

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 17, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; County Clerk Janice Currie; Collector Susan Short; Coroner Karen Ash Crane; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Meeting was turned over to Coroner Karen Ash Crane. Request was made to add to the budget for indigent burials. The crematorium cremated a body and the cost was \$2,200.00. Request was not for the entire amount to be paid but for something. The County had paid for indigent burials in the past. Could be part of the Coroner's budget. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge for the county to take care of indigent burials. No second was made. Tabled until next Finance meeting. Coroner would work with the County Clerk and go forward.**
- 2. Money would be received from the Federal Asset Forfeiture Fund. \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00. Ordinance was needed to set up a fund. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to set up the line item in the budget. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Tax settlement money came from the hospital fund. \$7,255.86 went to County General. Can wait until the clean up budget.**
- 3. ARP Committee recommended to appropriate \$1.2 million for the health units. Motion was made to appropriate \$1.2 million from ARP funds to the health departments renovation. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.**
- 4. ARP Committee recommended to appropriate \$350,000.00 for the purchase of the property north of the Courthouse. Involved purchase of MCEC building. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$340,000.00 from ARP funds for building/land acquisition and any miscellaneous expenses. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.**
- 5. Energy & Property committee recommended to leave \$350,000.00 in Blytheville construction fund and move remaining balance to Osceola construction fund. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to leave \$320,000.00 in the Blytheville Courthouse construction fund and move remaining balance to the Osceola Courthouse construction fund. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.**
- 6. Farm land site preparation. Final step was to set two wells. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$128,879.53 for the wells on the farm land. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.**
- 7. Renaissance gave a proposal to maintain the drains at the courthouses twice a year. Roof access was needed in Osceola. No appropriation needed at this time.**

8. Bridge project at Half Moon. Utilities needed to be moved for new bridge. Some utilities were reimbursable to be paid by the county. \$96,000.00. There was \$60,000.00 appropriated. Justice White thought \$70,000.00 was needed. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$70,000.00 to cover cost of moving utilities. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

9. Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee recommended to repair the old D6 dozer for \$109,000.00. Lease/purchase a new D6 for \$400,000.00 with a landfill package. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$50,000.00 for equipment repair. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

10. Appropriation Ordinance was needed to zero Chime Solutions from the Economic Development budget. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to zero Chime Solutions from the Economic Development budget. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

11. Resolution was needed for Bronco to purchase building for \$5,000.00.

12. JIT Hydraulic Company. Appropriation Ordinance was needed. Recommendation came from Planning & Development. \$250,000.00 for 25 jobs. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to appropriate \$250,000.00 to JIT for 25 jobs. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

13. Planning and Development recommended \$150,000.00 for 15 jobs to ART to upgrade buildings. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$150,000.00 to ART for 15 jobs to update building. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

14. Juvenile Department needed an appropriation for gang land training. The training would be in Chicago. Funds would come from County General. \$4,000.00 for travel, meals, training and motels. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$4,000.00 for gang land training. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.

15. Justice White asked for thoughts about the cost of motel rooms that would be changed. Motel rooms prices could change daily. Some exceptions needed to be put in place. Would go back to Personnel.

**16. Meeting adjourned.
Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**