

**MINUTES OF MEETING
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
9:00 AM Friday, February 7, 2020
Ouachita Room, Ponce de Leon Center**

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Pamela Avila
Greg Jones
David Childs
Curt Malone
Cheri Nelson
Bob Pettey
Jerry Yeric
Jim Zahnd

Committee Members Absent

Mike Hood
David Whitlow

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Shoemaker

POA Liaisons

Mike Medica, Board Liaison
Lesley Nalley, POA CEO

Other Board Members

None

Justices of the Peace

Keith Keck, Saline County (absent)
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)

Press

Lewis Delavan, Village Voice

OPENING OF MEETING

Call to Order: Chair Pam Avila called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Notified Absences: Mike Hood, David Whitlow.

Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 3, 2019 meeting were approved as originally submitted by the Secretary.

Introduction of Guests: Joe Dowden, John D. Weidert, Cheryl Dowden.

GUEST SPEAKER

Randy Ort

Assistant Chief of Administration, Arkansas Department of Transportation

The presentation by Mr. Ort and Mark Hedley, District Engineer for ArDOT District 6, focused on the Connect Arkansas Program (CAP), noting several completed, on-going and future highway projects, and the Governor's Long Term Highway Funding Plan. A copy of Mr. Ort's PowerPoint slides is attached to these minutes.

- Among the CAP projects discussed that are of most interest to the Village are the following:
 - US Highway 70 from I-30 to Hot Springs. This \$79 million, 18-mile project was completed on time and on budget.
 - I-30 from Benton to US Highway 70 at Exit 111. This is a \$118 million, 6-mile project that is underway and will take three more years to complete. The high cost/mile is a result of keeping at least two lanes of traffic open in each direction during construction.
 - Arkansas Highway 7 Corridor. This is a group of several projects that include widening AR-7 from its intersection with AR-5 in Fountain Lake west to the Hot Springs National Park boundary. Negotiations are on-going with the Park Service about extending the project past Gulpha Gorge. The project is expected to be completed in one year or less.
 - Arkansas Highway 5. This \$15 million, 18-mile project extends from the Garland/Saline County line east to Benton. Noting that the number one type of fatal crashes on Arkansas highway are roadway departure crashes, Ort described this as a safety project designed to make changes that will help vehicles to stay on the road. These changes include flattening, straightening and/or adding super elevation to 10 curves on the route. Some lower costs improvements, such as adding rumble strips to alert drivers and widening shoulders, have already been added. The project is scheduled for completion this year.
 - Expressway expansion from US Highway 70 to the intersection of AR-5 and AR-7. This is a \$75 million new construction partnership project between Garland County, which is contributing \$30 million, and the State, which is contributing \$45 million. The contract has been let, the ground-breaking ceremony will be held on March 19, 2020 and completion is expected in the summer of 2022.
- An important part of the Long Term Highway Funding Plan will be on the ballot in November as Issue 1. At present, Arkansas is collecting a ½% general sales tax, the revenues from which are ear-marked for highways and are split between the state (70%), counties (15%) and cities (15%). This is a temporary tax that will expire May 31, 2023. Issue 1 in the November election is a proposal to make this tax permanent thus extending this highway funding source past May 2023.
 - Mr. Ort emphasized that he was not campaigning for or against the Issue 1. His purpose was to provide the facts so voters could make an informed decision at the poll.
 - If Issue 1 passes, it will raise \$205 million of the \$740 million in annual revenue available in for highway construction. In addition to the current construction program, which is \$440 million, the remaining \$95 million comes from casino gaming, increases in the tax on gasoline and diesel fuel and fees imposed on hybrid and electric vehicles.

- According to Ort, the bottom line is if you vote yes on Issue 1 and if it passes, then the funding from the current temporary sales tax will continue beyond June 30, 2023. If Issue 1 fails, then the current temporary sales tax will terminate at the end of June 2023.

