

**ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**June 10, 2009**

**10:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** President Mike Jacobs called the meeting to order and Jeanne Hunt called the roll. Members present were: Debra Buckner, Jo West Taylor, Roger Haney, Mike Jacobs, Skippy Leek, Danny Hickman, Pat Dicker, Doris Tate, Johnny Rye, Larry Fratesi, Chris Villines, Vicki Rima, Faron Ledbetter, Gene Raible, Wes Fowler, and Leonard Krout. Member absent was Danny Russell.

**MINUTES:** Jeanne Hunt informed the members the minutes of the April Board meeting had been mailed to each for their approval. As there were no changes or additions, motion was made by Danny Hickman and seconded by Faron Ledbetter to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT AND INVESTMENTS:** Lance Jones gave each member a summary of the financial and investment reports for the period ending May 31, 2009. Lance discussed updates made to the accounting program Mass 90 as well as the 2008 Audit being completed. Investments are divided almost evenly amongst bonds and CDs with 52% in bonds and 48% in CDs. Debra Buckner asked about the first three entries on the investment schedule as they show maturity dates already passed. Lance stated this was a mistake and he would make those corrections. Motion was made by Vicki Rima and seconded by Pat Dicker to approve the financial and investment report with corrections discussed. Motion approved unanimously.

**AUDIT REVIEW:** Ricky Keen, Auditor for AAC, spoke to the Board regarding the 2008 AAC audit. He stated the audit had been completed and AAC was in excellent financial condition. Total assets are \$9.2 million which has increased by almost \$1 million over 2007. Cash and investment totals are \$6.2 million which is an increase of \$873,000 over the previous year. Mr. Keen gave a page by page explanation to the members and invited questions. Debra Buckner asked for clarification on the increase in magazine expenses and Eddie explained that when he first came on board the magazine was not on a regular quarterly schedule, more like only being printed twice a year. He got it back on its schedule and consequently magazines editions doubled as well as expenses. Mike Jacobs requested that Mr. Keen give an audit findings summary for future audits. Motion was made by Faron Ledbetter and seconded by Jo West Taylor to approve the audit as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE:** Jeanne Hunt informed the board members that the conference was in the process of being planned. This year's overall conference theme is "Strength of Unity – Keeping Counties in the Game". The dinner/dance theme will be "Team Unity Tailgate Party". Booth sales are going good at this time with 16 being sold out of the 45 available. Registration is being handled here in the office this year due to there being no registration assistance in Springdale. The host hotel, the Holiday Inn, is already sold out, but there are several hotels on the compound and in the vicinity so there should be no problems getting rooms for attendees. Eddie Jones informed the Board that sponsorship donations were already in better shape this year than last. He stated the breakdown on funds needed to host a good conference is 52% from attendee

registration; 18% from exhibit booth sales; and 30% from sponsorship donations. Last year, the Legislative Committee of Joint City, County & Local Affairs held a committee meeting during our conference, this year they want to hold two separate meetings during the conference. We are working on fleshing out a good agenda which we will get out to all officials as soon as possible.

**PROPERTY REPORT:** Eddie Jones told the members that the properties were in good condition with only minor plumbing problems in the original side of the building. The patio area has been replanted for spring and new umbrellas purchased this year. Cotham's is current on their lease. A new air conditioner was purchased for the upstairs office at Cotham's. The old unit was not replaced when the others were several years ago. The Acme property is not leased yet although we have had numerous calls. He estimates 75% of those calls are about daycares. We have received the agreed upon \$2,500 from Central Arkansas Water for the easement on our Pulaski Street lot.

**4-YEAR TERM INITIATIVE:** Sheriff John Montgomery made a presentation to the members regarding the initiative begun to secure 4-year terms for county officials. He understood the potential controversy about the initiative because justices of the peace have not been included in those officials getting four year terms if the ballot initiative makes it to the ballot and passes in November, 2010. Those offices involved are County Sheriffs, County Judges, County Clerks, Circuit Clerks, Collectors, Treasurers, Assessors, Coroners, Constables and Surveyors. Sheriff Montgomery gave a little history on the past efforts to secure 4 year terms and told the members that only two states in the nation required sheriffs to run every two years and only four states in the nation require the other county officials to run every two years. In order to secure a position on the November 2010 ballot, over 77,000 signatures must be gathered and submitted to the Secretary of State's office for verification by July 2010. Sheriff Montgomery is asking every county to help. He stated that if someone were to gather signatures, they are not allowed to solicit signatures inside a county facility; you can't carry the petitions inside a county vehicle; and each county must have its' own petition so that only its' citizens are signing that particular petition. Sheriff Montgomery requested the Board to allow him time to address the attendees of the AAC Conference in August regarding this initiative. There was much discussion regarding the reasons behind excluding the justices of the peace and the inclusion of the constables amongst the members. At that time, motion was made by Wes Fowler and seconded by Danny Hickman to allow Sheriff Montgomery and others from the 4-year term committee to address attendees of the conference during the times deemed appropriate by Director Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

Eddie spoke to the Board members about the initiative. Although he agrees with the need for 4 year terms for all officials, he is concerned as to AAC being involved as AAC represents county and district officials as a whole. Due to the exclusion of justices of the peace in this initiative, unless approved by the full membership, he believes AAC

would have to take a backseat. The Board members expressed their understanding of this dilemma.

**DISCUSSION-DIRECTION AND GOALS OF AAC:** Eddie Jones stated he would like direction from the members as to the direction and future goals of AAC. Is there anything that we need to do differently, perhaps expand additional services to counties, and perhaps become more involved in the legislative process on the national level? Board members discussed the possibility of educating the public with public service announcements as well as the potential need for staff expansions and physical plant expansions. It was suggested that members come to the next meeting with a list of their thoughts and recommendations on this subject.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Eddie Jones told the members that the AACRMF recently held a safety meeting here at the office which was well attended. He mentioned several meetings he and David and Mark had attended recently including a meeting with the Governors staff regarding federal stimulus funds. Several of the affiliate associations will be holding their meetings soon and staff will be in attendance at those meetings.

Eddie told the members about the latest Attorney General opinion regarding APERS, 2009-050, and suggested that all might want to review the opinion.

There will be a Legislative Seminar here at AAC on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be a wrap-up meeting trying to catch those who have not been able to attend their affiliate association meetings where AAC staff will be going over new legislation.

There will be an AAC Legislative Committee meeting here on July 15<sup>th</sup>. AAC Board of Directors will also be invited to attend this meeting.

The Workers' Compensation Trustees met earlier this morning and declared a WCT Dividend of \$1,000,000. Those dividend checks will be going out to the counties as soon as possible.

As a reminder, the National Association of Counties Annual Conference will be held in Nashville Tennessee July 24 – 28. Eddie encouraged all who could to attend this meeting.

As there was no further business for discussion, motion was made by Faron Ledbetter and seconded by Chris Villines to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously.