



**SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
AGENDA**

DATE-----November 21, 2022

PLACE-----Saline County Courthouse, Courtroom #3

6:30 P.M.-----Call Meeting to Order

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CLERK: Call the Roll

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Presentation by Saline River Watershed Alliance

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Exhibit "A" Ordinance Abolishing Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas; Copy of Public Facilities Board Resolution Attached as Exhibit "1"

Exhibit "B" Resolution Expressing Willingness to Utilize STBG Program Funds for the Hwy. 5 & DeSoto Project

Exhibit "C" Resolution Encouraging Arkansas General Assembly to Pass Meaningful Legislation to Ensure Public Safety and Provide Relief to County Jails

Exhibit "D": Ordinance Adding Roads to the County Road System (1st Reading)

Exhibit "E": Ordinance Amending 2022 Saline County Budget Ordinance 2021-31 for Election Commission and Treasurer Automation Reimbursements

Action Item: Approve Previously Appropriated Funds from the Animal Control Fund, to be sent to the Saline County Humane Society and the Hot Springs Village Welfare League

ADD ON:

DISCUSSION:

COMMENTS:

Budget Meeting Scheduled for after Quorum Court Meeting

**SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT
MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2022**

The Saline County Quorum Court met on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in Courtroom #3 in the Saline County Courthouse. County Judge Jeff Arey called the meeting to order. Justice of the Peace Jim Whitley gave the invocation and Judge Arey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with all members in attendance.

Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Carlton Billingsley to approve the Minutes from the September 19, 2022 Quorum Court Meeting. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

REPORTS/PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamation presented to Lizah Clifton by Judge Arey in recognition of the bravery she showed in alerting her family of a house fire. The proclamation was suggested by Chief Jarvis of the Turtle Creek Fire Department. Additionally, Judge Arey thanked Chief Jarvis and his crew for their quick and professional response to the emergency.

Report from Will Gruber regarding Disposal of County Property, Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 14-16-106 (c).

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Tammy Schmidt to Suspend the Rules and Read Title Only of Exhibit "A". Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Exhibit "A": Motion by Tammy Schmidt and seconded by J. R. Walters to Approve Ordinance Approving Amended PSAP Interlocal Agreement between Saline County, the City of Benton, and Bryant; Amended PSAP Interlocal Agreement attached as Exhibit "1". Rollcall vote; motion passed unanimously. Ordinance 2022-28.

ADD ON:

Motion made by Pat Bisbee and seconded by J. R. Walters to allow Add-on of Exhibits "B" through "F". Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Barbara Howell to suspend the rules and read the title only of Exhibit "B". Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Exhibit "B": Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Barbara Howell to approve Ordinance Amending 2022 Saline County Budget Ordinance 2021-31–FY 22-23 JAG Grant. Rollcall vote; motion passed unanimously. Ordinance 2022-2029.

Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Barbara Howell to approve Exhibits "C" through "F" at one time. Motion passed by unanimously voice vote.

Exhibits "C" through "F": Motion by J. R. Walters and seconded by Barbara Howell to Approve the Appointments of Michael Sims, Harry Allen, Sandra Carlisle and Stuart Norton to the Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION:

NONE

COMMENTS:

J. R. Walters brought a newspaper article from the Saline Courier Archives (1994) concerning Pat Bisbee being the youngest person elected as Justice of the Peace in Saline County, Arkansas.

Doug Curtis made the announcement that he brought booklets from U of A explaining the issues on the ballot for the General Election on November 8, 2022. He further stated that this is for information only not to encourage or discourage votes for or against.

Judge Arey thanked Josh Curtis of the Quorum Court for all of his work and assistance with obtaining funds for our 911 office.

Motion made by J. R. Walters and seconded by Barbara Howell to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

EXHIBIT "A"

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-_____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

"AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING THE PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD OF SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE NO. 78-26; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas ("Board") was created pursuant to Ordinance No. 78-26 ("Creating Ordinance") and has been amended twice, by Ordinance No. 92-91 and Ordinance No. 99-5 (cumulatively the "Amending Ordinances"), pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 14-137-101 *et seq.* (the "Public Facilities Board Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance and Amending Ordinances, along with the Public Facilities Board Act, provides for the powers and authority of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance, as amended by the Amending Ordinances, in Section 1, sets forth the Creation of Public Facilities Board for Saline County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance, as amended by the Amending Ordinances, in Section 1, sets states that the governing board of this county, the Saline County Quorum Court, at its sole discretion, and at any time, has the power to terminate the Board.; and

