

**SEBASTIAN COUNTY QUORUM COURT MEETING
MARCH 18, 2014 @ 7:00 P.M.
FORT SMITHY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 204
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS**

Judge David Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Murry led the Invocation.

Sharon Brooks, County Clerk, called the roll, with 12 members present. Phil Hicks was absent.

Tony Crockett	Ray Stewart	Rhonda Royal	Shawn Looper
John Spradlin	Bob Schwartz	Donald Carter	
Danny Aldridge	Linda Murry	Johnny Hobbs	
Jim Medley	Dickie Robertson	Phil Hicks	

Judge David Hudson asked if there are any public comments.

Sebastian County Treasurer-Collector Judith Miller addressed the Quorum Court stating that the Treasurer-Collector's Office offered Property Owners the choice to opt-in to receive E-Statements for Personal Property Taxes. This is the reason the office collected a large amount of taxes early. "This is exciting" Miller said. The office will allow the County to save money, assuming a large number of taxpayers, choose to receive E-Statements and conduct their business electronically. According to Ms. Miller, for each piece of paper (i.e. statements, receipts, delinquency notices, etc.) her office sends out, the cost is 0.56. This cost includes envelopes, postage, and printing.

Tim Allen, Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, addressed the Quorum Court stating that the Recreation Facilities are part of what draws businesses and families to the area. "Sometimes you can't put a dollar figure on certain things in the community and maybe this might be one of them." Mr. Allen said "During the process of visiting with consultants and companies that are looking to locate or expand here, make huge capital investments and hire our citizens, sometimes in that process the amenities and all the qualities of life and quality of place come into play. They may not be on the front end but they are somewhere in the middle. ... When they start deciding to locate to a community or expand and move some of their offices, they're also moving families. So the quality of life and the quality of place are a very important piece of the puzzle."

There were no other public comments.

First Item: Approval of February 18 2014 Quorum Court Minutes

Bob Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Rhonda Royal seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by a Voice Vote.

Next Item: Executive Report of the County Judge

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**Executive Report
March 18, 2014
Quorum Court Meeting**

I. Aquatics Facility

The March 7th Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Aquatics Facility was well attended, with front page photographs in the *Times Record*. Several members of the Quorum Court were present, with City Directors, County and City Park Board members and other County and City officials. Also, members of the public were present with several children that had toy shovels and participated in the groundbreaking after the adults.

The architect and construction manager are working to finalize plans this week. Drawings will be provided as soon as finalized. Bids are anticipated sometime during the second week of April, with construction contracts expected to be awarded by late April or early May.

Next Item: Report on County Financial Management System Implementation

Judge Hudson presented a Report on the County Financial Management System Implementation. Judge Hudson stated the New World Financial System went live February 24, 2014 and the Human Resource/Payroll portion of the financial system went live March 3, 2014. The two Financial Systems interface have been a challenge, he stated.

Next Item: Report and Recommendations Concerning the Ben Geren Golf Course Request for Proposal

Judge David Hudson recommended that the County continue operating Ben Geren Golf Course. He consulted with the Parks Advisory Board and the Golf Stakeholder Committee, and he proposed to introduce new pricing options for users of the Golf Course. The first change would introduce the Silo 9 Hole Course.

The Silo 9 Hole Course is proposed for implementation in 2014 as a "9 holes in 90 minutes" course to be priced at \$20, including the golf cart and greens fee. In order to facilitate fast play, golfers will be required to use a golf cart to play that course. The current 9 hole green fee and golf cart rates are now \$23 on weekdays and \$24 on the weekend."

The rate change would introduce an annual unlimited golf plan, which would be priced at \$1,200 for a calendar year, with seniors 62 and older receiving a 10% discount on the fee. Golf cart rental would not be included in the fee.

Judge Hudson recommended the replacement of the golf cart fleet on a four year lease purchase. Twenty five of the carts are seven years old. To purchase the 70 carts the Quorum Court will have to pass an Ordinance authorizing this short term agreement of approximately \$37,000 per

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year. Cash purchase of 25 carts is estimated at \$58,000 in 2014. The annual budget reduction is \$21,000.

Jim Medley made a motion to accept proposal for the Golf Course as recommended by Judge Hudson. Danny Aldridge seconded the motion.

Before the Quorum Court proceeded to vote, JP Shawn Looper addressed his concern about the projected 2014 loss for the Golf Course of \$100,000. He stated that the money would be better put to use in giving raises to employees or using it to help other departments. He said, "When I talk to people about Quality of Life, they talk about Police, Fire and Ambulance. They have never spoken to me about the Golf Course. Every time you lose \$184,000 a year, it comes from Police, Fire and Ambulance. So, I would think when businesses talk about Quality of Life, they talk about Police, Fire and Ambulance. I mean, he talks about families coming here. Would that not be something families would be interested in?"

The motion passed unanimously by a Voice Vote.

Next Item: New Business

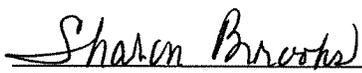
Report on the Prosecuting Attorney Annual Fee Account of the 12th Judicial District shows the Forward Balance form 2012 at \$23,340.53, Total Receivables for 2013 at \$20, 3420.32, Total Disbursements for 2013 at \$195, 399.16 and Ending Bank Balance at \$31,361.69.

Linda Murry made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tony Crocket seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Brooks, County Clerk



Marcela White, Deputy Clerk