

**Garland County**  
**Public Health, Welfare & Safety Committee Meeting**

**Minutes**

**February 26, 2018**

**Members Present:** Chairman Griffin, Vice Chairman Braziel, Justice McKee, Reagan, Raney, Anderson, and Young

**Members Absent:** None

**Also present:** Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order and introduced the first item of business: the placement of buoys on Lake Hamilton. Mr. Hal Cook, a resident on the lake, spoke about boats speeding and causing wakes that are damaging the seawalls in Paradise Cove. Cook would like the ordinance rewritten to expand the authority of the Sheriff's Office to help with the ongoing problem, and would like to place buoys in the cove to restrict traffic to an idle speed. Mr. John Howard, the county attorney, stated that the county had abdicated the authority for permitting buoys to Entergy Arkansas Incorporated. Entergy permits buoys, per the ordinance, that was abdicated under the recommendations of Game and Fish. The preferred buoy placement areas for Game and Fish: are commercial establishments, public launching, and public swimming areas. New regulations would be required to place a buoy in a new area. Residents cannot request buoys. The Sheriff's Office has to be the entity to make the request. Ms. Bogart, an Entergy Arkansas Incorporated representative, stated that each buoy on Lake Hamilton is permitted to an individual, and that individual is financially responsible for them. To change the permitting process, the Quorum Court would need to rewrite the permitting ordinance, and take back the authority that was abdicated to Entergy; this would make the county responsible for the permitting process. The current ordinance states that any buoy that was advertising current law would be grandfathered in, and allowed to remain on the lake. The current law states that boats cannot travel at high rates of speed within 100 feet of a dock. Mr. Kyle Davis, the owner of Paradise Cove Marina, stated that he has two buoys permitted to him. Davis stated that boats have become larger and heavier, causing larger wakes. The wakes are damaging the area seawalls and causing erosion. Cook stated that boats speeding in the cove are also a safety concern because children swim by and around the docks in the cove. Chairman Griffin stated that he would form a committee with John Howard, Jimmy Young, Hal Cook, a representative of the Sheriff's Office and interested parties to accomplish the desired goal.

Chairman Griffin introduced the next order of business, the noise complaint caused by an event at Cole's Off-Road Park in Mountain Pine. Shelly Tucker, the County Environmental Inspections Manager, showed images of property damage and muddy runoff flowing into Lake Hamilton caused by the event.

Mahoney stated that the event was just short of a riot. Howard explained that the Quorum Court is required to provide law enforcement services to be able to maintain the public peace. Through the police power, the sheriff has authority to maintain the public peace. The Quorum Court has the power to exercise any other powers that are not inconsistent with the law that is necessary for effective administration, and has the power to regulate anything that is not prohibited by law. Howard also explained that impeding the people's right to assemble, the right for crowds to gather, and freedom of speech, cause constitutional issues.

Howard stated that the Quorum Court can place restrictions on the time, place, and manner of an event, and can handle safety issues through a potential permitting process. Security, environmental, and sanitation concerns may be a requirement in this process. Howard stated that an ordinance would need to be created to cover the existing issues. Tucker stated that if she had the authority, she could have shut down the event. Tucker also stated that Mr. Sloan, the event coordinator, said that this event would be a concert and would be over at 10:00 pm. Sloan did not mention he would have a mudding event also. Sheriff McCormick stated that he does not have the resources to handle a large group of people, and certain rules need to be in place to handle them. Howard stated that he would research other counties that have a permitting process.

Chairman Griffin introduced the next order of business, the Garland County Prevent "Littering" Spay and Neuter program. Lanie Martin, the County Finance Director, explained the average spay and neuter prices in the county. Martin also showed the committee program documents: a letter to area veterinarians inviting them to participate in the program, an online application and the three-part voucher. Judge Davis stated that the Sheriff's Office would disburse the vouchers, and keep a record of applicants. Martin stated that each household could receive one voucher every six months, and veterinarians participating in the program would submit the vouchers to the county each month for payment. Chairman Griffin stated that he would like to start the program on April 1, 2018. Judge Davis stated that the Spay and Neuter program needs Quorum Court approval to proceed. A motion to proceed was made by Justice Reagan, seconded by Justice Anderson. With no further discussion, the motion was approved without opposition.

A motion to adjourn was made by Justice Reagan: the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lanie Martin

Garland County Finance Director