WHEREAS, the Board has no outstanding financial obligations or assets; and

WHEREAS, the Board has no desire to undertake any activities authorized under the Creating Ordinance, Amending Ordinances, or Public Facilities Board Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to dissolve and recognizes that the Saline County Quorum Court is the appropriate party to dissolve the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board passed a resolution, attached as Exhibit "1," requesting that the Saline County Quorum Court pass an ordinance repealing the Creating Ordinance, Amending Ordinances, and to undertake all actions necessary to dissolve the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Saline County Quorum Court desires, in the best interest of the citizens of Saline County, to terminate and abolish the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF SALINE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, THAT:

Article 1. The Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas, created pursuant to Ordinance No. 78-26, and amended by Ordinance No. 92-91 and Ordinance No. 99-5, is hereby abolished and terminated.

Article 2. SEVERABILITY: If any part of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of this ordinance.

Article 3. REPEALER: All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Article 4: EMERGENCY CLAUSE: It is hereby found and determined that an immediate need exists to abolish the Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas and in order to promote the public peace, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Saline County. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage and approval.

DATE: November 21, 2022

APPROVED: _____

JEFF AREY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____

SPONSOR: ED ALBARES, JP DISTRICT #8

DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

Ex. 1

SALINE COUNTY
CLERK & COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION - 2022-2

2022 NOV -3 PM 2:23

PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD OF SALINE COUNTY

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT THAT ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY BE UNDERTAKEN TO DISSOLVE THE PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD OF SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

BY _____

WHEREAS, the Public Facilities Board of Saline County, Arkansas ("Board") was created pursuant to Emergency Ordinance No. 78-26 ("Creating Ordinance") and has been amended twice by Ordinance No. 92-91 and Ordinance No. 99-5 (cumulatively the "Amending Ordinances"); and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance and Amending Ordinances, along with the governing statutes, Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 14-137-101 *et seq.*, set forth the powers and authority of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance, as amended by the Amending Ordinances, in Section 1, sets forth the Creation of Public Facilities Board for Saline County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Creating Ordinance, as amended by the Amending Ordinances, in Section 1, states that the governing board of this county, the Saline County Quorum Court, at its sole discretion, and at any time, has the power to terminate the Board.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD OF SALINE, COUNTY, ARKANSAS THAT:

SECTION 1: The Board has no outstanding financial obligations or assets.

SECTION 2: The Board has no desire to undertake any activities authorized under the Creating Ordinance, Amending Ordinances, or Arkansas Code Annotated §§ 14-137-101 *et seq.*

SECTION 3: The Board desires to dissolve and recognizes that the Saline County Quorum Court is the appropriate party to dissolve the Board.

SECTION 4: The Board requests that the Saline County Quorum Court pass an ordinance repealing the Creating Ordinance, Amending Ordinances, and undertake all actions necessary to dissolve the Board.

SECTION 5: The Board Chairman is directed to undertake all actions to accomplish the dissolution of the Board, including, but not limited to, closing bank accounts.

SECTION 6: That the provisions of this Resolution are hereby declared to be severable and, if any section, phrase or provisions shall for any reason be declared to be invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the section, phrases or provisions

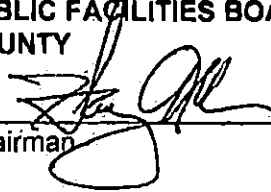
SECTION 7: That all prior resolutions or provisions thereof which are inconsistent with this Resolutions are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8: That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

Adopted and approved this 3rd day of November, 2022.

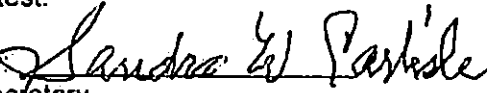
**PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD OF SALINE
COUNTY**

By _____
Chairman



Attest:

By _____
Secretary



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-_____

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF SALINE COUNTY TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDS.

WHEREAS, Metroplan has issued a call for transportation projects from member jurisdictions for federal fiscal year 2023 and Saline County will submit the Highway 5 and DeSoto Boulevard, leading into the East Gate of Hot Springs Village Rehabilitation Engineering Design Project ("Hwy. 5 and DeSoto Project") for consideration of grant funding; and

WHEREAS, Saline County understands the Federal-aid Surface Transportation Program Funds are available at 80% federal participation and 20% local match for the Hwy. 5 and DeSoto Project; and

WHEREAS, Saline County understands the Federal-aid Funds are available for this project on a reimbursable basis, requiring work to be accomplished and proof of payment prior to actual money reimbursement;

WHEREAS, the Saline County Quorum Court has vetted the project and supports its submittal to Metroplan; and

WHEREAS, this project, using federal funding, will be open and available for use by the general public and maintained by the applicant for the life of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SALINE COUNTY QUORUM COURT THAT:

SECTION I: The Saline County Quorum Court agrees to include the local match requirements within its budget for FFY 2023 and subsequent years as necessary.

SECTION II: Saline County will participate in accordance with its designated responsibility, including maintenance of this project.

SECTION III: Saline County Judge Jeff Arey is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the construction of the above stated project.

SECTION IV: The Saline County Quorum Court pledges its full support and hereby authorizes the Arkansas Department of Transportation and Metroplan to initiate action to implement this project.

SECTION V: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 21st day of November 2022

APPROVED: _____

JEFF AREY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____

DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-_____

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF SALINE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY ENCOURAGING THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PASS MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROVIDE RELIEF TO COUNTY JAILS.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas and its consultants have well-documented the dire need for additional state prison beds designed to hold violent felons; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas currently ranks 4th nationally in the US for violent crime which has increased statewide by one (1) percent each year from 2010 to 2018; and

WHEREAS, during this time the population in Arkansas has increased from approximately 2.7 million to over 3.01 million; and

WHEREAS, the JFA Institute has been studying the state prison population needs for over a quarter of a century and for the past ten years they have issued annual reports warning of the need for additional state prison beds; and their most recent report assesses the need for additional state prison beds to exceed 3,500 beds; and

WHEREAS, based on the most recent data and assessments, the state prisons are short by an estimated 3,500 beds to sufficiently and safely address the growing prison population; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the prison bed shortage, the onus of housing violent convicted felons has fallen upon our county jails; and

WHEREAS, since 2015, county jails have been forced to add 2,154 new beds, largely due to the chronic back up of state inmates; and

WHEREAS, as of June 24, 2022, convicted felons had on average been held in our county jails approximately 100 days statewide; and

WHEREAS, state inmates being held in Saline County Jail occupy on average 37 beds a day, or 16% of the available beds; and

WHEREAS, The Saline County Detention Center is constantly at capacity so Saline County has taken proactive action to address jail capacity issues by appropriating funds to expand the Saline County Detention Center, but that project will take several years; and

WHEREAS, as the state inmates in the Saline County Detention Center prevent Saline County law enforcement from utilizing the Saline County Detention Center as needed to deter crime, the Saline County Detention Center expansion, in conjunction with a reduction in state inmate days, would provide law enforcement in Saline County with a significant tool to address crime, and

WHEREAS, for the past decade, under the Emergency Powers Act, due to overcrowding and to make room for newly convicted felons, the State of Arkansas releases approximately 2,000 felons—in some instances violent felons and sex offenders—from the state prisons each year after they serve only a fraction of their sentences;

WHEREAS, under the law and provisions for felony judgments of conviction, felons are sentenced and directed to be taken to the division of corrections or the division of community corrections to serve their sentences and be rehabilitated, and in some instances afforded directed treatment and programming; and

WHEREAS, while a temporary stay in a county jail before being accepted by the State of Arkansas Division of Corrections or Division of Community Corrections is anticipated, in many instances state inmates are serving the bulk or even all of their sentences in the county jail without being afforded rehabilitation, treatment or programming from the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, while the State of Arkansas has the responsibility to assure that persons committed to or under sanctions to be sent to the Division of Community Corrections are being accepted by the division and receiving their treatment and programming, many of these parolees are staying the bulk of their time or even their entire time in our county jails; and

WHEREAS, the chronic overcrowding of state prisons has further deteriorated public safety and accountability by filling our county jails with convicted felons for prolonged periods of time and renders the jail unusable for its designed and legal purpose, which is holding pre-adjudicated misdemeanors and post-adjudicated misdemeanors, creating an inability to administer misdemeanor justice and accountability; and

WHEREAS, because prolonged detention of convicted felons in our county jails has an adverse impact on the safety of our detention staff and detainees, it is absolutely necessary to facilitate the timely acceptance of state inmates into the Division of Corrections and Community Corrections, and the practice of having inmates stay beyond (14) fourteen days past the date of conviction in the county jail is unacceptable, due to the fact that an increased rate of county jail reimbursement is necessary to facilitate the state to comply with the law and the judgments of conviction; and

WHEREAS, while the Division of Community Corrections is obligated to provide space, treatment and programming for persons directed unto their custody under the law and judgments of conviction, they need adequate space to fulfill those obligations, including an adequate number of beds and staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF SALINE, STATE OF ARKANSAS, THAT:

SECTION 1: Saline County, in conjunction with the County Judges Association of Arkansas and the Arkansas Sheriffs Association, requests and supports necessary provisions in law to assure the timely acceptance of state inmates into the Division of Corrections or Community Corrections as directed under the law and judgments of conviction, maintaining that staying beyond (14) fourteen days past the date of conviction in the county jail is unacceptable, and that

an increased rate of county jail reimbursement is necessary to facilitate the state to comply with the law and the judgments of conviction; and

SECTION II: Saline County, in conjunction with County Judges Association of Arkansas and Arkansas Sheriffs Association, requests and supports this declaration that public safety be paramount and for state officials to embrace truth in sentencing; address the needs assessments and provide and operate the necessary number of state prison beds, especially for violent felons; understanding that it is unacceptable for the state to release over 2,000 convicted felons after they serve only a fraction of their sentences due to insufficient state prison beds; and

SECTION III: Saline County, in conjunction with the County Judges Association of Arkansas and the Arkansas Sheriffs Association, supports and requests that the Division of Corrections or the Division of Community Corrections provide space, treatment and programming for persons directed unto their custody under the law and judgments of conviction, and provide the necessary additional beds and staff at the Division of Corrections.

SECTION IV: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

THIS RESOLUTION adopted this 21st day of November 2022

APPROVED: _____
JEFF AREY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____
DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-_____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD. 92-36 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING ROADS TO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM".

Article 1. The following roads in Saline County have been inspected and found to be in compliance with Ordinances 88-32 and 99-47 and therefore eligible to be included in the county road system. Therefore, these roads are hereby accepted and added to the County Road System.

Heritage Valley Drive	200 Feet of Extension
Zumbehl Cove	156 Feet
Vincintage Cove	990 Feet
Sungate Drive	790 Feet
Sam's Hill Estates Drive	322 Feet
Heritage Way	498 Feet of Extension
Sunstone Drive	1,290 Feet
Hampton Drive	1,015 Feet of Extension
Trelon Cove	364 Feet
Sunlight Cove	386 Feet
Wingate Drive	947 Feet of Extension
Bentwood Drive	1,045 Feet

Article 2. It is deemed necessary for the smooth operation of Saline County Government that this ordinance be approved.

DATED: November 21, 2022

APPROVED _____
JEFF AREY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST _____
DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

SPONSOR: J. R. WALTERS, JP DISTRICT #12

1st Reading

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 2022 - _____

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED:

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2022 SALINE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 2021-31; TO APPROPRIATE AND TRANSFER FUNDS THEREFORE TO THE VARIOUS BUDGETS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

WHEREAS, the Election Commission has received reimbursement checks totaling \$1,658.01 from various school districts and vendors and is approved to receive reimbursement from the State Board of Election Commissioners in the amount of \$100,898.75 for the primary elections. The Election Commission requests to appropriate these funds in Fund 1000 – County General, Election Commission department (0109) budget for the purpose of paying election workers and other election expenses incurred for the 2022 General Election (Article 1); and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer received a check from Datamax to close out his copier lease in the amount of \$1,238.00. The Treasurer would like to appropriate the funds for the payoff and the return of the equipment from his Treasurer's Automation Fund – 3000 in accordance with the contract terms (Article 2); and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee previously met and approved this request.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

Article 1. Anticipated revenues be increased in the County General Fund by \$102,556.76 and the sum of \$102,556.76 is hereby appropriated in Fund 1000 – County General Fund, 0109 – Election Commission Department budget as follows:

Line Item	Description	Amount
1000.8719	Reimbursement – Elections	\$100,556.76
1000.0109.1002	Part-time Help	\$20,000.00
1000.0109.1003	Overtime	\$30,056.76
1000.0109.1006	Social Security Match	\$7,500.00
1000.0109.1008	Retirement Match	\$1,000.00
1000.0109.3100	Other Miscellaneous	\$42,000.00

Article 2. Anticipated revenues be increased in the Treasurer's Automation Fund by \$1,238.00 and the sum of \$1,238.00 is hereby appropriated in Fund 3000 – Treasurer's Automation Fund budget as follows:

Line Item	Description	Amount
3000.8722	Refunds	\$1,238.00
3000.0103.3071	Rent – Machinery & Equip	\$1,238.00

Article 3. It is deemed necessary for the smooth operation of Saline County Government that this ordinance be approved.

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2022

APPROVED _____
JEFF AREY
SALINE COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST: _____
DOUG CURTIS
SALINE COUNTY CLERK

SPONSOR: J. R. WALTERS, JP DISTRICT #12