REPORTS

- POA Board Liaison – Mike Medica
No report.
- POA CEO – Lesley Nalley
 - The Hot Springs Fifty for the Future organization has produced a video that discusses the history and future of the ACTI complex. The video is available on YouTube (search Army Navy Hospital Hot Springs).
 - The organization’s annual banquet will be held on February 27 and the keynote speaker will be Laura Miller, who heads up the National Park Service in Hot Springs.
 - Ms. Nalley, who is a member of the Board of the Hot Springs Metro Partnership and who sits on the Partnership’s Transportation Committee, reported that the Partnership, the Garland County Quorum Court and the HSV Property Owners Association recently wrote a joint letter supporting the transportation projects discussed earlier in the meeting.
 - Ms. Nalley congratulated Bob Shoemaker and the rest of the HSV 50th Anniversary Committee for the phenomenal kickoff event that was held on January 28.
 - Cooper Communities has offered several of its real estate holdings in the Village for sale, including Cortez Beach. More information will be presented as it becomes available.
- Chair — Pam Avila (Announcements/Other)
No report.
- Member Updates & Reports – as needed
 - Broadband Service – Greg Jones
Preliminary results from the Broadband Survey were discussed. A copy of the results is attached to these minutes and additional information will be provided when available. Efforts are continuing to obtain additional input from Villagers who did not have access to the internet.
 - Garland County/Hot Springs – Jerry Yeric
Submitted in writing, attached to Minutes.
 - Highways (Tri Lakes MPO) - David Whitlow
No report as there was no meeting in January.
 - Legislative Affairs—Jerry Yeric

No written report.

- Saline County - Curt Malone
No written report.
- Website - Pam Avila
The GAC website is up to date and the Members' section is being revised.
- Census Subcommittee – Jim Zahnd/Curt Malone/Rene Haugen
No written report.

JP COMMENTS

Larry Raney (Garland)

- No written report submitted.

Keith Keck (Saline)

- No written report submitted.

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Dr. Michael Murphy (Fountain Lake)

- Fountain Lake is in the process of hiring a mental health counselor and are exploring eligibility for a grant that would provide services not only for mental health components, but physical components as well.
- The District has acquired property south of the Administration Building to develop as overflow parking.
- Even though the issue is on the ballot, the property tax millage rate will not increase this year.

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

- Absent

OLD BUSINESS

Status "Organization chart" of state and local government structures – Mike Hood

- The organizational chart is almost complete.

Difference between corporation and municipality

- Ms. Nalley made the following comments regarding this document:
 - The Property Owners Association Board and staff support the community remaining private and not becoming a municipality.
 - Any future conversations on the subject should occur in public meetings; be transparent and an education of facts, rather than a dissemination of opinion, given GAC's purpose.
 - The committee's purpose is key to how such a discussion progresses, which is "to assist the POA Board in enhancing Village relationships with area, local, state, and federal

government agencies, elected officials, and abutting school districts in a non-partisan manner". We should take care not to alienate our regional partners in the process.

- The matter was tabled.

Update on Health Service Directory

- Ms. Nelson reported that she was ¾ of the way through building the Directory.

Economic Impact Study status

- It is anticipated that the POA Board will officially assign the committee the task of evaluating the need for a revised economic impact study.

NEW BUSINESS

- GAC Quarterly report to Board of Directors.
Chair Avila will make a report to the POA Board on the activities of the GAC at the Board's February meeting
- Saline County Quorum Court in March.
The Saline County Quorum Court is scheduled to hold its March meeting in Hot Springs Village. Additional information will be provided when available.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

- Report on Downtown Hot Springs Association Meeting.
Mr. Childs reported on the last meeting of the Association, which discussed parking and signage, changes in hours for delivery trucks in the downtown area and plans to have a New Year's Eve block party in the downtown area.

Meeting Adjourned

REMINDERS & CALENDAR:

- Next POA Board Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 19, Ouachita Room
- Next GAC Meeting: 9:00 a.m., Friday, March 6, Ouachita Room. Speaker - Garland County Judge Mahoney, sponsored by Jerry Yeric.

