

**Finance Committee Meeting
June 20, 2022 1:30 Annex Building**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Betty Hepler; Juvenile Daryl Turner; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Overview of monthly expenses. May 31st 42% of the year. Justice White said the new reports were in one system. Road Department 49%, Landfill 50% (operating 39.35%), Sr. Citizens 39%, Co. Jail 37%, County Clerk 34%. Fund balances. $\frac{3}{4}$ million in county general, 6.9 million CD, 3.85 million revenue replacement fund and second check had been received for 3.9 million, Economic Development \$3 1/2 million checking, \$7.8 million CD fund, \$1.9 million Blytheville courthouse fund, \$48,000.00 Osceola courthouse. Bird project to come out of the \$48,000.00.

2. Employees were encouraged to participate in the COVID vaccination program. Incentive was offered for the employees to get vaccinated. Kelli Jones wanted to close the program. Only two employees had requested the program this year. Money was appropriated for all employees to be vaccinated. Ordinance needed to be amended to close the program. No action at this time and employees would be notified that the program may be closed.

3. Publishing costs had reached the amount appropriated. Fuel costs had gone up for the landfill, road department and Sheriff's department.

4. Circuit Clerk's rent. Justice Jackson thought the rent should be appropriated until the end of the year. Storage was needed when moved back to the courthouse. The courthouse had a certificate of occupancy. Judge Nelson had the punch list and copy had been e-mailed to CNI.

5. Veterans office. Dale Dickerson had requested new equipment. Mr. Dickerson had met all certifications. Total request. \$2,500.00 estimated. Justice White recommended \$3,000.00. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$3,000.00 for the equipment in the Veteran's office. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

6. Judge's Office. The Judge requested new computers (3) and monitors (2). \$1,199.00 each computer, \$375.00 each monitor. Total \$4,347.00. Justice White recommended \$4,500.00. Printer was not needed at this time. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$4,500.00 for the computers and monitors in the Judge's office. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.

7. Public Defender's rent. Letter was received from Frank Iacampo. Mr. Bradley paid \$300.00 per month rent. Mr. Iacampo would like to raise the rent to \$400.00 per month. The committee supported the increase. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to accept the

increase for Mr. Bradley's rent to \$400.00. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

8. Land leveling. Survey was finished. Figure could be given and appropriated or wait until numbers were received. Justice White said Judge Nelson should be given authority to award the contract and fund later. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to support the Judge awarding the contract and funding later. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.

9. Microphone. A larger microphone was needed to be able to cover the meetings. Comments had been received that the audio was not loud enough. No estimate at this time. Justice White thought the upgrade was needed. More research would be done.

10. Nucor called Justice White about the bicycle paths and asked if anything been done. ARDOT was contacted about the paths and signage. Justice McDonald had e-mailed Judge Nelson about signage for bicycle safety. Permission had to be given from ARDOT to place signs. Road department would fund the signs.

11. Juvenile Department. Administrative Office of Courts had awarded Mississippi County \$30,000.00 for FY2022 Supplemental Juvenile Funding. Grant from AOC to give hazardous duty/retention bonus checks to each employee in our 6 counties. All employed since March 2022 receive \$5,000.00, between April 2020 and July 2021 receive \$2,500.00, employed after July 1, 2021 receive \$1,000.00. Kelli Jones would check to see if taxes would be held out. The Sheriff's department received the entire amount. Justice Burge asked if this was a one time payment not a salary increase. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to move the request to the full court. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

12. Money had been appropriated for Federal and State lobbyists. Aeroplex and Blytheville Regional Airport Authority had made a request for a fire truck. The fire truck on the Aeroplex was a 1980 model and not reliable. A letter was submitted by Senator Boozman, Senator Tom Cotton and Congressman Rick Crawford to a Colonel at the Pentagon to receive a surplus military fire truck to continue training for U.S. Airforce. The Aeroplex trains touch & go landings, takeoffs, air drop, drop zone training, loading and unloading of cargo, new pilot training, night vision goggles and assault zone training. The airport had hosted Air Force One. The loss of the 1980 firetruck had restricted these activities. Weekly meetings were held with the lobbyists. All benchmarks had been met up to now. Second revenue replacement had been received. Almost \$4 million.

13. Justice White would like to help small communities with infrastructure. P & D meeting Thursday June 23, at 1:00 p.m. Annex building. One commitment from an industry had been made. Infrastructure was needed before new homes could be built. Energy & Property Committee would explore the possibilities. Judge Nelson said State lobbyists were working with cities in the county to assist with their infrastructure. Currently working with Manila, Burdette, Keiser and Luxora. Meeting was scheduled with the Mullinex firm tomorrow at 10:00 about this issue. Federal grant going thru the Natural Resource Commission was a cost share. County might want to use some ARP money for the seed.

14. Janice Currie wanted to set a meeting with Mike Patty to demonstrate how the older books were repaired. The meeting was scheduled for July 7, 2022 at 1:30. Annex building.

15. First reporting for the ARP money had been done. The reporting went well.

16. Landfill received \$54,155.10 from Will Allen.

17. CAS would work on the Medicare benefits. Cost around \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.

18. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George