

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
9:00 AM Friday, April 3, 2020  
Ouachita Room, Ponce de Leon Center**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members Present**

Pamela Avila  
Greg Jones  
David Childs  
Mike Hood  
Curt Malone  
Mike Medica  
Leslie Nalley  
Cheri Nelson  
Bob Pettey  
Jim Zahnd

**Justices of the Peace**

Keith Keck, Saline County  
Larry Raney, Garland County (absent)

**School District Liaisons**

Dr. Michael Murphy, FLSD  
Melissa Speers, Jessieville SD (absent)

**HSV Area Chamber of Commerce Liaison**

Executive Director (Position Vacant)

**Committee Members Absent**

David Whitlow  
Jerry Yeric

**Press**

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Bob Shoemaker

**OPENING OF MEETING**

**Call to Order:** Chair Pam Avila called an unofficial, video conference meeting of the Committee to order at 9:00 AM.

**Notified Absences:** David Whitlow, Jerry Yeric

**Agenda:** The Agenda was approved as submitted.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 6, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Introduction of Guests:** None

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the scheduled disaster preparedness panel members were unable to attend. They have asked to participate at a later date.

## REPORTS

- **Chair — Pam Avila (Announcements/Other)**  
As a result of a change in policy, there will no longer be a board and a staff liaison to the GAC and the persons previously serving in those capacities will now be regular members of the Committee.

GAC elections, which have previously been held in March or April, will be held in May as all committee officers will now change as of May 31 each year.

- **POA Board – Mike Medica**  
The HSV POA Board will discuss changes in protective covenants at its upcoming meeting.
- **POA CEO — Leslie Nalley**  
The POA Board amended Article 12 of the HSV POA By-laws to delete the concept of Board and staff liaisons to standing committees. Ms. Nalley will assign a staff member and the Board will approve a Board member as members of the Committee.

The POA IT team has started work on transitioning the content on the GAC website to the Explore the Village website. Target date for completing the transition is May 31, 2020. It is anticipated that there will be discussions between the Committee and the staff regarding the content on the transitioned website and making sure that the content is easily and readily available.

- **Member Updates & Reports – as needed**
  - **Broadband – Greg Jones**  
Other groups working on broadband service improvements have requested access to the data obtained from the recent broadband survey. To date that data has not been provided as it was deemed confidential. A request has been made to the POA for permission to release the data and there was discussion as to whether the POA could provide additional data as well.
  - **Tri-Lakes Metropolitan Planning Organization – David Whitlow**  
Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes.
  - **Hot Springs– Jerry Yeric**  
Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes.
  - **Garland County – Jerry Yeric**  
Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes.

- **Census Subcommittee – Jim Zahnd/Curt Malone/Rene Haugen**  
Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes.
- **Health Services – Cheri Nelson**  
Ms. Nelson gave an update of the Health Service Directory. The next step is to determine how best to make the information available.
- **Benton GAC and Hot Springs Downtown Assn– David Childs**  
Business are primarily focused on health-related, staffing and business viability issues.
- **Website – Pam Avila**  
No written report.

### **JP COMMENTS**

Larry Rainey (Garland)

- No written report submitted.

Keith Keck (Saline)

- Saline County Quorum Court meetings have been cancelled for April. County Judge Jeff Arey has signed an Executive Order titled “Juvenile Stay at Home,” which provides that juveniles under 18 years old are not to be out unless going to a job, get groceries, etc. This may cause issues in the Village as it is applicable to Saline, but not Garland County.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS**

Dr. Michael Murphy (Fountain Lake)

- Fountain Lake School District is focusing on nutrition and essential basic safety needs first, then providing some routine and support for the school community. The District is working to provide a digital learning environment and has put up wireless access in all parking lots for community usage. Roughly 40% of Fountain Lake students struggle to have internet connectivity so the District is working on alternative methods of providing instruction such as programs on the public television channels.

All school activities have been postponed and seniors who were in good standing through the first three quarters of the school year have been notified that they have met the requirements for graduation.

The School District has been able to feed approximately 500 families on a daily basis using bus routes. In order to minimize contact, the bus deliveries may be

scaled back to two days a week by using bulk food distribution. Parents are helping prepare meals and getting the food on the buses.

The Board guaranteed payment of employees through April. Fountain Lake is continuing to monitor the Covid-19 situation and has seen some instances of the virus getting into the school community.

Dr. Murphy has talked to groups within the School District about providing assistance for people needing assistance with picking up groceries, medicine, etc. and asked Ms. Nalley to let him know how the District may be of assistance.

Melissa G. Speers, Ed.S. (Jessieville)

- No written report submitted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Economic Impact Study.**

POA Board has made an assignment to the GAC to move forward with an economic impact study. Initial planning will be in 2020 and the study will be budgeted in 2021. The suggestion was made to have 2 members of the committee work on this project, one member who was previously involved and a newer member in order to provide continuity. Bob Pettey offered to assist and members with prior experience on this project will be contacted about participating.

- **Candidate Forums for 2020 Elections.**

The matter was deferred until next month.

### **Additional Matters**

- **Recognition of Mike Modica's Service to the GAC.**

Bob Shoemaker noted that this will be Mike Modica's last GAC meeting as Board Liaison and thanked him for his long service to the Committee.

**Meeting Adjourned**

### **REMINDERS & CALENDAR:**

- Next POA Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2020, Ouachita Room.
- Next GAC Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 1, Ouachita Room.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR MAY GAC MEETING

### 5.1.20 GAC REPORT

#### **Hot Springs**—Jerry Yeric

Hot Springs Chief and Assistant Chief of police, Jason Stachey and Assistant Chief Walt Everton, announced they plan to retire May 29<sup>th</sup>. Both have over 25 years with the department.

Police chief Chris Chapmond of Bluffton, S.C. has applied for the police chief's job at the Hot Springs Police Department, where he previously served as assistant chief.

#### **Garland**—Jerry Yeric

Garland County is among the highest rate in the state for COVID-19 testing. It has exceeded both Benton and Washington Counties, the states 2nd and 3rd largest population in the state.

There are 5 drive thru testing sites in the County

1629 Airport Road

4419 Highway 7 North (HSV)

124 Hollywood Avenue

100 McGowan Court

4517 Park Avenue