

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 16, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Collector, Susan McCormick; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Finance, Kelli Jones; Harban Mangat; Chief Strategist, J.T. Harris; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White stated the end of February was 16.7%, all Elected Officials are below budget, County General 15%, County Roads 14%, Solid Waste 17%, Senior Citizens 13%, County Jail 14%. Sheriff Cook has purchased about ½ the cars that were appropriated. Justice Burge stated \$538,000.00 was spent on the first installment for the new cell at the landfill. Road Department has been spending money buying gravel for the roads. Red clay gravel and rock have been stockpiled. Judge Nelson stated we're transitioning from slag to red clay gravel. We were getting the gravel from Harrisburg. Around 600 truckloads. \$250,000.00 was appropriated for the 2020 budget. The road department has more funds to purchase more gravel if needed. The County has 1100 miles of roads to maintain.

2. Landfill. Half a million dollars has been spent for opening the new cell. There were some property taxes that we did not know we had to pay. Over \$10,000.00. Justice Burge stated it was designated for 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020. Leased equipment was assessed. In the lease agreements for equipment at the landfill and some equipment that Ritter has states in the contract the County will pay the property taxes. Legislation was passed and will exempt both the County and the person owning the equipment from being assessed. RL Persons has been stockpiling supplies needed to build the new cell. The weather has been to wet to do any work. \$1 million CD will be maturing in April. The new compactor is operational. The new cover for the cell has been delayed.

3. Economic Development. Clif Chitwood has a request regarding Mr. Davis Pickles. There was too much money put in the line item for rent. Rent will be paid for 12 months. \$35,000.00 left. Mr. Chitwood requested \$32,500.00 be moved to the project line. Justice Nelson stated there was not a problem with the request. Justice Jackson asked if that was the understanding with Mr. Davis. The rent contract is verbal. The contract states Mississippi County will pay rent, insurance, utilities, security. Justice Nelson stated the rent will not be paid after 12 months and Mr. Chitwood took care of the contract. Justice Nelson stated \$50,000.00 has been appropriated for Mr. Pickle to use. When that money is used the project will be complete. 5 people have to be hired. Justice Jackson stated \$15,000.00 is for capital expense, \$35,000.00 for infrastructure. If the money is moved the contract needs to be redone. Justice Nelson stated we could move the money and ask Mr. Chitwood get a new contract that would fit how the money was moved. Motion was made by Justice, Bill Nelson to move the money as requested by Mr. Chitwood. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed.

4. Sheriff's Department. The department has purchased a drone. Nucor Hickman/Nucor Yamato were the donors. Justice Norvell stated the drone could be used for several things. Donations for the drone were \$4,621.90. When taxes are added \$5,084.09. Difference of \$450.00. Kelli Jones stated the small equipment line item has \$40,000.00. Justice Ash stated a tazer payment will be coming out of that line item.

5. Finance. Family medical leave and Cobra. Finance Director, Kelli Jones stated CAS is handling some of our insurance needs. The HRA for Medicare reimbursements. In the past other companies have handled Cobra. The cost was covered by our broker. There are a lot of IRS regulations and rules that need to be followed. We have received a proposal from CAS and have not seen the contract yet. Minimum monthly fee \$150.00. Cobra and FMLA is .50 for each eligible employee per month. 185 to 195 full time employees would be eligible. \$200.00 per month for the remainder of the year. \$2,000.00. Motion was made by Justice, Bill Nelson to appropriate \$2,000.00 to hire CAS to take care of Cobra and FMLA. Second was made by Justice, Molly Jackson. Motion passed. Justice White stated the eligible Medi care payments will be around \$350.00 per month compared to \$900.00 per month per employee. The County will be saving \$500.00 per month per employee.

6. Performance Health. The issues with non - payment from Gerber. Performance Health's attorney Dave Nichol is working with Gerber. Kelli stated Performance Health is trying to get a judgment from a Judge to make Gerber to pay. We had a signed contract with Gerber for a stop loss amount. Gerber decided to change the contract. We did not agree to the change. The change was in January 2020. We have not received a list of back claims from Performance Health. The original stop loss contract was around \$800,000.00. The contract that was changed went to \$1.6 million.

7. Treasurer. Peggy stated she had received a quote from Apprentice for the new server. After visiting with Norris, we would need a new server for the Collector, Assessor, Finance, Treasurer and Landfill. \$44,000.00. Includes a 3 year service maintenance. Could possibly be 4 weeks before they are back with the server and start training on the new software. Justice White asked how many Elected Officials would be involved. 4 or 5 total. How will this server be funded? There are automation funds that could be used. Judge Nelson stated everyone would be able to communicate with the same software. Norris will do the hardware, tech support. Collector, Susan McCormick offered to pay for the server out of her automation fund.

8. Payroll asked for clarification on mileage for Leslie Mason to travel to the Burdette Courthouse from her office. Personnel meeting will be called to discuss with Mrs. Mason. Payments on mileage will be held until after the meeting.

9. Judge Nelson stated Mississippi County had been ranked 20 in the State of Arkansas for transparency. We are trying to get to number 1. Our website now is limited and will be looking into expanding it or going to a new one.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George