

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 22, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Blytheville Emergency Squad, Bernard Beecy, Anthony Brewer, Kimberly Godsey, Seth Wyatt, Rickie Gallant, Barry Ray, Joshua Shelton, Heather Folkner; Coroner, Mike Godsey; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Collector, Susan McCormick; OEM, Wayne Reynolds; JP Elect, Tobye McClanahan; Attorney, Jeremy Thomas; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Crier, Joseph Fondren, Jonet' Washington, Mark Brasfield; County Judge, John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Justice Michael White. Judge Nelson called the meeting today. There was another order of business with Economic Development that needs to go over with Justice Nelson and Mr. Thomas. Meeting was turned over to Judge Nelson.

2. Judge Nelson turned the meeting over to Wayne Reynolds for an update on COVID. Mr. Reynolds stated there was around 60 cases and around 40 recoveries. Only around 20 active cases in the County. With more testing I believe the cases will increase. Mr. Bradley stated there was another death this morning. The Finance and Administration Department has a grant available. The amount set aside for Mississippi County is \$58,008.00. The grant has to be submitted before the first of June. If anymore emergency protective measures are needed for your offices I need the information by Wednesday, May 27. Cost estimates are needed.

3. Judge Nelson stated the reason the meeting was called was to bring everyone up to date on what the County Judge's Office has come aware of. Everyone was sent an e mail with an attachment from Attorney, Taylor Marshall. J.T. also contacted the Association of Counties. Judge Nelson showed what the budget will have after the \$200,000.00 is taken out for the Blytheville Emergency Squad. On line 35 the construction contingency fund shows \$350,000.00 and then on line 70 shows \$200,000.00 taken out. I spoke with Porter Brownlee and we are above 90% in deconstruction. Most of the contingency money was planned to be used in the deconstruction. Aaron Ruby did not believe there would be problem taking the money out. The latest fund balance at the Treasurer's Office was about \$4.5 million dollars in County General. Judge Nelson asked if the Court was planning on attaching a document with the Ordinance that will be presented to Quorum Court. Justice White asked what type of document. Judge Nelson stated the one Mr. Marshall had pointed out. Justice Jackson stated she made the motion to purchase at fair market value. I may need to amend my motion to say cost of replacement. Justice White stated we had an appraisal from J. T. Harris. Judge Nelson stated J. T. was to find out what it would cost to build another building or move it. \$197,000.00. Justice White stated he felt if we were removing the building for the parking lot we need to compensate them for the loss of the building. Justice White stated the Court would still have to appropriate the \$200,000.00 to cover the claim. The Emergency Squad would have to file a claim in County Court for a loss of \$200,000.00. Judge Nelson took the position that the money should come from County General but if the Quorum Court

wanted it to come from somewhere else I would like to have some paperwork The Ordinance in Quorum Court specifies coming out of construction fund. Justice Jackson's motion was to take the money from the construction fund. Justice Norvell spoke with Mr. Marshall and asked him what would happen if someone filed a law suit. Mr. Marshall stated you would have to pay it back. Justice Burge stated he didn't see a problem. Quorum Court was comfortable with moving forward with the Ordinance as written.

4. Energy & Property Committee. The Energy & Property Committee does not have much control or input on how the money is spent. Justice Burge asked if the spread sheet received was from Aaron Ruby. We are down to \$3,123.00 left that hasn't been committed. We need to scale back now or the money will be coming from County General. Aaron Ruby stated if the project needs to be scaled back now is the time to do it. Submittals will be coming up. Justice Ash gave an example. The supervisor of the project said there was not an outside disconnect. A way was designed to put a shunt breaker on the outside of the building and will be located inside a locked box. Had the electrical room been left on the wall outside where you had to go thru 1 door instead of three it might have been waived. Boxes are around 400.00. Justices have asked if the appropriation could be rolled back to get better control. Justice Norvell stated he would like to know what we are buying before buying it. Bills are seen after they are paid. Justice Jackson stated we are using County money on the renovation project. Demolition of concrete slab and County Extension Office. The Road Department tore them down which is legal because it was County property. This is a big project and needs to be monitored by Energy & Property. Judge Nelson stated on the scale we have inputs, allowances and contingency. We are financially where we should be in the budget. The Quorum Court needs to be better informed. Justice Henson stated she was on the Energy & Property Committee and the public has asked me about some things. When this committee meets and bring it to the full Court we will be better informed. I had no knowledge of some things in the paper. Justice White stated we have spent roughly \$5.7 million, Osceola Courthouse \$2 million. In the construction CD fund \$8.6 million. Appropriations would be handled on a monthly basis. Energy & Property would meet the week before Finance with the Judge, Aaron Ruby and any JP's. to go over what was anticipated to be spent in the next 30 to 60 days. The committee would look over the expenditures before they happen and not after. Committee would recommend to Finance the expenditures. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to have the Energy & Property committee to meet and look at expenditures and appropriate money as needed and reduce Blytheville Construction by \$3 million. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion was made by Justice Jackson for a Resolution to have the Committee meetings on a regular basis to see the forecast of expenditures. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motions passed.

5. Planning & Development. The appropriation Ordinance to modify employee expenses for ANC and other purposes. Attorney, Jeremy Thomas has received the correct account number for the \$25,000.00 salary commitment.

6. Brandon Bryan law suit. Attorney fees and costs to Plaintiffs. Mr. Thomas stated the payment was due May 29. Total \$38,021.50. Motion was made by Justice Bill Nelson to

**appropriate the \$38,021.50 to pay legal fees. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed. Will go to Quorum Court.**

**7. Justice Burge handed out a spread sheet showing the first 4 months at the landfill. Judge Nelson stated we were pumping seep water for the new cell. The rain had kept us from accomplishing what we had expected. Justice White said we were going to make budget.**

**8. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**