

Garland County

Public Health, Welfare & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

Members Present: Chairman Larry Raney, Vice Chairman Jimmy Young, Justices Esther Dixon, Jimmy Sorrells, and Matt McKee, Jason Braziel and Thomas Anderson

Members Absent: None

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

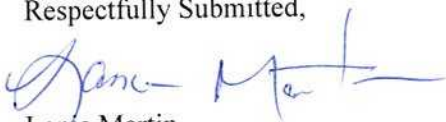
A regular meeting of the Garland County Public Health, Welfare & Safety Committee was held on January 27, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. in room 201 of the Garland County Courthouse.

Justice Thomas Anderson led the opening prayer.

Chairman Raney called the meeting to order and introduced Judge Darryl Mahoney to discuss boating safety on Lake Hamilton. Mahoney stated that he is working with a local constituent that has offered to provide significant funding to purchase new boating equipment. Mahoney noted that Sheriff Mike McCormick is also reaching out to several local businesses to receive cost estimates for the equipment needed, and cost estimates to refurbish the existing marine patrol boats and motors. Mahoney stated that he is also seeking information on properties and businesses that are on the lake and will be mailing out letters explaining the need for donations to help offset the cost of operating the Marine Patrol Division. Mahoney stated that the Sheriff's Budget subsidizes the Boating Budget because it does not generate enough money to sustain the yearly boating operations. Mahoney noted County Attorney John Howard would be drafting a letter asking for donations to help the Boating Fund, which would help sustain the current level of operation. McCormick stated that when needed, the Game and Fish Commission does patrol Lake Hamilton. McCormick noted that the Sheriff's Office has one full-time Marine Patrol position that focuses only on patrolling the lake during the summer months and is on regular street patrol during the off months. McCormick stated that prior to 2014, a non-profit organization helped the Marine Patrol with equipment and other necessities and noted that it was disbanded years ago. Mahoney stated that all donations would be deposited into the county's boating fund to keep all transactions transparent. Mahoney also noted that a Marine Patrol Division public awareness drive needs to be planned to let the public know what the Marine Patrol Division is about, and what their duties are on the lake. Mahoney stated that Entergy has grants available that would help the Marine Patrol Division and is working with West Central Planning and Development District to apply for a one. McCormick stated that a new marine patrol boat, including the motor, would cost between \$100,000 to \$125,000, and to renovate the current boat motors; it would cost between \$25,000 to \$30,000 each. An owner of a local marine shop stated that residents and visitors feel safer knowing that the lake is patrolled, and some residents would like to see a Boater's Education and Safety course offered. Chairman Raney asked for any other comments; with none, the discussion ended.

A motion to adjourn was made by Justice McKee, seconded by Justice Young: the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lane Martin
Garland County Finance Director