



**MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
9:00 AM Friday, August 2, 2019
Lobby – Woodlands Auditorium**

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila
Greg Jones
Mike Hood
Curt Malone
Bob Pettey
David Whitlow

Committee Members Absent

David Childs
Jim Zahnd
Jerry Yeric

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Shoemaker

Ex-Officio Board Members Absent

None

POA Liaisons

Mike Medica, Board Liaison (absent)
Leslie Nalley, POA CEO

Other Board Members

None

Justices of the Peace

Keith Keck, Saline County
Larry Raney, Garland County

School District Liaisons

Melissa Speers, Saline County (absent)
Dr. Michael Murphy, FLSD (absent)

HSV Area Chamber of Commerce Liaison

Nathan Hunnicutt, Executive Director

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

Others Present

Cheri Nelson, HSV Resident
Bill Sample, State Senator, Speaker

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order: Chair Pam Avila called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Notified Absence: Jim Zahnd and Jerry Yeric

Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 12, 2019 meeting were approved.

Introductions: Guest –Cheri Nelson, HSV Resident
New Members – Mike Hood and Bob Pettey
Speaker – Bill Sample, State Senator.

Election of GAC Secretary: Upon motion and second, Bob Pettey was elected secretary of the Committee.

BILL SAMPLE, STATE SENATOR, GUEST SPEAKER

- Bob Shoemaker welcomed Senator Sample, gave a brief introduction noting that Sen. Sample had been a long-time business owner and resident in this area prior to being elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2005 and to the State Senate in 2012, and said “we’re blessed to have [Sen. Sample] here in the Village.”
- Sen. Sample discussed the recently concluded legislative session and said, in his opinion, “the people of Arkansas fared pretty well overall.” In his remarks and in response to questions from the Committee, Sen. Sample reviewed the following items of interest to the Village:
 - A total of 17 bills were introduced in connection with Governor Asa Hutchinson’s plan to reorganize state government. Under this plan, which was approved on the last day of the session, a total of 16 executive branch secretaries will oversee the various state agencies.
 - Legislators also completed a multi-year effort to cut state income tax rates. Beginning in 2021, the top tax rate will drop from 6.9% to 5.9%.
 - A bill broadening the permissible methods for advertising government contracts was also approved. The new law, which allows state agencies to use websites and other social media platforms to advertise for bids was opposed by various lobbying and newspaper interests.
 - The closing of the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), which occupies the former Army and Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, poses a number of problems in terms of finding a new use for the facility. While state-of-the-art when originally built in the 1930’s, the building’s boiler, power grid and elevators would require extensive repairs or refurbishment. If the building is closed, it would revert to the US Department of Defense.

POA REPORT

Lesley Nalley - POA CEO

- The POA Board has approved an agreement that would add Hot Springs Village to the Natural State Golf Trail. This will increase the visibility of the Village through the marketing efforts of the Golf Trail and through highway signage.
- Ms. Nalley has been encouraged to apply for the next “Leadership Arkansas” class. Leadership Arkansas is a program conducted by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Arkansas that recruits highly-motivated individuals to experience first-hand the dynamic interactions between cities, industries, governmental units and the people they serve. Since being introduced in 2005, Leadership Arkansas has nearly 700 alumni. Ms. Nalley did not know when the next class would be selected.
- In her recent CEO Report to the POA Board of Directors, Ms. Nalley reported that in the last quarter \$932,000 had been added to the Village’s non-utility financial reserves and \$576,000 had been added to the utility reserves. Total reserves are \$3,000,000.

GAC SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tri-Lakes – David Whitlow

- Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes

Hot Springs and Garland County – Jerry Yerick

- Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes

Saline County – Curt Malone

- No written report submitted

Broadband – Greg Jones

- No written report submitted

Website – Pam Avila

- No written report submitted

HSV CHAMBER UPDATES

Nathan Hunnicutt – Executive Director

- Houses in the Village are selling in three months and prices are up.
- The Chamber’s membership is growing.
- 300-350 visitors are coming to the Visitors Center each month.
- The Chamber has just received a new map of the Village showing new roads.
- The Chamber has a new website.

J.P. COMMENTS

J.P. Report Garland County – Larry Raney

- A financial person has been added for the Garland County jail and there are now only three vacancies on the jail staff.
- Efforts are being made to have a meeting of the Garland County Quorum Court in Hot Springs Village as part of the celebration of the Village's 50th Anniversary. The meeting would have to be on the Garland County side of the Garland County/Saline County line.

J.P. Report Saline County – Keith Keck

- Five mini-projects to “soften curves” on Highway 5 between the Village and Benton have been approved.
- An as yet unnamed company has shown interest in providing broadband service to the Village.

