

Garland County
Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee
Minutes
July 25, 2022

Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Members Present: Chairman Larry Raney, Vice Chairman Jimmy Young, Justices Esther Dixon, Matt McKee, Jason Braziel, Jimmy Sorrells, and Thomas Anderson
Members Absent: None

Also Present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Chairman Raney called the meeting to order, and Justice Dixon presented the opening prayer.

Chairman Raney opened the meeting and introduced County Attorney John Howard to discuss the noise ordinance changes. Mr. Howard explained that the revised ordinance clarifies which areas of the county the ordinance affects. The current ordinance states that it covers the areas of Garland County which are unincorporated. He noted that the incorporated areas were intended to be considered towns or cities. Mr. Howard explained that a question came up about whether Hot Springs Village was incorporated or unincorporated and noted that it is technically a private nonprofit corporation. Mr. Howard stated that the revised noise ordinance clarifies that it is enforceable in Hot Springs Village. Justice McKee made a motion for a do-pass, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Young asked if the changes would affect other ordinances. Mr. Howard said the changes do affect other ordinances and is working on updating them. Young also asked if the county would enforce the revised ordinance in Hot Springs Village. Judge Mahoney stated that the Village Police Department would enforce the revised ordinance in Hot Springs Village. Chairman Raney asked for questions or discussion. With none, the motion was approved without opposition.

Chairman Raney introduced the animal control ordinance. Raney stated that people were complaining about nuisance animals owned by resident John Grise. Raney met with Mr. Grises' neighbor, Don Hughes, and explained that Mr. Grise operates within the ordinance's guidelines. County Judge Darryl Mahoney stated that the county has responded to complaints several times and found no nuisance animals or violations. Justice Anderson suggested that the residents file a complaint and appear in court to address the problems they are experiencing. Judge Mahoney previously talked to Mr. Hughes and suggested the residents form a Property Owners Association (POA) and establish neighborhood rules and guidelines. Chairman Raney then introduced Mr. Hughes, who owns the lake property next to Mr. Grise. Hughes stated that Mr. Grises' sewer line has been broken for several months, his property has trash all over it, and his dogs are not well cared for and roam the neighborhood. Justice Young suggested that Mr. Hughes call the Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and report the broken sewer line. Chairman Raney stated that Mr. Grise is following the guidelines of the animal control ordinance and that there is nothing the committee can do at this time about Mr. Hughes's ongoing problems with Mr. Grise.

Chairman Raney introduced the revised towing ordinance. Judge Mahoney explained that the county has a Towing Advisory Committee, and the positions are filled by members of the community. Judge Mahoney stated that the last towing rate increase was in 2016 and explained that it is about a 25% rate increase. Mahoney then explained some of the increased fees and the towing companies' services. Justice Anderson asked if the Sheriff's Deputies would ensure that the area was thoroughly cleaned and the bill was correct before the towing company left the accident scene. Chief Deputy Jason Lawrence said that the deputies and other agencies would sometimes assist the towing companies with cleanup to expedite road openings. Lawrence noted that the itemized invoices were sent at a later date, so deputies would not be able to review them. Justice McKee made a motion for a do-pass, seconded by Justice Young. Raney asked for questions or discussion. With none, the motion was approved without opposition.

Justice McKee made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lanie Martin
Garland County Finance Director