

**ENERGY & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 17, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Michael White; Justice, Alvin Clay; Revival Architecture, Aaron Ruby; Finance, Kelli Jones; Public Relations, Steven Savage; Judge, John Alan Nelson; NEA Tow Courier, Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Rick Ash. Justice Ash turned the meeting over to Aaron Ruby.

2. Mr. Ruby gave an update on the renovation project and where the County stands. The Courthouse Project has bid. There were 4 bidders. Lowest bid \$11.1 million, highest \$13.2 million. Bid was expected to come in around \$11.9 million. Bid came under budget. When the bids are competitive we talk to the lowest bidder to see if they are comfortable their bid. \$833,000.00 spread between CNI ( Construction Network Inc.) and the next bidder Alexis Keys Architecture. \$11.9 million. The company is obligated to provide everything in the drawings and specs. Justice Ash stated CNI built the aviation and nursing center for ANC.

3. Justice Burge asked if the bid included the roof project. The roof project was not included. There were separate bids and contractors. Renaissance Roofing from Chicago specializes in high end roofs. Renaissance roofing will be doing the roof, flashing but no brick or stucco repair. \$80,000.00 would come back to the County to have CNI do the scaffold. Renaissance will be asked to handle the terra cotta on the Osceola Courthouse. Justice Ash asked if the air conditioning units will remain one the roof of the Blytheville Courthouse. They will be removed. Justice Nelson asked about a 2” stub for the irrigation system. The water company increases the monthly fee for a larger stub. Justice Burge asked how were with the budget. Mr. Ruby stated we need to be at \$11.4 million. The bid was \$11.1 million. \$300,000.00 less on overall budget.

4. Justice ask asked about Porter Brownlee, an owners representative on construction projects. He would represent the County at construction meetings. Regular visits would be made every one to two weeks to inspect the work. Judge Nelson stated Porter Brownlee will make the judgment calls. Cost around \$108,000.00. Roof project not included. The County would pay him. Justice Ash stated by State law you have outside engineers coming in to do inspections. The general contractor has inspectors included in their bid.

5. Time line for the roofs. Blytheville will be first. The roof should be finished by summer. Osceola repairs should probably finished by the end of 2020. Copper and some slate will be removed from the roof in Osceola.

6. Justice White asked if the Blytheville City Council was going to close Chickasawba. Judge Nelson stated he had spoken with several of the members. Closure of the road would improve safety. Before 1923 Chickasawba was not behind the Courthouse. Justice Burge stated under the plan Railroad Street would remain open. The foundation for the old jail may be in the parking lot of the Courthouse. The canopies on the Courthouse were copper and glass.

The plan included putting them back on the west side. New addition will be 24ft. from Chickasawba.

7. Interior Design. Budget \$750,000.00 for furniture. Porcelain tile in public spaces, bathrooms, high quality millwork, marble lobby, marble corridor walls, tile floors, windows, light fixtures. All walls doors and windows will be removed. Windows will be restored. Some doors will be kept. This includes all new furniture in the Courtroom, pews, jury seating, offices. We have talked with the Elected Officials and know what their needs are for workstations. There will be a second project where the furniture will be bid. Judge Nelson stated what is removed will be stored. New guardrail in balcony, handrails and stairs.

8. Entergy will charge \$36,000.00 to take utilities out. The raised foundation is being excavated to set the poles. Electricity will be removed, tower taken down and moved. Extension Office will be torn down.

9. Justice Ash asked if the trees on the Courthouse lawn were staying. Aaron stated some of the larger trees will be staying.

10. Justice Ash asked if the County wanted to hire Porter Brownlee to oversee the construction of the Courthouse. The \$108,000.00 would be considered part of the bond money. Justice Ash asked for a motion. Motion was made by Justice, Betty Hepler to take the request to Finance. Second was made by Justice, Jo Ann Henton. Justice Hepler amended her motion to allow Porter Brownlee to be hired immediately. Second was made by Justice, Jo Ann Henton. Motion passed.

11. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George