OLD BUSINESS

- Creation of a chart showing county and state offices, and the responsibilities of each office was deferred until Jerry Yeric returns in September.
- Greg Jones shared a request from a resident for an outline of the differences between a corporation and a municipality, the specific corporate structure being that of the Village. The task will be assigned at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

Meeting Adjourned

REMINDERS & CALENDAR

Next POA Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 21, at the Ouachita Building.

Next GAC Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 6, Ouachita Events Building, Ponce de Leon Center or Lakeville Schools.

Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization Report

The Policy Board of the Tri-Lakes MPO met on Tuesday, July 23rd at the offices of the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District (WCAPDD) in Hot Springs.

MPO study director Emmily Tiampati requested the approval of several administrative modifications to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Both motions passed.

The Board was asked to consider adding the City Manager of Hot Springs to the Policy Board. That request was withdrawn by the Mayor of Hot Springs.

A slate of officers was presented for election to Policy Board for the upcoming fiscal year. Garland County Justice of the Peace Ray Owen was elected as chairman. Mike Lipton of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce was elected vice-chairman.

An update on the Southwest Trail was given by Emmily Tiampati. There is no specific timetable as of this report. Funding has not been secured. The trail alignment should be completed by fall. Garver Engineers of Little Rock is the design firm. The current estimated cost for the project is \$42 million dollars. A number of other items were presented for future consideration such as:

- The calendar year draft safety targets
- Potential Connecting Arkansas Projects (CAP-2)
- 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Planning (MTP) draft projects review.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) updated the board on area highway projects. The following are of interest to Hot Springs Village:

- #CAO67 – Widening of Highway 270 to five lanes with and curb and gutter from Highway 227 to Fleetwood Drive: This is scheduled for summer of 2019.
- #R60140 – Extension of the East/West Arterial from Highway 70 East to Highway 5 North: Scheduled for fall of 2019.
- #061438 – Safety Improvements on Highway 7 between Bryant Road and Highway 298 West: Scheduled for fall Early 2020.
- #061547 – Widening of highway 7 to three lanes with curb and gutter from Highway 7 Spur to Highway 5 with intersection improvement at Highway 5. Scheduled spring of 2020.
- #06149 – Safety improvements on Highway 5 from Highway 5 to Deerpark Road. Scheduled summer 2020.
- #01627 – Widening of Highway 7 between Bailey Place and Fox Pass Cutoff: Negotiations are underway between ARDOT and the National Park. Not scheduled.

GAC REPORT AUGUST 2, 2018

Hot Springs—Jerry Yeric

Following the conclusion of a nationwide search, The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts recently named Stuart Flynn as its new dean of academic affairs. Flynn was officially hired for the position in May and began his duties the week of July 8th. Flynn earned a bachelor's degree in

political science at the University of Central Arkansas in his childhood home of Conway, a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law, as well as a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Alabama.

CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs and the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Smith have partnered on a new medical education residency program. Twenty-one medical students from ARCOM will become the hospital's first Graduate Medical Education residents in a new program to train the future physicians of southwest Arkansas.

The city presented its 2018 financial statements fairly and accurately, according to the statutorily mandated audit presented to the Hot Springs Board of Directors.

The widening of Park Avenue from Gorge Road to the junction of highways 5 and 7 will cost the city's water and wastewater funds a combined \$1,392,185, according to an agreement the Hot Springs Board of Directors approved.

A research report documenting the status of Hot Springs' tourism industry from 2016 through 2018 will be presented at 3 p.m. Aug. 19 at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

Garland—Jerry Yeric

A Fort Smith attorney, who has been at the center of controversies involving the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, said clear statutory language could prevent what happened in Garland County earlier this month, when a committee of elected officials, court officers and law enforcement officials met without notice.

Census: Arkansas receives nearly \$10 billion annually in federal funds allocated from census information, to federally funded programs. A 1 percent under count in Arkansas would mean that the state could lose \$1 billion over the decade. One person not counted could mean about \$33,000 over the same period.

The National Park College Board of Trustees and other officials broke ground on the school's first on-campus residence hall, Dogwood Hall. The three-story facility, with around 49,625 square feet would include 180 beds arranged in a suite-style floor plan. It is expected to open in August 2020.

Sixty acres along the higher elevations of the 5-mile extension of the King Expressway will be protected from development, a conservation measure the state is taking to safeguard the city's namesake thermal springs. The northern half of the two-lane extension connecting the Highway 70 east interchange to the junction of highways 5 and 7 will traverse part of the more than 30-square-mile area that collects water for Hot Springs National Park's thermal springs, according to a report re-evaluating a 2005 environmental assessment.