

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Betty Hepler; Economic Development, Clif Chitwood; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Collector, Susan McCormick; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. All Elected Officials were on budget. County General 99%, County Roads 93%, Solid Waste, 2 CD's that were purchased shows 114%, take them out 76.74%, County Jail 103%. Grand total 73% for the County. Blytheville Courthouse construction is included in this budget. Osceola Courthouse construction \$2 million. County General \$2.71 million in checking, CD \$3.36 million. Total County General \$6.1 million. Justice White stated this might be the best shape the County has been in.

2. Nucor Paint Project. \$675,000.00 total. \$18,000.00 for Mississippi County residents, \$9,000.00 for bootheel residents. 50 jobs. Motion was made by Justice, Bill Nelson to appropriate the money for the project. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

3. Tadzo Study. Developing a new web site. Cliff Chitwood recommended to go with Option A. \$51,115.00. Motion was made by Justice, Bill Nelson to appropriate the money for the new website. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

4. Mr. Chitwood would like to hire an additional person to be an External Vice President, promote Tamika Jenkins to Internal Vice President. Economic Development Budget now is \$396,000.00. Asking for an additional \$150,000.00. Total \$546,000.00. Motion was made by Justice, Bill Nelson to increase their budget from \$396,000.00 to \$546,000.00 and allow Economic Development to employ an additional person. Salary \$87,500.00 plus benefits. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Justice Burge stated several of the Justices had concerns and suggests it go to the full Court for discussion. The Finance Committee recommends to take the request to Quorum Court for discussion. Motion on the floor move the request to the Quorum Court further discussion. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court for discussion.

5. Justice Nelson stated Economic Development has about \$2.1/2 million appropriated for certain projects that will not be used. The money will be put back into Economic Development. Does this need to go before the Finance Committee. Justice White stated it could be taken care of in the P & D Committee.

6. Personnel Committee recommendation. A part time position was funded for the Finance Department. We are asking the Finance Committee to re allocate the money to allow Kelli Jones to move to a 40 hour week. Eliminate the part time position. This will increase the annual salary from \$41,758.00 to \$51,397.00. Justice Nelson stated this was not a raise but

**an increase in hours. \$12,675.00 will be moved from part time line item and add \$9,639.00 to full time. \$1,476.00 will be added to retirement line. Motion was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed.**

**7. Landfill Assistant Scale House Operator. Personnel Committee recommends to eliminate this position. Money will go back to landfill funds. Motion was made by Justice, Neil Burge to de fund the slot. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson.**

**8. Justice Burge asked about the service contract renewals. No money was budgeted for any departments. Justice White stated most of the contracts should come from automation funds.**

**9. Justice White asked about the \$2 million dollar landfill project. Justice Burge stated we have the money to pay for the construction of the new cell. Balance in the landfill \$2.2 million. CD and checking account.**

**10. New voting machines. Janice stated they will be having training sessions. Election Commission and main people will be trained first followed by poll workers. The Election Commission has 18 polling places.**

**11. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**