J.P. S. BROWN READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # O-2022-58, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$10,000.00 INTO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUDGET #1000-400 AND \$2,550.00 INTO THE DETENTION CENTER BUDGET # 1000-418.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. S. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Holcomb. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-09**
- C. NEXT: J.P. D. HOLCOMB READ AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT A PAYMENT MADE FROM THE 2023 BUDGET FOR THE LAW LIBRARY, TO TRANSFER AND RE-APPROPRIATE MONIES.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. D. Holcomb made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-10**
- D. NEXT: J.P. E. BASS READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CREATE A POLICY FOR COMMITTEES OF THE QUORUM COURT.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. E. Bass made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. Page. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. N. Brown commented that the Chairperson for the committee emails an agenda before each meeting, and the County Clerk takes notes and records the minutes. The County Clerk would be the one to email minutes if needed. J.P. E. Bass made a motion to table this Ordinance until later in the meeting, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. All agreed. Later the Ordinance was voted on and failed.
- E. NEXT: J.P. E. BASS READ AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE COMPENSATION AMOUNTS FOR EACH QUORUM COURT MEMBER.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. E. Bass made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. B. Page. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. N. Brown stated that in 2019 it was voted to reduce pay for Committee meetings from \$100.00 to \$25.00 due to the budget being tight. In 2022 and 2023 the budget was approved for \$100.00 for committee meetings. J.P. E. Bass stated he was not aware of the change from 2 years ago. J.P. S. Brown stated that this is just a re-instatement of the original amount. J.P. N. Brown

stated this matter has been voted on twice in full Quorum Court and was approved and is not considered a raise. The Ordinance failed.

- F. NEXT: J.P. M. BRADFORD READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2022-58, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$16,147.50 INTO COUNTY GENERAL #1000-400 FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SALARY STIPENDS FOR FULL TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 224 OF THE 2022 FISCAL SESSION OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATURE.** After reading the Appropriation Ordinance, J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-11**
- G. NEXT: J.P. J. BRADFORD READ AN ORDINANCE TO CLEAN-UP THE 2022 ANNUAL BUDGETS.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. J. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. N. Brown asked about the transfer for the jail operating fund, and she was informed that had already been taken care of separately. J.P. E. Bass was confused on why there had to be an Ordinance to clean up the budget when it had been cleaned up for years without one. J.P. S. Brown made a motion to suspend the rules for the reading of this Ordinance, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. All agreed. J.P. J. Bradford read the Ordinance for the 2nd & 3rd time by title only. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-12**
- H. NEXT: J.P. N. BROWN READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2022-58, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$2,000.00 TO THE QUORUM COURT BUDGET # 1000-107.** J.P. N. Brown made a motion to un-table this Ordinance, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. All agreed. After reading the Ordinance, J.P. N. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-13**
- I. NEXT: J.P. N. BROWN READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT 911 EMPLOYEES PAY, TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #O-2022-58. THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2023, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$2,854.00 INTO THE 911 DEPARTMENT BUDGET #3020-501.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. N. Brown made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. D. Holcomb. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. V. Lemings asked if this was a salary increase? J.P. N. Brown stated that this was to bring the 3 employees back up to their original pay from 2022. J. Wells stated this was for dispatchers #2, #7, and #10. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-14**

- J. NEXT: J.P. B. PAGE READ AND EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT HOURLY/SALARY AMOUNTS OF 911 EMPLOYEES FOR 2023 IN THE 911 DEPARTMENT #3020-501.** After reading the Emergency Ordinance, J.P. B. Page made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. S. Brown addressed the Quorum Court members stating that it was voted on in 2022 to accept 911 as county employees. Fairfield Bay promised an 8% raise in August 2022 to 911 employees. The Budget Committee was under the impression 911 employees had already been given the raise, but later found out the raise was to go into effect Jan. 1, 2023. She stated that there were to be no raises for Van Buren County employees for 2023 and supplemental pay was given in lieu of a raise. She stated that salaries for 911 employees were turned into the County Clerk by Judge James in January 2023. Why were these submitted to the clerk with raises already added in? Judge James stated that there were so many numbers floating around, it was just an oversight. The 911 budget was turned in with levelized pay figured in. J.P. S. Brown stated that arrant numbers were given after we said no raises, so do we give them raises and deal with the backlash? J.P. D. Holcomb said there is no right answer, this is a loose loose situation. He stated he had done his own investigation and spoke with Judy Wells with 911. The salary line item from FFB for 2022 was \$305,000.00, which was more than was budgeted for. Part-time employees were listed at 26 hours/13 hours per week and it needed to be 20 hours per week. Once the new employee completed training their pay should be raised to \$13.00 per hour. He also stated he was sick of the phrase "numbers can't be explained". J.P. Lemings said there is no way to express what 911 employees do on a day to day basis, they deserve more than they are making but there are 110 plus other employees that deserve more also. He also stated that he didn't like things being hidden behind his back. I like to feel like things are done the right way. J.P. N. Brown stated this is a hard discussion. 2022 Budget Committee agreed no raises to be given for 2023 and bonus was given, 911 employees did not receive the full bonus. We needed to take them on so we could control this. Based on my assumption that was their current rate of pay. FFB City Council voted for raises, we never voted for a raise. J.P. Holcomb asked if we need to take the 20 hours per week back to the Budget Committee to adjust that from 13 hours per week? J.P. N. Brown said this Ordinance does not have a schedule attached so is this an Ordinance that we can pass as written? J.P. S. Brown asked Judge James what he thought that could fix this? Judge James replied the numbers were turned into him before we knew what was going to happen. He turned in a set of numbers and it was approved. He had no idea the raises were not to take affect until January 1, 2023. He stated if this Ordinance passed the next increase that takes place the 911 employees would be exempt from anything. J.P. Lemings asks how it was fair for some to get a raise and not others? Judy Wells was asked which employees were presented with increases in their pay. She stated the manager, dispatcher 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and dispatcher 9 would increase to \$13.00 after training was completed, part time dispatcher 1 and part time dispatchers 2 and 3 would increase to \$13.00 after completing training. J.P. D. Holcomb asked if this Ordinance is actually legal to vote on. J.P. S. Brown stated a schedule is not attached to the Ordinance. J.P. N. Brown stated there is no consistency on pay, it doesn't matter the merit you have or the position you hold. J.P. Holcomb said that someone needs to clarify wording on this Ordinance. Judge James stated a new Ordinance can be drafted. The Ordinance was voted on and failed. A motion to recess was made and seconded. After the brief recess, Judge

