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COUNTY & PROBATE COURT CLERK

QUORUM COURT MINUTES

February 9, 2026

460/469

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Judge Day called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Invocation was led by Jimmy Loven, Associate Pastor of The Pentecostals of Lake City

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Justice Myers

A motion was made by Justice Cook to add public comment prior to old business and seconded by Justice Allison. Justice Williams suggested roll call be done first. Roll call was done. Roll call was taken and all Justices were present.

Justice Cook made the motion to amend the rules to add public comment prior to old business, Justice Allison seconded the motion. Judge Day asked for comments or questions about the motion. Justice Rogers asked for clarification about allowing public comment after the ordinances were read. Justice Cook stated he wanted to add public comment prior to the beginning of old business. Judge Day clarified that there would be public comment after the ordinances were read. All Justices were in favor.

Next order of business was the approval of the minutes for the January 12, 2026, meeting. A motion to approve was made by Justice Longmire and seconded by Justice Pasmore. Judge Day took a vote, and it passed unanimously.

Committee minutes from January 12, 2026, meetings were read, road was read by Justice Cline. Public Service Committee was read by Justice Rogers, Finance Committee for both December 15, 2025, and January 12, 2026 were read by Justice Longmire.

With the amended agenda, public comment was now being made. Judge Day asked that speakers state their name, address and if they were running for a public office. Comments would be limited to three minutes. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, thanked the court for getting the meeting posted on KAIT news. She stated that she wanted to point out that the newspaper reported that the two people running for the tax collector did not find the joining of the treasurer and tax collector offices to be a good idea. She felt there were other ways to save money other than waiting four years. She asked if the Justices had talked to people in their districts about the issue.

Jolene Mullet, 2004 West Nettleton, spoke to the court regarding the treasurer / collector consolidation. She feels that the duties involved would be too much for one position, which could lead to more mistakes.

Aaron Meadows, 118 Hwy 63 B, Bono, stated that several points had been brought up in the past few sessions concerning the data from Sebastian and Pulaski County regarding a finance department and a comptroller. He asked how the public could have got those answers and that he believed they should have been answered in the original study. He doesn't believe the issue of joining the treasurer and collector should be pushed to the voters.

Ross Kerley, 417 Wiregrass Way, Jonesboro, thanked Robin Martin for her comment last week that a crucial quote was left out of the email from Sebastian County Judge in the analysis that stated the consolidation worked well because of the finance department or auditor/ comptroller position. Craighead County does not have these positions, but we have been told there is a possibility of hiring either an auditor or comptroller. He feels this was initially misleading that it was left out of the analysis. He hopes the court will vote no on accepting the analysis and combining the treasurer and collector.

Robin Martin, 5005 Lamb Lane, states she has AR code 14-14-606 which is what is required to make the change in treasurer / collector in the organization. She questions what documentation shows that the alternative organization shows that this will provide improved accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness or efficiency to the people.

Blake Walker, 1813 Eldridge Street, Jonesboro, states the analysis has shortfalls. He also states that no one has come forward in favor of combining the treasurer and collector.

Iris Stevens, 2714 Turtle Creek, coordinator for the Northeast Arkansas Tea Party, states she is disappointed that this subject has come up this way. She states that the quorum court members are elected servants, elected by the people, paid by the people, and get all their benefits from the people. To come up with an idea to illuminate an elected position and substitute it with a bureaucratic position would be irresponsible. She states she doesn't understand why it is four years ahead of time. She states that she speaks for her group when she says they are very concerned about this issue.

