

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2020 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Rick Ash; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Michael White; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Sheriff, Dale Cook; Rivercrest School District, Sally Bennett; Finance, Kelli Jones; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Harban Mangat; County Attorney, Jeremy Thomas; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; Judge, John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Crier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Rick Ash. Sheriff, Dale Cook requested another SRO. Mrs. Bennett from Rivercrest School was in attendance. Meeting was turned over to Sheriff, Dale Cook. Sheriff Cook stated Mrs. Bennett requested another SRO for the other school building. School board met and has approved the numbers. Provides everything but a vehicle and uniforms. The Sheriff's department will help with an older vehicle. Interviews will be held after it passes Personnel and Finance. Mrs. Bennett appreciated the committee for hearing the request. The school board has approved \$52,418.59 for the position. Police & Fire had approved different positions for SRO's. One in Armored and one in Rivercrest. No cost to the County except for uniforms and a vehicle and is like a pass thru grant for the County. Justice Ash stated the committee needs to create a slot for the position. Salary \$34,121.00, social security and Medi-care \$2,610.00, retirement \$5,227.00, insurance \$10,460.00. Justice Nelson asked if the County did not have a slot now. The school security officer was being replaced by an SRO. Motion was made by Justice, Betty Hepler to create a slot for the SRO. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will go to Finance.

2. County Attorney, Jeremy Thomas stated he had seen the video from the last Personnel Meeting. The affidavit that was signed by Judge Nelson in connection with the legal action against the Quorum Court and Finance Departments. Judge Nelson has his attorney and the Quorum Court has their attorney. I have not been involved in the case. My involvement in the affidavit was I notarized the Judge's signature. I would have notarized anyone's signature but not now. I am neutral in this and not involved for either side. Explanation was appreciated.

3. Update on insurance. Mr. Thomas talked to Dave Nichol last week. All the Counties are signed on. 5 counties in Arkansas and 2 in Mississippi. Some private companies with the same issue are signed on. An arbitration agreement was being worked on. The law suite will not be held in a Federal Court but if arbitration breaks down the case will be heard in Federal Court. Three arbitrators will be picked. Justice White asked about a time frame. Mr. Thomas stated he hoped we could get in the next 6 to 8 months. Finance Director, Kelli Jones stated she gets calls every week from employees. Some employees have said some bills were paid. Mr. Thomas stated in open court the company would start paying claims. Justice Jackson asked if the employees were still getting collection notices. Mr. Thomas prepared a letter that could be sent collection agencies. Employees can be reimbursed for payments to keep from going to collections. Original contract was \$600,000.00. Middle of the year Gerber raised the contract to \$1 million.

4. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George