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2020

Distributed for February 7, 2020 Meeting

Metro – David Whitlow

No report – no meeting in January

Healthcare - Cheri Nelson

I met with Eric Hushaw on January 30th to discuss the Health Fair that is now scheduled for Friday Sept 25, 2020. It will be held at the Good Sam's Campus time frame to be determined. They are currently working on ways to tie this Health Fair into the 50th anniversary of the Village. They anticipate having an increasing number of Vendors present for the Health fair including booths from CHI, Apollo, National parks, Medicare Providers, Life Net, and Oaklawn agency on aging.

They are also anticipating having eye care providers, and Hearing Aid providers present. For those who would like to set up a booth, contact Eric Hurshaw at Good Samritan's, all booths are free, but donations are accepted.

In regards to the Medical Directory that we have been discussing, I have been working closely with National Park, Apollo Clinic, as well as CHI St. Vincent, area Dentists, Eye Physicians, and Pharmacies to include their information. Many of you may have seen that CHI posted a nice Directory in the Village Voice last week. That will be a nice resource for those currently preparing, but it only covers the one Entity, CHI. Our Directory will include National Park and other independent providers as well. I anticipate having the Directory completed no later than June, and then once approved, I am hoping to have it ready to hand out at the September Health Fair to residents. Once that is completed I anticipate providing a copy to the local Real Estate agencies so that they could include it in the packet of hand outs given to new residents at closing.

Hot Springs—Jerry Yeric

Over \$14.5 million was invested into downtown businesses and properties in 2019. Since the February 2014 Majestic Fire, 144 new businesses, 122 of which are still open, 103 commercial property sales representing a total sales value over \$56 million.

The newest addition to the city's water distribution system is the 140-foot concrete pedestal behind Cornerstone Market Place.

The Hot Springs Metro Partnership has been reaccredited by the International Economic Development Council, according to a news release from HSMP. Hot Springs Metro Partnership is one of only 66 economic development organizations accredited by IEDC as an Accredited Economic Development Organization, and is the only AEDO within the state of Arkansas.

A solicitation seeking proposals for the long-awaited redevelopment of the Majestic Hotel site could be issued soon.

Upstream detention of Whittington and Park creeks is the latest strategy for mitigating downtown flooding, a hydrological conundrum that's long frustrated stormwater managers. Unlike previous plans, which have included diverting Hot Springs Creek and boring a new underground tunnel, detention has practical merit. Developed by Hot Springs World Class High

School's Miles Hermann while he was a student at the school's EAST Lab, the detention concept is ready to assume tangible form.

Garland County — Jerry Yeric

The Garland County Sheriff's Department's marine patrol will have a reduced presence on Lake Hamilton this year, Sheriff Mike McCormick told justices of the peace late last year.

He warned the quorum court during 2018 budget hearings in October that without a significant investment from the general fund or another revenue stream, 2019 would be the last year the patrol could operate at full capacity. Maintaining boats and equipment donated to the sheriff's department has become increasingly cost-prohibitive with each passing summer, he said. The quorum court approved a boating safety budget of \$15,276 which was slightly less than the \$16,070 adopted for the previous year.

An unnamed benefactor willing to donate equipment to the Garland County Sheriff's Department's ailing marine patrol has emerged, prompting the county to solicit an in-kind response from the private sector. County Judge Darryl Mahoney told the Garland County Quorum Court Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee that the benefactor, which the county has declined to disclose, is willing to provide a new boat and refurbish one of two Boston Whalers that patrolled Lake Hamilton last summer.

One contractor will begin collecting all of the household garbage in unincorporated Garland County. The contract that the county awarded in July to Town and Country Sanitation Inc. makes the local hauler responsible for weekly collection of more than 20,000 residential and commercial trash carts.

About 300 acres near the corridor of the King Expressway extension has been purchased by the state to protect the area that captures and conveys water to thermal springs in Hot Springs National Park.

The number of reported homicides doubled from 7 to 14, and deaths by suicide rose 40% from 27 to 38 in Garland County last year compared to 2018, according to the 2019 coroner's report presented to the Garland County Quorum Court earlier this month.

Benton GAC – David Childs

Nothing to report from January meeting.