

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 20, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Betty Hepler; Finance, Kelli Jones; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Tobye McClanahan; Sally Bennett; Public Affairs, Steven Savage.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. End of June 50% of the year. County General 48%, Roads 40%, Solid Waste 33%, Jail 44%, County Judge 48, County Clerk 45%, Circuit Clerk 47%, Treasurer 45%, Collector 42%. Revenues were expected to be down some because of the times with COVID-19. Treasurer, Peggy Meatte stated revenues were down in May in County General and County Roads. June revenues were back up. Mississippi County has done better than some other Counties. County General balance \$530,000.00.

2. Circuit Clerk Funds. The Circuit Clerk has ordered a new file server. The Circuit Clerk has several funds. Recorder Act 25%, Circuit Clerk Commissioner Fee, Osceola Circuit Clerk Recorder 25%, Circuit Court Recorder Act. #37 has a balance of \$141,402.00 New server was around \$30,000.00. Justice White has asked to get a list of the needs and meet with me and Peggy Meatte to go over the fund balances.

3. County Collector. Collector, Susan McCormick purchased the file server for the offices out of the automation fund. Cost \$58,753.93.

4. Sheriff's JAG Grant. \$57,007.00. The grant was to help with COVID-19 expenses. Received in May. Money needs to be appropriated so the Sheriff's Department can start using it. Justice Nelson made a motion to appropriate \$58,007.00 Sheriff's JAG money into line items 3512.0400.2002 & 3512.0400.2003. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will be presented to Quorum Court.

5. Energy & Property Committee. Justice, Molly Jackson had a recommendation to appropriate \$650,000.00 into the Courthouse funds. \$40,000.00 for asbestos removal. Designer has been hired for the decorative painting for the Courtroom. Period lighting has gone down \$10,000.00. Next Energy & Property Meeting will be held July 28th in the Blytheville Courthouse. Justice White asked Justice Jackson if she was familiar with the charge from the roofers for the Blytheville and Osceola Courthouses. All has been paid out of the Blytheville Courthouse fund. Some needs to be moved to Osceola. \$73,500.00. Justice Jackson will discuss at a later date. Budget is in good shape and can be left for now. Motion was made by Justice, Molly Jackson to appropriate \$650,000.00 from the Blytheville Courthouse construction bond money in to the construction fund. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

6. New trac loader landfill. Lease was \$785.72 more per month. \$4,714.92 for the remainder of the year. Justice Burge made a motion to appropriate \$4,714.92 in to account ending in

3073 to cover payment for the remainder of 2020 for the new trac loader. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

7. Tax Back Resolution. Mr. Chitwood failed to bring the Tax Back Resolution for White Gold in Wilson. Justice, Bill Nelson made a motion to present the Tax Back Resolution for White Gold and add to the agenda. Second was made by Justice, Neil Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

8. Superintendent, Sally Bennett. Rivercrest School District. Mrs. Bennett asked the Committee for help with internet for the students. Ritter was asked about putting access points at City Halls. I spoke with Judge Nelson and gathered quotes. We have to be able to offer off site instruction. The State has provided on online curriculum at no charge. Ritter had talked about a device that could be placed on a water tower that would send a long-range signal but was a third- party provider and they could not do it. Justice Nelson asked if Mississippi County Electric was working on this problem. Justice Burge stated it would be two years before they would be able to help. Rivercrest is not located where students can walk to the school for access. Justice Ash asked Mrs. Bennett about the students using their cell phones for a hot spot. Data became an issue. The District has purchased chrome books and chrome tablets for 1,109 students. Cost \$400,000.00. A student would have to be within 600 feet of the devices to access the internet. Justice Ash said a booster would go to 5000 feet. Federal Government gave some COVID-19 emergency services money. Blytheville received \$1.78 million. Rivercrest District received \$354,000.00. Most used for the purchase of the computers and PPE's. Justice White stated Mrs. Bennett was asking for the set up fee for 5 city halls @ \$725.00 each. \$2,700.00. Monthly fee \$150.00 per location per month. Taxes and service fees will be added. Justice Nelson asked why the Government money was not used to install the internet. The cost of the internet does not seem like a lot of money out of a school budget. The concern Justice Nelson had the Government gave the school district money and didn't use it properly to install the internet and now are asking us to do what could have been done with Government money. Justice, Neil Burge made a motion to fund the internet purchase for 12 months and evaluate at that time. \$8,200.00. Second was made by Justice, Molly Jackson. Mrs. Bennett was asked to attend the Quorum Court meeting to answer some additional questions. Justice Nelson voted no. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

9. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George