

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019  
1:30 ANNEX BLDG**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson, Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Collector, Susan McCormick; County Clerk, Janice Currie; John David Nelson; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; Finance, Kelli Jones; Melisa Logan; Tim Wiktorek; NEA Town Courier; Mark Brasfield; Angie Nelson; Judge, John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White stated this was the first budget meeting for the year 2020. Revenues will be reviewed first. The County Treasurer and Finance Director play a very important role in putting the revenue projections together.

2. County General is our base account. Finance Director, Kelli Jones has shown the revenues for 2017, 2018, as to date July 31, 2019. The fourth column shows the requests for the 2020 budget. State Aid Revenues, 2020 request. \$791,090.00. Property Taxes, 2020 request. \$4,386,434.00. Sales Tax, 2020 request \$2,111,103.00. The special revenue funds can be looked at more closely when working with the Elected Official or Supervisor. Line item 1002-3009 includes County Roads, County Library and County Landfill. State Highway Use Tax, 2020 request \$1,972,890.00. Property taxes, \$1,136,367.00. Treasurer's and Collector's Automation Funds are carried across. Justice White stated he has information on how we compare with other Circuit Clerk's offices.

3. Landfill fees. 2020 request \$3,593,787.00. Accounts 3012-3405. Auditors would like the County to track the Hospital and Library budgets. We do not set their budgets. The hospital collected \$3,152,475.61 in 2017, \$3,313,269.05 in 2018 and \$1,849,495.45 at the end of July 2019. The tax split for the renovation will start in 2020. Our payments on the renovation will be around \$1 million. When the County makes the loan payment the remainder will go to the Hospital according to our agreement.

4. Senior Citizens. 2020 request \$524,714.00. Funding received from State Sr. Center Funding, \$89,310.50. USDA funding \$61,017.04. Cigarette Tax, \$39,776.00. Title IIIB transportation \$13,379.50. Title IIIB socialization \$21,148.75. Title III C-2 home delivery \$38,735.42. These are the 2017 numbers. 2020 request \$524,714.00. 35% to 40% of the Senior Citizens budget is funded by County General.

5. Economic Development and Jail operations. Accounts 3406-4802. Economic Development collects over \$3 million a year. Expenditures will be for the commitments that are made to corporations. County Jail maintenance and operation fund. Local sales tax helps support the jail. \$1.6 million. State jail fees pay \$28.00 for State inmates. Jail fees were up in 2019. Blytheville will pay around \$119,000.00 in 2020. Transfers from County General. 2017 \$1,240,546.69 was transferred to help fund the jail. Judge Nelson stated the Legislature may go up on State jail fees to \$41.00. Act 1188 monies \$100,000.00. Justice

Jackson stated it was hard to get an accurate comparison of jail fees from all the Counties. 2020 request for County jail oper/maint fund \$3,167,880.00.

6. Assessor's Office has worked on the pilot agreements and act 9 bonds. Plum Point Energy in Osceola went thru the City of Osceola. The Corporation pays the city and then it is broken down to where it goes. The City of Osceola has an agreement with the County to double pay. We will get \$186,000.00 twice this year. Big River Steel paid for the first time this year.

7. Election Commission. Expenditure Budget. Melissa Logan stated we have projected an increase in election supplies. We had a meeting with the State on the revenue that will be coming to the County to purchase election equipment. We have been approved for \$392,984.09. We will be within this amount to purchase the equipment. Equipment and supplies has been reduced by \$100,000.00. Mr. Wiktorek stated there would be additional costs for training. Melissa stated she is budgeted for 26 hours a week. 2020 will be a heavy election year and I will be working extra hours for training and elections. Mr. Wiktorek stated her longer hours should be compensated.

8. Election Commission and County Extension has turned in their expenditure budgets. Health Department and County Clerk will present their budgets at the next Finance Meeting. Collector, Susan McCormick stated the on-line payments were going good. The charge for on-line payments is 2.85% with a minimum of \$2.00.

9. Justice White asked if the Elected Officials and the employees were paid mileage for driving to Burdette. The Circuit Clerk's office is requesting to draw mileage when they come to Burdette for Court.

10. Judge Nelson stated he would like to place funds with the Treasurer's Office and transfer money annually for repairs with the real property. Buildings, roofs, or hvacs. The fund will help with expenses of repairs in the future.

11. Justice White stated the Court has not given the Elected Officials any direction on employee raises. County Clerk, Janice Currie stated she would like to add 3% for raises in her budget. Justice White asked if the employees like percentages or across the board raises. Ms. Currie stated the employees saw more of a change in their paycheck with across the board raises. Justice White stated if we give another across the board raise there will be no bonus this year. Raises and a bonus would be around \$500,000.00. Judge Nelson asked if we could make the raise a part of the salary that is due later in the year like a Christmas Club.

12. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George