

Motion - N Brown
2nd - Lemings

VAN BUREN COUNTY QUORUM COURT
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
March 20th, 2025

BOOK 2025 PAGE 22
Recorded in:
MINUTES Book
04/21/2025 08:06 AM
PAM BRADFORD
County Clerk
VAN BUREN County, AR

The Van Buren County Court met Thursday, March 20th, 2025, 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 N. Brown, S. Brown, B. Roberson, M. Bradford, B. Page, E. Bass, V. Lemings and R. Mays. Also in attendance was Attorney Carol Crews and Pam Bradford County Clerk.

Next: PRAYER: Given by J.P. V. Lemings

Next: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by all and led by J.P. R. Mays

Next: ROLL CALL: All present (J.P. #4 vacant)

Next: AGENDA. J.P. N. Brown made a motion to add a Resolution, seconded by J.P. S. Brown. J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to dispense audible reading of transfers, seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. J.P. N. Brown made a motion to approve the agenda with changes, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. All agreed.

Next: MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT, APPROPRIATION ANALYSIS: J.P. N. Brown made a motion to accept minutes, treasury report and appropriate analysis, seconded by J.P. M. Bradford. Judge James asked for any discussion, there was none.

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Next: COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT: [Attached]

Tracey Drinder D.C.

Next: SHERIFF'S REPORT: Not given

Next: COUNTY JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Kudos to the road department on storm work.

Next: COUNTY BOARDS/COMMITTEES ADDRESS THE COURT: Judge James Named committees members J.P. B. Page, J.P. E. Bass to the budget committee. J.P. S. Brown to the Personnel policy committee.

Next: ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENT HEADS ADDRESS THE COURT. Co. Clerk P. Bradford addressed the court concerning the new insurance and the 75% paid to county employees who elect not to carry Co. insurance. She explained the cost paid to Meritain, \$257.76 monthly and \$811.88-\$257.76 that is put into a Co. Health fund account to paid claims for ones on Co. Health Insurance. J.P. S. Brown made a motion to pay 75% of the \$257.76 (lower amount), seconded by J.P. V. Lemings. All agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. NEXT: J.P. LEMINGS READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #0-2024-54, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$7,000.00 INTO THE VARIOUS COUNTY PROJECTS BUDGET #1000-804.** After reading the Ordinance J.P. V. Lemings made a motion to accept, seconded by J.P. B. Roberson. Judge James asked for any discussion, There was none. The Ordinance was approved and given **NO. O-2025-12.**
- B. NEXT: J.P. E. BASS READ AN APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE #0-2024-54, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$96,564.65 INTO THE SENIOR CENTER AEDC GRANT FUND #3513-103-4004.** After the reading of the Ordinance, J.P. E. Bass made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for any discussion. J.P. Page asked if the center was to be taken over, would they have to abide by the grant specs. Judge James advised, Yes. The Ordinance was approved and given **NO. O-2025-13.**
- C. NEXT: J.P. ROBBERSON READ ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE # O-2024-54, THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2025, TO INCREASE THE PROJECTED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE \$22,643.43 INTO THE DRUG TASK FORCE BUDGET #1000-120.** After reading the Ordinance J.P. B. Roberson made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown. Judge James asked for a discussion. Carol Crew explained about the monies the county received from the 20th Judicial Dist. The Ordinance was approved and given. **NO. O-2025-14**
- D. NEXT: J.P. M. BRADFORD READ AN ORDINANCE TO CLOSE AND CLEAN UP THE 2024 BUDGETS BY TRANSFERS.** After reading the Ordinance, J.P. M. Bradford made a motion to adopt, seconded by J.P. N. Brown . Judge James asked for any discussion. There were none. The Ordinance was approved and given. **NO. 2025-15**

RESOLUTION:

- A. J.P. N. BROWN READ RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE VAN BUREN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD.** After reading the Resolution J.P. N. Brown

BOOK 2025
PAGE 24
made a motion to adopt, second by J.P. M. Bradford. The Resolution was approved and given **NO. R-2025-02.**

TRANSFERS: J.P. N. Brown made a motion to approve all transfers, seconded by J.P. V.Lemings.

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded by all.

Pam Bradford, Van Buren County Clerk

BOOK 2025
PAGE 25

COUNTY ROAD AND EQUIPMENT REPORT

February, 2025

New this month:

Work is still in progress on our part of the Oyler Road Project. We are approximately have completed approximately 2.2 miles of the basework.

Weather has been our enemy on the roads. Freezing and thawing and excessive rains have taken a toll. Most gravel roads have potholes. We are digging those out and repairing as quickly as we can as the weather allows.

MAINTENANCE:

Quarry operations at full capacity.

Working business as usual as inexpensively as possible to rebuild monetary resources from the recent disaster. The disaster's price tag for Van Buren County was approx. \$600,000.00. The disaster was a year ago and we have yet to recover financially.

GRANT PROJECTS:

The Rabbit Ridge/Bricky Road low water crossing grant has been approved. The total value of this grant is just under \$1,000,000.00

UPDATE – COMPLETE The Baker Lake Project is valued at \$600,000 dollars. A bridge and relief pipes will replace the current series of failing pipes.

WE RECEIVED THE OYLER ROAD GRANT! We applied for the maximum amount of \$500,000.00. The county match portion of the grant is the base work. We are replacing the culverts and building up the road which should have plenty of settling time before the asphalt is applied. Total project price tag is valued at \$1.5 million. Base work will begin in late 2024 with pavement applied in 2025.

Lake Cliff Road Bridge Project – Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million. **UPDATE – Feasibility study** has been ordered.

Scotland Bridge Project - – **UPDATE – WE RECEIVED WORD THAT A FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN ORDERED.** Federal Grant application submitted and looks promising. Total price tag of approx. \$1 million.

Archey Road Bridge Project – State and Federal Aid funded, County pays 2%. Total price tag of approx. \$1.5 million.

The Federal Infrastructure Program appears to have some extra money in it so I have applied for an off-program grant to build a new bridge at Shirley which would be constructed parallel to the current historic Shirley Train Bridge. Contrary to popular rumor, the county IS NOT entertaining even the thought of removing the historic structure. Traffic would move to the new structure and the old structure would remain in place for the historic value, pictures, etc. The value of this proposal is approximately \$2.5 million. **Update – Feasibility study** has been ordered.

FEMA reimbursement for the declared disaster – Reimbursements can take a very long time to receive. I hope to receive \$150,000 - \$175,000. Governor Sanders approved the disaster on May 9 and VBC is listed as an approved county. After submitting all the required paperwork, we received a book for each impacted road to be completed. I will go on the record stating that I believe the intention is to create so much work that we throw up our hands and give up on the request for money. NOT A CHANCE of that happening on my part!