There was no further public comment at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

An Ordinance was read for the 3rd and final time to Accept Analysis for Alternative County Government Organization. Justice Cline made a motion to read by title only. Justice Couch seconded. Justice Pasmore and Justice Barnes were opposed. The ordinance was read by title only. Justice Myers asked if this vote was a vote to send this issue for the voters to vote on. Judge Day stated yes, at the end of the day. The first piece is saying that we have read what is there and accept the study and the second is putting it on the ballot. Justice Allison

thought that the court would receive additional documentation regarding the study but had not seen any additional documentation. Judge Day stated that no questions or requests had been submitted for specific information. Justice Allison asked if the ordinance should be tabled till discussion could be had on what more information is needed. Judge Day stated that it was her right. Justice Allison made a motion to table. Justice Barnes seconded the motion. Justice Longmire requested more discussion including what more was needed because they have had weeks and weeks and nothing had been submitted. Justice Longmire requested a timeline and that the request for more information be specific. Justice Allison stated that in Public Service they only received information from the one Judge that was a collector. Justice Allison stated the county is looking at hiring a comptroller or an auditor. Justice Allison asked what the long-term goal is. Judge Day stated that he would defer to the court. If Justice Allison and Barnes wanted to pull their motion, he would make his comments, or they could vote on what was before them. Justice Longmire stated he just wanted some guidelines in place instead of leaving it wide open. Justice Allison stated she did not feel that the analysis had detailed information and that the analysis had biased information in it. Justice Allison stated she did not feel good about deciding on saving money at this point. Justice Barnes stated that if Justice Allison decides to withdraw her motion, he agreed with Justice Longmire that being more specific about the questions would be something that would need to be included. Justice Cook stated that he believes that the court has made up their minds how they want to vote and he wants to move forward with vote on the analysis and putting it on the ballot. Justice Allison asked if she needed to make a more detailed motion to table it and have a meeting to discuss in more detail what she would like to see. Judge Day stated she made the motion so she would have the authority over it and asked if he could make a few points of clarification. Judge Day stated that a few of his points were related to public comments. Judge Day stated it is hard to sit there when some of the comments made are based on things that are not factual and it is hard to get facts out. Judge Day reminded the court that they set a \$5,000.00 limit on the production of the analysis document. Judge Day explained to the court that the goal was not to be modeled like Pulaski County, Pulaski County is the largest County in the state and that's not how Craighead County is. Judge Day stated that an in-house auditor that reports to the quorum court not a comptroller makes sense to him. Judge Day responded to an earlier public comment that elected officials are accountable to the people every four years, there is no recall on county elected officials. Judge Day states he is not saying that it is right or wrong. Judge Day discussed Amendment 55 and the process to follow in making changes in the way your government is organized. Judge Day discussed changes made in the past regarding new technology that changed to process checks and receipts payments made to get money out to schools through the deputies authorized by the quorum court. Judge Day stated that the money that would be saved

would be going back to the school district and tax receiving entities and letting them have their money back if the County can do something a little better. Justice Allison asked for clarity about when the money is deposited, what bank accounts are used and who makes that decision. Judge Day stated by law there is a depository board and that right now it is the Treasurer, Collector and Judge and could possibly be Sheriff or who the Court decided. That group took bids and made the decision based on those bids. Justice Allison asked what would happen if we lost one of those elected officials. Judge Day stated he would have to refer to the statute in that case. Justice Allison pulled her motion from the table. Justice Barnes withdrew his second on the motion from the table and added a comment regarding accountability and effectiveness. Justice Barnes stated that legislative audit is here for a long period of time, and he does not know what all goes into that audit. Judge Day stated that legislative audit would not change. Hiring an auditor would have someone checking on these things in between the yearly legislative audit. Justice Barnes stated that there have been 11 consecutive audits with no findings for Treasurer's office. Judge Day stated that the biggest thing is the duties of the Treasurer, and it doesn't say anything about audit, it states they receipt money from various sources and write checks. Justice Barnes asked for clarity on whether Judge Day was saying that legislative audit didn't visit with the Treasurer's office when they were doing the audit. Judge Day stated no. Justice Barnes stated that the number of hours that would leave would be significant enough that would warrant looking at would be left behind needing to add a position. Judge Day asked if Justice Barnes was saying that the Treasurer themselves was performing a significant amount of the work in that office and not the duties. Justice Barnes stated that it's both and until you know how much is performed by them in that office you can't say and legislative audit is still dependent on those employees to perform the audit. Justice Cook stated he has two questions, first he stated to address that the court appropriated \$5,000.00 to do the study and luckily it was performed for \$3,000.00. Secondly, he stated it sounds like the county needed an internal auditor. Justice Cook said if the county needed an auditor he would like to go through the budget and hire one now, not wait four years. Justice Cook asked what it would cost to hire an auditor. Judge Day stated he had been working on this for years and why he had chosen the four years had spoken to Wes Eddington and Wes had told him he had one more term and changed his mind and that's why he chose the four years, as to not make Wes Eddington and Terry McNatt run against each other. No further comments or questions. Roll was called. Justices Allison, Barnes, Cook, Pasmore and Tennison voted no. Justices Cline, Couch, Forrest, Longmire, Noel, Rogers, Myers, Williams voted yes. Ordinance passed.

