

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021 1:00 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Aaron Fleeman; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Cecil McDonald; Justice, Reggie Cullom; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Michael White; Justice, Tobbye McClanahan; