

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Joe Lewis; Mullienix & Associates Tucker Brackins; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Ray Fulmer; Cody Shreve; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Jackson and turned over to Tucker Brackins.
2. Mr. Brackins handed out information from the Mullenix firm. The firm was a full service, government lobbying firm from Little Rock. Had been working with Mississippi County for a year. In 2021 when the State received the first American rescue funds the Governor formed a steering committee that would be responsible for deciding which projects were funded. Sub committee was formed. Water, waste water, infrastructure. \$5.2 billion worth of needs across the State. Water was a pressing issue over the State. Natural Resource Commission under the Department of Agriculture proposed a grant program to the steering committee. Proposal in the folder Mr. Brackins handed out. \$5 million cap, projects, cost share requirement. Scoring criteria on second page. All applications would be collected, scored, then awarded. Steering committee approved the program. State Legislature also approved. Applications were due November 4, 2022.
3. Luxora, Keiser, Burdette, Manila were being worked with. Two would be subject to the cost share requirement. Medium household income of \$50,000.00. 50% cost share requirement. County could use the ARP funds for the match. Cities Manila and Burdette cost share requirement \$1.2 million. \$1.5 million was requested. Engineering reports were submitted in 2021. Cost estimates may have gone up. Keiser and Luxora would not have a matching requirement if application scored high enough. Keiser \$4.6 million. Luxora \$4.1 million. Burdette \$1.4 million. Manila \$960,000.00. Mayors had been contacted about the numbers. Mullenix was also working on two more grants. Manila needed a new well, Luxora for distribution, Burdette and Keiser for wastewater. Indication on applications needed to show they had the matching funds available. Manila had CARES ACT money that might be able to be used.
4. Justice Burge asked if all water systems in the county had been contacted. Judge Nelson spoke with the cities and these were the four that responded. Justice Burge asked how much of the funds had already been committed. Justice Jackson said close to \$800,000.00 had been spent. Close to \$8 million was received. \$1.2 million was committed to the Health Unit. Osceola Courthouse was talked about for improvements needed. Osceola Courthouse was eligible for a grant that Aaron Ruby was applying for. Would be for heat and air. No money had been appropriated for that project. Justice Burge wanted to make sure there was money for Osceola repairs. \$1.5 million.

5. i Parametrics had been working with the county on the guidelines for the ARP money. They suggested the county come up with an application and scoring process. The company would take the applications, score them and recommendations would be made. Presentation would be made to the committee.

6. Mayor Wilson asked to be on the agenda and was unable to attend. Justice Jackson turned the meeting over to Ray Fulmer with the City of Osceola. Mr. Fulmer said Osceola had projects that needed a request for ARP funds and didn't want to miss out. Justice Jackson said as soon as the process was know they would let them know.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George