An Ordinance was read calling for an Election for Alternative Form of Government Consolidation of Treasurer & Collector- 3rd and final reading. A motion to suspend the rules

and read by title only was made by Justice Cline, a second was made by Justice Couch, all were in favor except Justice Barnes. The ordinance was read by title only. A motion to approve was made by Justice Couch and seconded by Justice Williams. Justice Cline stated that he has asked a lot of people in the Bono area about the ordinance being on the ballot and they feel it is a good idea. He feels it is a good idea to give the public a chance to vote on it. Justice Barnes states he is concerned that this is the second ballot measure that has been sent to the voters without a plan or much information. Justice Williams states that 98 percent of the County knows how they want to vote and what their beliefs are, if the court only voted by the people who came and voiced their opinion against the ordinance that would leave out the people who didn't come to voice their opinion about it. Justice Williams believes that the voter should have the opportunity to vote on this issue. Justice Cook states that we don't let the voters vote on everything the court does. He has spoken to many people and hasn't had anyone tell him how they would vote. He states he will be voting no and if anyone in district 6 is mad at him because he took their right to vote on it, he feels they elected him to make decisions. Justice Pasmore states he seconds all that Justice Cook just said. Roll was called. Justices Allison, Barnes, Cook, Pasmore and Tennison voted no. Justices Cline, Couch, Forrest, Longmire, Noel, Rogers, Myers, Williams voted yes. Ordinance passed.

NEW BUSINESS

An Ordinance was read Amending Ordinance 2025-21 to Correct a Scrivener's Error and Align Elected Officials Pay with Ordinance 2022-36. A motion to approve was made by Justice Tennison and seconded by Justice Myers. Justice Rogers asked what happened to cause this error. Judge Day explained that there was an error in the budget spreadsheet that made elected officials end up having an 8 percent raise from the 2025 budget. Due to conflicts on what controlled the actual salary of the elected official, the budget or the 2022-36 ordinance, legal was consulted and advised to pass an ordinance to clarify the appropriate pay. Public comment. Robin Martin suggested that next year the budget have the prior year budget numbers on it and things like this would not happen. Roll was called; all were in favor.

An Appropriation was read Amending the 2026 Budget to Correct Line-Items Capitalize in Ordinance 2025-21. A motion to approve was made by Justice Myers, a second was made by Justice Rogers. Judge day explained that the first was an oversight and there should have obviously been more than \$85.00 in parts and repairs in the Sheriff's office. The second was an increase in the salary for that position that is 100 percent paid for by the grant that was missed when the grant was updated. Roll was called and passed unanimously.

A resolution was read to Re-Appoint Erin Morphis to The Valley View Fire Protection District Board. A motion was made by Justice Williams and seconded by Justice Tennison. All were in favor.

