

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020 2:30 DIXON 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; Senior Citizens Center, Amanda Adams, Barbara Mitchell; Collector, Susan McCormick; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Harban Mangat; Finance, Kelli Jones; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; Angie Nelson; Judge, John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier, Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White handed out Senior Citizen Center revenue budget worksheets from 2007-2019. There are 3 accounts in the Senior Citizens Budget. Senior Citizens main fund, Senior Citizens transportation fund, Senior Citizens program income fund. Transfer from County General Fund are what the County gives. Revenues are from County taxes. Federal and State monies change every year. 2008 and 2009 the hospitals were on the verge of closing. The County poured everything into keeping them open and that hurt other funds. Budget presented in October 2019 was \$63,000.00 short for 2020 revenues. The County has not cut any funding. Federal and State funding has been cut.

2. Judge Nelson stated he doesn't believe the Federal and State funding cuts will stop here. The lift van is 20 years old and has electrical problems that probably can't be repaired and needs to be replaced. The van is used to transport to chemo, wound care, Dr. appointments etc. Replacement would cost around \$38,000.00 to \$42,000.00. To use the state bid process would probably be the end of the year. Total needed \$105,000.00. Other vehicles used by the center are costing more in repairs than they are worth. Amanda stated the Center has looked into closing 2 days a month. Angie Nelson stated she and Judge Nelson had delivered meals on wheels. Justice Fleeman stated that may be the only people they have contact with. Judge Nelson is working with the Mayor's to possibly help fund the Center. The City of Osceola donates the building and utilities. Justice White asked about getting a grant writer to find grants to help. Justice Norvell asked if the Center has fund raisers. Amanda stated they have several a year. The center gets help with the Governor' rainy day fund. Legislation will be petitioned to get the money distributed partially to Sr. Citizens Centers. Amanda presented how the monies are split between Counties. Mississippi County does not receive a lot of the money. Collector, Susan McCormick asked if it was legal for donations. Nucor has recently donated an ice maker. Volunteer groups do not help with deliveries. All meals are delivered by County employees. Average cost per meal is \$8.92.

3. The center has 17 vehicles across the County. 2014 is the newest vehicle and has 107,000 miles on it. You need match money to be able to get a vehicle thru a grant. Justice Norvell stated that would be something to bring before the Court. Justice Ash asked how many passengers the lift van held. Barbara stated the driver, a passenger seat, 2 regular wheelchairs or one electric. 20 to 25 seniors use the van but are being turned down now. The cost to the senior to call transport is around \$35.00 one way to the hospital.

4. Justice White stated to meet the cuts the Center needs \$63,000.00 additional dollars. \$42,000.00 for a new lift van. \$105,000.00 total. Current appropriation is \$238,000.00. Motion was made by Justice, Molly Jackson to appropriate \$105,000.00 to the 2020 Senior Citizen Budget. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

5. Meeting adjourned.

**Minutes submitted by:
Cindy George**