

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Major, Rob Rounsavall; Sheriff, Daryl Cook; Collector, Susan McCormick; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Juvenile, Daryl Turner; Finance, Kelli Jones; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Mark Brasfield.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White stated this was our regular Finance Meeting. November 30 would be 92% of the year. Elected Officials are under budget. County Clerk 78%, County General 82%, County Road 70%, County Landfill 105%. Misleading because \$1.2 million was put into CD's. Actual 67%.

2. Resolution for Correnti/Kennemore Parkway.

3. Appropriation Ordinances. Christmas bonus. Finance Committee gave the employees a bonus of \$600.00 for full time and \$300.00 for part time. Payable Dec. 31, 2019. Justice White stated the Quorum Court was not participating in the bonuses. Justices of the Peace do not qualify or participate in any type of bonuses or the normal raise process. The Court is regulated by State Laws as to what we can maximum out over the year. 28 meetings at \$309.00 per diem. Justice Jackson asked if payroll could be delayed 2 days after the Quorum Court Meeting so the bonus could be received before Christmas. County employees actually turn in time that has not been worked. Corrections have to be made on payroll and creates additional work for the payroll clerk. Kelli Jones stated in 2017 payday was moved from Friday to Tuesday. Judge Brassfield was in office at the time. The change was made at bonus time in 2017. The bonus was given on the Friday that employees were normally paid and regular payroll came out the next Tuesday. Payroll could be delayed until Thursday without a lot of trouble. All employees would have to be notified of the change. Justice Nelson stated if the dates are changed the employees should be notified a month in advance. Justice Jackson agreed. Justice Ash suggested to pay the bonus on regular payday, Tuesday. Switch the payday to Friday. Paychecks would then be received every 2 Fridays. Justice White asked the Elected Officials present for their thoughts. Assessor, Harley Bradley said the employees would like to have it before Christmas and would not like their paycheck to be held 2 days. Collector, Susan McCormick said 2 days can make a difference. Justice White said the bonuses would be received the 31st and moving paydays will be discussed after the first of the year.

4. Justice White asked the Elected Officials if they had anything that needed to be addressed for the Quorum Court meeting next week.

5. 2020 budget. Craighead County is also trying to finish their budget this week. County General was looked at last week. Kelli has e-mailed the County Road Fund, Solid Waste, Senior Citizens and County Jail. County Waste Revenues and Expenditures. Justice White stated the landfill receives about \$300,000.00 per month. Expenses around \$200,000.00. The extra money was put into CD's. Justice Burge is working with Kelli to finish his budget.

6. Justice Nelson is Chairman of the Insurance Committee. The committee met with Stephens Insurance. Their proposals were better than current insurer LS & Associates. The committee recommended to go with Option 2 from Stephens. QualChoice. The option had a \$1,500.00 deductible and \$4,500.00 out of pocket max. The committee wanted to explore what a \$1,000.00 deductible would be. The new options came in this morning. Justice Nelson asked the Committee if they would consider Option 3. \$1,000.00 deductible. \$3,000.00 out of pocket. Drug co-pays. 10/40/60/100. Inpatient hospital co-pay \$200.00 plus deductible. Option 2 would be \$105,000.00. Option 3 \$200,000.00 cost to the County. Option 4. Would be an increase of 18.9%. Kelli stated the deductible last year was \$2,500.00 with an option to buy down to \$500.00. Justice Jackson made a motion to go with Option 3 QualChoice. \$1,000.00 deductible. Second was made by Justice Bill Nelson. Motion passed.

7. Justice White received a letter from Mayor Sally Wilson. District Court operational expenses, clerk salaries and health insurance premiums. Attached is the 2019 invoice for ½ salaries and insurance. The invoice shows that ½ of the insurance had not been reimbursed since 2016. The Arkansas Statue breaks down the District Court cost into two categories. Operational expenses and salaries. The County has reimbursed ½ salaries but not insurance benefits. The City of Osceola views the unpaid insurance premiums as salaries. Also attached is a quote from Sky Cop for several street security cameras and license plate readers. One of the cameras would be placed at an intersection by the Courthouse, another between the Courthouse and levee. The City hopes the County will reimburse \$22,716.98 for ½ of the insurance premiums from 2016 until now. The reimbursement will be put on the purchase of the sky cops. \$29,503.86. The County pays the same expenses for the Osceola District Court and Blytheville District Court. Arkansas Association of Counties was contacted for guidance on what was to be paid. The County is not responsible for insurance. Since 2016 the County has not paid insurance premiums for either Osceola or Blytheville. Justice Nelson asked what the County's obligation was. Justice White stated the County is meeting our obligations. No action will be taken now.

8. The 2020 budget will be presented December 17, 2019 at the Quorum Court meeting.

9. County Road Fund. Revenues \$5,000,000.00. Expenditures \$3,519,642.00. \$1.5 million surplus. The County Judge has control over the road funds. Justice White stated the Judge uses his gravel fund. This is to the benefit of the County.

10. County Jail and Maintenance Fund. County General supplements the revenues of the County jail to keep it operating. By State law we have to be able to house inmates. 2018 was easier on the County because we received the Blytheville jail fees that were not paid for several years. \$900,000.00 extra revenue. We did not receive that this year and will not receive it next year. Revenues will be short and will be made up from County General. Kelli stated \$1.25 million was budgeted from County General to the jail. Nov. 30 the revenues were \$3,161,542.00, expenditures \$3,647,070.00. Difference \$486,436.00 short. Sheriff Cook will work on the expenditures. Justice White and Kelli will work on revenues. Local sales tax 2017, \$1,576,000.00, 2018 \$1,656,000.00. \$1,600,000.00 budgeted for 2019. 2018 received from State \$267,000.00. Sheriff Cook stated the County jail is keeping less inmates now.

State revenues are down. \$225,000.00. Jail fees for 2019 \$287,000.00 budgeted. Received \$87,000.00. \$180,000.00 difference in revenues from 2019 to 2020. Balance from County General and request \$1.4 million. Increase sales tax to 1.650 million. Transfer from County General \$350,000.00. Total \$1.475 million. Carry across what was budgeted last year.

11. Senior Citizens. State funds were reduced. Kelli stated the 3 funds the Sr. Center has will be combined into one. Revenues projected. \$504,378.90. Total revenues now \$526,394.76. Expenditures. \$740,040.00. Short \$213,686.76. Included is a spreadsheet that shows categories. Kelli stated she thinks there were 3 or 4 categories that are high. Adjustments will have to be made. Account 2005, food and supplies Total spent this year \$85,000.00. 2020 request \$151,000.00. 2007. Fuel. 2020 request \$29,000.00. 2023 repair, parts and auto. 2020 request \$15,200.00. 3012 service contracts. 2020 request \$26,000.00. Kelli will meet with Amanda about the adjustments. The County budgets \$238,000.00 per year for the center.

12. County General balance. \$1.8 million. \$1.3 million in CD's. Additional tax settlements will be received before the end of the year. The end of the year County General should be between \$5 & \$6 million. Checking & CD's combined.

14. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George