Discussion was had regarding District Court. Judge Day informed the Court that a meeting was held last month with the mayors that included Judges Boling and Fowler. During the meeting the need for a district court facility was discussed. Judge Day stated that his game plan for a building was, assuming the court was in favor, using the reserves and building a building and charging rent to the cities. The question was asked where the building would be built. Judge Day stated his first thought had been on the property across from the election annex. Judge Day stated about a year ago they had looked into remodeling a building and the mayors were not onboard with that at that time. Judge Day stated he believed that with that footprint they could build a building and include employee parking area. Judge Day stated at this point he is not committing to housing city attorney offices or other offices. Justice Cook mentioned he had heard other rumors concerning a building that Judge Day put to rest tonight. Justice Barnes asked if this would be a good instance where an interlocal committee could be made. Judge Day stated he felt that this would be best served by the staff of the district court being involved. Justice Williams stated that the cities will only be renting the building. Justice Longmire asked if the idea of having it at the Jail had been considered. Judge Day stated that there was a logistics problem with it being there. Some discussion was had about video court and transporting prisoners for court. Justice Williams stated that during Judge Boling's presentation at the mayor's meeting he reported that the collections were up 80 to 82 percent due to the people having to come to a court facility for their hearings. Justice Cook suggested putting the assessor and collector in a building, moving the Judges office to another building and moving district court into the annex building. Judge Day stated he would have to let the architect work through that.

Announcements

Judge Day stated that the rules on campaigning on County property would be sent out to all candidates. No signs or campaigning within 100 feet of a polling location and no stakes in the ground on county property.

County Clerk MaryDawn Marshall reminded the court that early voting begins February 17, 2026, for the 2026 Primary at the Lake City and Jonesboro locations. Reminder that this is a semi-closed primary.

Justice Cook asked for Treasurer McNatt to explain positive pay (banking) to the Court. Treasurer McNatt explained that the amount, check number, and who the check was made

to be entered into a system that flags the check if anything is not the same as it has been entered. Judge Day explained that the court mandated that after the Kade Holliday fraud.

Justice Allison asked about a house the county purchased, and the tenants were staying in. Justice Allison wants to know if those tenants are still there. Judge Day explained that one is moving out soon and the other is on a month-to-month basis.

Motion to adjourn to committees was made by Justice Cook and seconded by Justice Couch.

Request was made to have second public comment. Shamal Carter spoke about an interlocal agreement between Jonesboro and Craighead County on clearing roads during the inclement weather. Judge Day stated that the County was requested by some cities to help and some cities did and some did not. Mr. Carter asked if the County received any request from Jonesboro and Judge Day stated that they did but at a limited capacity. Justice Longmire stated some of the issues were gravel roads. Matt Redmon, 4109 Stephanie Lane, stated he is a bus driver for Jonesboro schools, and it was not just gravel roads, that side streets were covered in ice, and he feels like Craighead County could have done more to help. Justice Cline reminded the court that there are 1200 miles of roads in Craighead County. Justice Cook thanked Judge Day and the road crew for their hard work on the road during the recent snowstorm.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40pm

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/9/2026

Call to Order:

Justice Cline called the meeting to order.

Attendance:

Justice Steve Cline, Justice Terry Couch, Justice David Tennison, Justice Garrett Barnes, Road Department Superintendent John James, and County Judge Marvin Day were present.

Road Report:

John James provided an update on current road projects and status of county roads after snowstorm work.

Plat Review – CR#141 – Shannon Kee Construction:

Justice David Tennison made a motion to approve the plat as presented, Justice Garrett Barnes seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

Adjournment:

With no further business, a motion was made by Justice Terry Couch to adjourn, seconded by Justice David Tennison. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Finance Committee Minutes

Date: 2-9-2026

Call to Order: Justice Longmire called the meeting to order.

Attendance: Justice Josh Longmire – Chair, Justice Dan Pasmore, Justice Darrel Cook, Justice Barry Forrest, Justice Rick Myers, Tax Collector Wes Eddington, and Treasurer Terry McNatt.

Tax Collection Report:

Tax Collection report presented by Collector Eddington, noting tax collection is up 16% and delinquent personal taxes are down 12.7%.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Terry McNatt presented the January 2026 financial report and the 2025 annual financial report.

Annual Transfer Ordinance

A motion was made by Justice Darrel Cook to read the ordinance by title only, with a second by Justice Dan Pasmore. All in favor. Motion passed. Ordinance was read by title only. A motion was made by Justice Darrel Cook to send the ordinance before the full Quorum Court, with a second by Justice Dan Pasmore. All in favor. Motion passed. Ordinance will go before the full Quorum Court.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Justice Darrel Cook made a motion to adjourn, and Justice Rick Myers seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.