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Tanya Diotte
County & Circuit Clerk
Grant County, AR
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GRANT COUNTY QUORUM COURT
July 17, 2017

The Grant County Quorum Court met on Monday, July 17, 2017 at the Grant County Courthouse at 7:00 p.m. with Judge Randy Pruitt presiding. Members answering roll call were Mark Allen, Danny Bone, Tony Carder, Laith Adams, Mike Nevens, Pat O'Bryan, Jason Roshto and Grant Westmoreland.

Judge Randy Pruitt called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the Quorum Court meeting held, June 19th, 2017, were presented to the Quorum Court for review. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Justice Grant Westmoreland and seconded by Justice Mike Nevens. With there being no further discussion or questions: Vote 8 for 0 against.

The minutes from the Quorum Court special meeting held, July 6th, 2017, were presented to the Quorum Court for review. It was noted, there should be a correction to the spelling of the word "agendap", to "agenda" in the 6th paragraph. Justice Jason Roshto made a motion to accept the minutes with said correction. The motion was seconded by Justice Mike Nevens. With there being no further discussion or questions: Vote 8 for 0 against.

The Financial Statement was presented to the Quorum Court. With no opposition to the Financial Statement as presented, a motion to accept was made by Justice Tony Carder and seconded by Justice Pat O'Bryan. With there being no further discussion or questions: Vote 8 for 0 against.

Next item on the agenda: Appropriation Ordinance 2017-04 (to change the expiration date of the Medical Services Sales Tax). Judge Randy Pruitt explained we had our first reading of this Ordinance at the July 6, 2017 Special Meeting. Judge Pruitt further explained, "this election date needs to be set over 60 days, but not less than 120 days from the date passed by the Quorum Court. Also, the Election must be held on a second Tuesday of the month, which means this election will be held on either the 2nd Tuesday of October or the 2nd Tuesday of November." The Quorum Court discussed Early voting being held over a 4-day weekend with the Courthouse being closed on Friday for Timberfest and Monday for Columbus Day. Election Commissioner Karla Koon was present and expounded on the requirements of the 7-day early voting period. The fact that the Courthouse will be closed for 4 consecutive days was discussed at length. After much discussion, the Quorum Court set the early election dates for the Medical Services tax as follows: September 28th, 29th, 30th, Oct 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th with Election day being held on: October 10, 2017. It was also decided that the voting machines will be locked in the vault over that the Timberfest and Columbus Day weekend. Justice Tony Carder made a motion to set the Medical Services Election date as October 10, 2017.

Justice Grant Westmoreland seconded the motion. There being no further discussion or questions: Vote 8 for 0 against. Clerk, Tanya Diotte read Ordinance No. 2017-04 in its entirety. A Motion to suspend the 3rd reading was made by Justice Mike Nevens and seconded by Justice Grant Westmoreland. With there being no further discussion or questions: Vote 8 for 0 against. Clerk, Tanya Diotte read the Ordinance heading aloud. Justice Mike Nevens made the Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2017-04, Justice Jason Roshto seconded the motion. Vote 8 for 0 against.

Comp time reports were introduced and reviewed.

Sales Tax receipt reports were introduced and reviewed.

In other business, Grant County's Election Commissioners (Chairman Karla Koon, Charles Tadlock and Charles Jones) were present to discuss the letter recently received from the Secretary of State regarding voting equipment, and to discuss the status of Grant County's election equipment and to introduce information on Voting Centers. Commissioner stated our current election machines were purchased in 2006, that we currently have 18 voting precincts. Karla Koon described the condition of our County's machines, mentioning that we currently have 40 working machines and 4 broken machines, noting the voting equipment is no longer being manufactured. Karla also mentioned that the machines we currently own utilize Windows XP which is no longer a supported by Microsoft. She continued to discuss the advantages of the new machines: Most notably they are efficient, they utilize electronic poll books, are more secure, will speed up the voting process tremendously, utilize high tech touch screens, handicapped accessible, wheel chair accessible, a hand board for visually impaired, faster and user friendly, and mentioned there would be a trade in value for our old machines. Karla discussed the current polling sites, the current numbers of voters in each polling place, the number of early voters and the attendance at each polling place, noting that some voting centers have as few as 29 voters voting at a polling site. She then introduced the idea of Voting Centers. She listed some advantages to voting centers: a Grant county resident would be able to vote at any voting center within Grant County, it would require less machines being purchased by the county. Requirements: you must have polling books to utilize voting centers and wi-fi/hot spot access. She again mentioned, voting centers would drastically reduce the number of voting machines and tabulators our county would need to purchase. Commissioner Koon reviewed general costs with the Quorum Court, and the Quorum asked her to come back with more specific costs and numbers and to present the information to the Budget committee.

Motion to adjourn.

Randy Pruitt, County Judge

Tanya Diotte, County & Circuit Clerk