

## **QUORUM COURT MEETING May 15, 2023**

The Cross County Quorum Court held a regular meeting Monday, May 15, 2023, in the lobby of the Cross County Courthouse at 6:00 p.m. Judge Lynn Blake called the meeting to order. Prayer was said by Justice Kevin Jumper, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The roll was called, and all Justices were present except Justice Gloria Aldridge. Justice Carl Loewer made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2023 regular meeting with Justice Scott May seconding the motion. A voice vote was taken, and all Justices present were in favor.

**Budget Reports:** Justice Scott May reported that the budget committee met and discussed starting salaries for courthouse employees, requests from the County Coroner presented in April, and salary changes for the Election Commission.

**Personnel Report:** Justice Glenda Vance reported that the personnel committee met in conjunction with the budget committee.

**Building Report:** No report to be given.

**Road/Bridges Report:** Justice Jerry Rushing reported that the road department was working on grading roads and cleaning up from the tornado damage.

**Sheriff Report:** Judge Lynn Blake reported that Sheriff David West had an emergency and was unable to attend the Quorum Court meeting. Judge Blake said that Sheriff West would email his monthly report and that Justices were welcome to call him with any questions or concerns.

**A Resolution to be entitled: A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE EQUALIZATION BOARD:** The ordinance was read by Justice Scott May. Justice Carl Loewer made a motion to accept; Justice Jerry Rushing seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and all Justices present voted in favor. Resolution 2023-4 has been duly adopted and recorded in the Quorum Court Book of records.

**An Ordinance to be entitled: AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 2022-27 TO COMPLY WITH A.C.A. § 7-4-111 FOR CERTAIN PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES FROM THE ELECTION COMMISSION FUND (GENERAL FUND 1000, PERSONNEL SERVICES 01090100 - 01091999) FOR THE PERIOD OF**

**JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND TO ALLOW THOSE EXPENDITURES FROM THESE LINE ITEMS ON AN ONGOING BASIS.**

The ordinance was sponsored by Judge Lynn Blake and Justices Anthony Jarrett and Kevin Jumper. The ordinance was read by Justice Kevin Jumper. Judge Lynn Blake reported that there was no need to call for a mercy clause, because the funds have already been appropriated. Justice Carl Loewer made a motion to accept and Justice Glenda Vance seconded the motion. Election Commissioner Sharon Lawson spoke in regards to the changes in the legislature that led to this ordinance; she mentioned that the law will not go into effect until July 31, 2023. County Attorney Vince Guest suggested that the ordinance be approved prospective to July 31, 2023 or August 1, 2023. Justice Carl Loewer proposed to amend the ordinance to be effective July 31, 2023; Justice Glenda Vance made a motion to second the amendment. A roll call vote was taken and all Justices present voted in favor to amend the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken to pass the ordinance; all Justices present voted in favor. Ordinance 2023-12 has been duly adopted and recorded in the Quorum Court Book of records.

**An Ordinance to be entitled: AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2023 BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE \$4,100.00 FROM UNAPPROPRIATED COUNTY GENERAL FUND TO THE CROSS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION AND EQUIPMENT FUND:**

The ordinance was sponsored by Judge Lynn Blake, Justices Scott May and Anthony Jarrett, as well as Sheriff David West. This ordinance will reimburse the Sheriff's Office for funds already spent to install breathalyzers in officer vehicles. A portion of the equipment was paid by the Step Grant. The ordinance was read by Justice Carl Loewer. Justice Carl Loewer made a motion to accept the ordinance on first title reading only, which was seconded by Justice Anthony Jarrett. A roll call vote was taken, and all Justices present voted in favor. The second and third readings will be done in subsequent meetings.

**An Ordinance to be entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2023 BUDGET TO APPROPRIATE \$3,000.00 FROM CROSS COUNTY SHERIFF'S JAG GRANT FUND #3505 TO THE CROSS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION AND EQUIPMENT FUND:**

The ordinance was sponsored by Judge Lynn Blake, Justices Scott May and Anthony Jarrett, as well as Official Sheriff David West. The ordinance was read by Justice Carl Loewer. Justice Jerry Rushing made a motion to accept the ordinance on first title reading only; Justice Carl Loewer seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken, and all Justices present voted in favor. The second and third readings will be done in subsequent meetings.

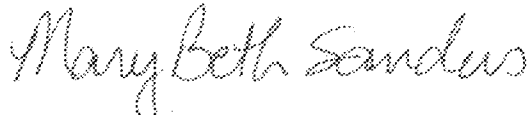
Judge Lynn Blake started discussion regarding updating the Quorum Court audio system. This was discussed previously at the April 2023 Quorum Court meeting. The other company contacted about a bid refused to quote a bid unless the entire networking system was moved to their company. The Quorum Court made a decision to just talk louder or shift the seats closer together in order for the audience members to be able to hear better.

Judge Lynn Blake started discussion regarding extending the pick up contract for storm debris an additional thirty (30) days. This extension would be at a rate of seventy-five percent (75%) paid by FEMA with the county paying twenty-five percent (25%). Justice Carl Loewer asked about the progress on clean up in the county; Judge Lynn Blake estimated that ninety-five (95%) of the county clean up is already complete. Judge Blake also mentioned that any work that Samantan's Purse or any other volunteer group helped with in the county could be turned in to help offset the twenty-five percent (25%) the county would be required to pay. Justice Carl Loewer made a motion to extend the debris pick up contract an additional thirty (30) days.

Justice Anthony Jarrett asked that Judge Lynn Blake submit the total amount paid by the county for debris clean up.

A motion to adjourn was made by Justice Kevin Jumper and seconded by Justice Jerry Rushing. A voice vote was taken, and all Justices present voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Sanders". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Mary Beth Sanders

Cross County Clerk