

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
JANUARY 19, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Harbans Mangat; Justice, Aaron Fleeman; Justice, Dr. Reggie Cullom; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Cecil McDonald; Justice, Betty Hepler; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Collector, Susan Short; Assessor, Harley Bradley; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance, Kelli Jones; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Revis Blaylock.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by 2020 Chairman, Justice Michael White. Chairman has not been elected. Justice Jackson made a motion to elect Justice, Michael White to chair the Finance Committee. Second was made by Justice Cullom. Motion passed.**
- 2. Elected Officials were within budgets. Co. Judge 102%, Co. Clerk 98%, Circuit Clerk 100%, Treasurer 99%, Collector 105%, Assessor 103%, Co. Sheriff 96%, Co, General 93%, Co. Roads 80%, Landfill 85%, Jail 94%. Judge Nelson lead us thru transition from Blytheville Courthouse to Burdette. JP's were e-mailed expenditures. Tax revenues up. Revenue dollars gone up. 2020 historically best financial position ever.**
- 3. Insurance. 2019 insurance claims outstanding. Could be \$1 million. Justice White stated the county needed to take a stand. Justice Cullom asked how slow was Federal Court. Could the budget stand to cover the unpaid claims. Second time insurance company has defaulted and left employees with unpaid claims. When there was an outstanding balance and they were referred to hospital system services could be refused.**
- 4. JESAP. Mississippi Co. salaries and job descriptions were compared to other counties. Number of positions were still in bottom quartile. Lower salary positions needed to be moved up. Dr. Cullom stated we needed to think about locations and not just how we compare with other counties.**
- 5. Kelli Jones stated the report was printed today. Included 2020 payments thru today back to 2020 budget. Reports would have a new format when new software is installed.**
- 6. County Solid Waste Fund. Landfill ended up in good position. New cell construction moved along. \$2 ¼ million project. Judge Nelson invited Justices for a tour. Class 1 completed shortly. Pond needed to be enlarged and a burm raised. Burm installed to split leachate 50/50. Half of water would be released into drainage ditches. Would be clean. Extra fund set back for potential new cell construction. Trust fund payment for post closure fund increased this year.**
- 7. Justice Jackson asked about Turn Key Health in jail budget. Ran over budget. Justice Ash stated some injuries may have gone to the hospital. Would be an additional cost. COVID may have been part of cost increase. Justice Cullom stated private physician handled the cases before. Hospital costs were higher. Justice Jackson would like to discuss with Sheriff Cook.**

8. County Roads. Under County Judge. 1100 miles of county roads. More gravel purchased than before. 1300 loads of gravel to put out in 2021. 50% stockpiled and paid for.

9. Treasurer, Peggy Meatte stated revenues for county general and county roads were above what was projected. Tax collection up.

10. Personnel assessments and pilot agreements up. Assessor's office was getting new software. 80% tax money went to the schools. 10% to county and 10% municipalities. Justice Jackson asked about maintenance agreements. Every office over budget. Mr. Bradley stated the offices were billed the end of the year. Budgets were made with estimates and final costs were not known until the end of the year.

11. Quorum Court. Ordinance for Planning & Development. A & J Aviation. Mr. David Pickles. Line items changed from construction to rent and insurance. Ordinance Mail Boxes & Beyond. Doing business with Mississippi County. 7:00 p.m. Burdette Courthouse.

12. New Courthouse budget. \$600,000.00 not allocated. Update interest on CD and checking accounts. Started 2021 with \$1.5 million allocated. Pay app for January under \$500,000.00. No appropriation needed this month. \$8.7 million left for Blytheville. Judge Nelson stated the Courthouse renovation was on time and under budget. Osceola roof repair going good.

13. Judge Jackson asked about the bird control in Osceola. \$500.00 per month. Several options are being looked into for the problem.

14. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George