

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MEETING
MAY 21, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Michael White; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Economic Development, Clif Chitwood; JP Elect, Harbans Mangat; NEA Town Crier, Joseph Fondren, Judge, John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Bill Nelson. Meeting was turned over to Mr. Clif Chitwood.

2. Mr. Chitwood stated Nucor has been in an expansion mode for some time. We have voted 2 incentive packages for them. The first incentive package with the vote the Finance Committee made to move \$783,000.00 back into the Nucor segregated account. That will be cleared out as well as part of the 2nd package. Nucor is moving forward with a third set of hiring. 100 jobs. Based on the 2 packages they have been hiring Mississippi County residents. The Great River Foundation has voted on this request. They are asking the Court to appropriate up to \$1.8 million. The maximum they could draw. \$18,000.00 for each Mississippi County resident hired and \$9,000.00 for residents of Dunklin and Pemiscot. Justice Burge asked what the expansion be. Mr. Chitwood stated galvanizing line. Justice Burge stated the original \$1.8 million was a coal mill expansion. Mr. Chitwood stated then a paint line expansion was done. The steel mill has to bid on these expansions. I think it is important to show Nucor that Mississippi County is a good solid partner in Economic Development. Justice Fleeman asked about the \$783,000.00. Mr. Chitwood stated when he gets the reports from Nucor that amount will be cleared out. Justice Burge asked if Nucor was submitting invoices. According to Shep Russell with the Friday Law Firm we can reimburse. We do not have to run thru the County bid system. Nucor does their own bidding. Nucor then submits the invoice for proof of payment. (Cancelled check or bank draft). Nucor also submits a list of Mississippi County residents that are working. Mr. Chitwood stated the tax doesn't last forever and wants to have the amounts in place so we don't over promise. Motion was made by Justice, Neil Burge to appropriate Nucor Arkansas up to \$1.8 million for the creation of 100 additional jobs. Second was made by Justice, Fred Fleeman. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

3. Justice White asked if Economic Development had something in writing to give to the Finance Director, Kelli Jones. Justice Nelson stated he does not. Mr. Chitwood said he can get it in writing. This helps the Finance Department to get the right accounts.

4. Mr. Chitwood stated he is working with Big River Steel. They have been discussing Stage 1 & 2. 2A & 2B for about 18 months. We have asked them to send us a list of the people who live in Mississippi County and the bootheel that are working at the mill with their addresses so we can spot check those. Then we have a base line. The appropriation for the workforce person didn't pass because people were opposed to it or if it was confusing. How would the Court feel in my negotiations with BRS with making this incentive offer to let somebody be imbedded in their hiring department who would be there to help find Mississippi County residents. They would be an employee thru ANC and they would have all the people who have come thru the work program and other programs, temp agencies.

5. Justice Nelson stated at the last Quorum Court meeting Mr. Chitwood asked for \$25,000.00 to share with ANC for Missco hire advocates. When it was on the agenda it was set up for GREDA and not ANC. I think the Court would have approved if it was left like we discussed. Mr. Chitwood stated it was never supposed to be a Great River employee but a college employee. Justice Nelson stated it was to be shared with the college. \$25,000.00 from Economic Development. ANC would pay the rest. The position was an internship coordinator. Justice White asked who would supervise the coordinator. Gene Bennett will be the supervisor. Mr. Bennett is in charge of all training at ANC. Justice Nelson asked the committee how they felt about investing the \$25,000.00. The committee agreed it was a good idea. Motion was made by Justice, Michael White to appropriate the \$25,000.00 for the position of internship coordinator. Second was made by Justice, Fred Fleeman. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

6. Meeting adjourned.