James suggested the Quorum Court get a certified copy of the 2022 pay scale to use as an addendum to attach to the Ordinance. J.P. D. Holcomb stated he did some math and his numbers came out the same as J. Wells' numbers. J.P. S. Brown asked if the \$13.00 per hour for employees that have completed training is a state mandated rate. J. Wells stated it was an incentive to complete training faster. J.P. D. Holcomb gave out his cell phone number for anyone to call and ask questions versus all the rumors floating around. He invited anyone to call him and ask questions. J.P. N. Brown asked if this needed to be sent to a special meeting through the Quorum Court since there is new information. J.P. S. Brown agreed. J.P. D. Holcomb stated the numbers from FFB match the numbers the Quorum Court has now. J.P. N. Brown asked if this needed to be addressed at the next Budget Committee meeting. J.P. S. Brown asked if FFB has a copy of the 2022 salaries? J.P. D. Holcomb asked if J. Wells could verify the pay scale for 2022? J. Wells stated she already had. J.P. S. Brown asked if the invoice presented to the county from FFB was listed out or was it a lump sum? Pam Bradford, County Clerk, stated it was a lump sum. Judge James asked if the members of the Quorum Court agreed with the pay scale he had for 2022 adding one PT employee at \$13.00/hour, one PT employee at \$13.15/hour and a new FT employee at \$13.00/hour? J.P. S. Brown asked Judge James, since you are over the 911 employees and this will be cutting their pay, "what would you like to do?" J. Wells stated they were promised an 8% raise across the board, and she stated these are starting salaries not raises. She stated that 911 took on a lot of the Sheriff's Office responsibilities and they go through 6-8 months of training, it is hard to hire employees on what they are offered as pay currently. No one wants to work holidays, weekends, and graveyard shifts for what they offer now. J.P. S. Brown asked J. Wells who told her they were getting an 8% raise? J. Wells stated the City of FFB. J.P. S. Brown stated she does not begrudge anyone a pay raise and to please take into consideration they now have retirement and receive half of the supplemental pay which took the place of a raise. J. Wells stated they are happy to be county employees and thanked the court for that. J.P. M. Bradford asked the court to explain what levelized pay is. J.P. N. Brown explained what levelized pay is. J.P. D. Holcomb stated that the Budget Committee needed a starting point to begin levelized pay. J.P. J. Bradford asked who came up with the levelized pay for 911 employees? Judge James stated he did. J.P. D. Holcomb made a motion to adopt the pay scale for 2022 and write a new Ordinance to reflect this, seconded by J.P. B. Page. All agreed. A motion was made to recess and seconded.

K. Next: J.P. D. HOLCOMB READ AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO CORRECT HOURLY/SALARY AMOUNTS OF 911 EMPLOYEES FOR 2023 IN THE 911 DEPARTMENT #3020-501. After reading the Emergency Ordinance, J.P. D. Holcomb made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to suspend the rules and entertain the Ordinance, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. All agreed. Judge James asked for any discussion. There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **No. O-2023-15**

1. NEXT: J.P. J. BRADFORD READ A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY JUDGE OF VAN BUREN COUNTY TO APPLY FOR A GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY. After reading the resolution, J.P. J. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N.

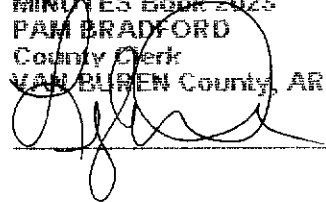
Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. The resolution was passed and was given
No. R-2023-02

TRANSFERS: J.P. N. Brown made a motion to adopt the Transfers, seconded by J.P.
Lemings. All approved.

J.P. N. Brown motioned to adjourn, seconded by all.

Pam Bradford, Van Buren County Clerk

I certify that this instrument was
filed on 03/17/2023 08:49 AM
and recorded in
MINUTES Book 2023
PAM BRADFORD
County Clerk
VAN BUREN County, AR



D.C.

COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023

This has been a month of dealing with disasters.

The northern part of the county experienced up to 14.5" of snow. Most of the county had a substantial snowfall. Road crews worked overtime to push snow off roads until the snow was melted off. We also helped to move school busses and ambulances.

After the snowstorm, we received a significant sleet/ice event. Crews worked a lot of overtime to remove as much ice as possible. Ice is much more difficult than snow. We kept at it until the roads were clear. The heavy, wet snow toppled a lot of trees across roads. Even though all the roads were quickly opened, it will take us a couple of weeks to work up all the fallen trees out of the right of ways.

After the ice storm, the county experienced flash flooding. We are inventorying the damage to determine whether an official emergency declaration is needed. Most all areas where we have completed road drainage improvement held during this event. We still received some damage on Old Highway 9 and had some pavement scoured from a bridge abutment on Black Hill Road.

Many roads have potholes from all the freeze/thaw we have experienced. Our fingers are crossed for favorable weather in the coming days for a quick recovery.