

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 17, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Assessor, Harley Bradley; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Collector, Susan McCormick; John David Nelson; Angie Nelson; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Joseph Fondren; Judge, John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Justice Michael White. Justice White stated we are 42% thru the year. All the Elected Officials are under budget. Balance in County General is \$1.62 million. County Roads and Economic Development are strong. Justice White turned the meeting over to Judge Nelson.

2. Judge Nelson stated the Road Department has 3 positions to fill. An excavator operator, truck driver and general laborer. We have filled the laborer position and are interviewing for the other positions. We will be going thru a Temp Agency to fill the positions. If the temporary employees work out they will be moved to a position with the County. Justice White stated there was no money funded in the contract labor line in the Road Department. The slot will be funded when needed. Justice Burge handed out information for the tractor the landfill will be purchasing. There are 3 options. Lease /purchase, John Deere Financial and Farmer's Bank. The landfill also needs a bat wing mower and a disc. Discussion was held. Justice Burge moved the County purchase/lease the tractor as outlined in the handout. \$3,436.83 per month. (36 months). Total cost \$303,739.00. Second was made by Justice, Molly Jackson. Motion passed and will be presented to the Quorum Court. The landfill will be purchasing a bat wing mower for \$16,203.96. The landfill has hired 2 high school students to work the summer helping to clean up. Judge Nelson contacted ADEQ about the CAO. Dirt will be stockpiled from ditches around the County. Some dirt may have to be purchased. Our compactor lease will expire December 31, 2019 and it takes 6 months to get a new one. The compactor will cost around \$13,751.00. Justice Nelson made a motion to allow the Judge to move forward on the compactor. Second was made by Justice Burge. Motion passed.

3. County Clerk, Janice Currie asked Justice White to create an additional slot in the Osceola Courthouse for a janitor/handyman. Mrs. Currie stated we have a person that is working in the Courthouse now thru a Workforce Program. Justice Ash stated the Personnel Committee approved the slot. The Personnel Committee also recommended moving the janitorial slots to 40 hours per week. The salary will be \$23,834.00 Justice Nelson made a motion to create and fund the slot in the Osceola Courthouse. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

4. Judge Nelson handed out information on a project the County is looking into. We have talked to AR DOT about the mowing on I-55. Mississippi County is always grown up. AR DOT mows the interstates 3 times a year. Other Counties and other cities go together to help fund extra mowing cycles. Reliable Right of Way has the contract for this year. The cost will be \$50,000.00 per mowing. Information has also been sent to all the Mayors. The County

will be repairing the new cut road to Plum Point Energy. The State Hwy. Dept. will not be able to repair the road for 18 months. A private contractor has been contacted. The cost of repairs will come from the asphalt budget in the Road Department.

5. Economic Development has 2 projects. 1. NuArk Commitment. They are a manufacturing company in Blytheville. They want to add 10 jobs @\$10,000.00 per job for Mississippi County residents. Total \$100,000.00. \$5,000.00 for Dunklin & Pemiscott Counties. 2. White Gold Mills in Wilson. The commitment is 55 jobs @ \$12,000.00 for Mississippi County residents only. Total \$660,000.00. Motion was made by Justice Nelson to accept the commitments. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed and will be presented to Quorum Court.

6. Justice White stated we will be looking at JESAP in July to reach midpoint. We have increased our payroll by \$1/2 million over the past few years. We will be looking at total cost to bring the lower paid employees closer to midpoint. Justice Ash stated it would cost around \$123,000.00 to finish the year. Fire Police & Safety Committee will be getting more information for the healthcare contract in the jail.

7. Justice White made a presentation for OEM Officer, Wayne Reynolds. Homeland Safety Systems Inc. has a proposal for a new security system for the Osceola Courthouse. Total Cost \$39,210.69. The County received a grant for \$15,000.00. The Court Automation Fund will give \$20,000.00. The remainder will come from the Osceola Courthouse Construction Fund. Justice Burge made a motion to move forward with the security system. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed and will be presented to Quorum Court.

8. Treasurer, Peggy Meatte did not have a report today.

9. Judge Nelson presented a spread sheet that will help track the costs of the Courthouse Renovation. We may be able to move to ANC around August 1st.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Cindy George