

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 202 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; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance, Kelli Jones; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Collector, Susan Short; Tobye McClanahan; Harban Mangat: Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Crier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White stated he would like to have budget submissions by October 1. 9 Justices, 4 Elected Officials, 2 JP Elects were present. August 31<sup>st</sup> 2/3 way thru the year 67%. Budget was in decent shape. Elected Official kept in budget. County Judge 67%, County Clerk 62%, County Treasurer 64%, County Collector 59%, Assessor 64%, Circuit Clerk 65%, County Sheriff General Fund 67%, County General 64%, County Roads 62%, Landfill 49%, County Jail 60%.

2. Landfill. Justice Burge stated if you pull the improvements out it calculated to 59%. Landfill revenue was projected \$500,000.00 short. According to Justice Burge's numbers the landfill was almost even with last year. Revenue thru August \$2.25 million. Ended \$3.6 million. Landfill had been running \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 behind. Thru August a few dollars ahead of last year. Justice White stated no money was spent hauling leachate in August. Kelli Jones stated the County was billed for July & August at the same time. Luxora does the billing. Waste Pro, other miscellaneous. Roll offs for McHaney Street, Holland, Armored. Judge Nelson stated they were dumpsters that were being used because the County did not do the County cleanup in the spring and will not have one in the fall. Temporary. \$100.00 per month per dumpster. Disc was purchased for \$41,500.00. Cell construction paid \$345,782.00. Contract was \$2,287.00. Paid thru August \$895,000.00. \$1.4 million owed. Balance \$2,53,000.00. Cell should be completed by November. \$4,600.00 fees to ADEQ. Property tax on equipment that was traded in \$16,085.00 was put under miscellaneous. \$1,994.00 in miscellaneous now. Some outstanding landfill bills over 60 days past due.

3. Courthouse budget. Over budget. 85%. Related to the move to Burdette. Building maintenance & grounds \$20,000.00, utilities were higher, interest charges to bank related to County credit card. Other county repair, maintenance, buildings. \$11,000.00 over budget. Justice Nelson asked why were doing business with Superior when Bugmobile was local. Justice Jackson stated there were several bug control companies doing business with the County. Pidgeon control in Osceola. \$500.00 per month. Justice Nelson asked if the County could suggest to all Elected Officials, Judge to use local services. Best One Tire was used to purchase tires for the road department. Sheriff and landfill purchased tires from County businesses.

4. County Roads. \$71,000.00 more spent on gravel. Line items can make up the difference. Justice White stated he spoke with Judge Nelson about transferring funds. Road & Bridges meeting may have been called to address this.

**5. Energy & Property.** The committee decided to pay all the fees for the roofing projects for both Courthouses from the Blytheville funds. \$73,500.00 court order was prepared to move the money. Interest from the checking accounts will be divided. CD interest went to the Blytheville fund. \$3,772,835.63 spent. Appropriation Ordinance for \$500,000.00 was recommended for the construction fund. Motion was made by Justice, Molly Jackson to appropriate \$500,000.00 to the Blytheville construction fund. Second was made by Justice, Burge. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court. Mr. Ruby asked for a proposal that will take most of the remainder of the Osceola roof project. \$266,719.50 spent. \$670,000 balance in Osceola. Additional change order \$50,000.00 to \$70,000.00. Justice Nelson asked how much a change order cost. Cost varied. No decisions were made on the courtroom painting. Farm land rent last year bids slipped by. Justice Jackson asked to be notified when bids go to the paper. Only one bid last year. Phones calls need to be made this year. Justice Burge commended the committee for the work they had done.

**6. County Treasurer.** County General balance \$1,095,000.00. Revenues for August were more than projected in County General and County Roads. Taxes were not great but should be better next month. Harley Bradley had been working on pilot agreements. Collector, Susan Short stated she looked for collections to pick up.

**7. Appropriation Ordinance for \$500,000.00 to construction.** Two Resolution for an SRO and part time employee in the County Clerk's office. Finance meeting for this month good and moved to projected revenues.

**8. Justice Nelson asked Harley Bradley about the pilot money from Osceola.** Big River Steel paid early. Two payments should be received from Osceola for \$166,000.00. County should receive \$228,415.00 from Blytheville. Pilot agreements looked good. \$1.2 million.

**9. 2020 projected revenues. County General Fund. 2020 budget \$8,540,892.90. 2021 request \$9,632,370.73. 90% of revenues were budgeted.** Kelli Jones stated we have not seen a difference in sales tax collection. Jail fees had gone down. Arkansas Counties had not sent projections for State revenues. County Jail Operation Maintenance Fund. 2019 budgeted \$3,578,657.60. 2010 request \$3,143,200.00. Solid Waste Fund. 2019 budgeted \$2,869,200.00. 2021 request \$3,185,000.00. County Roads. 2020 budgeted \$2,670,882.60. 2021 request \$3,199,821.00. Sheriff Cook stated jail fees are down. COVID-19 had affected the courts. Inmate count was half. Justice White asked Judge Nelson to work with Tony Stone and Justice Burge on the budget for the road department and landfill. Bottom line projection. \$3.042 million.

**10. Quorum Court September 22, 2020. No Finance meeting on Sept. 21, 2020.**

**11. Law suit.** County appropriated \$5,000.00 for Quorum Court legal fees. Invoice was received from Steele, Wright Gray LLC. \$6,200.00. Appropriation will be made at a later date.

**11. Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George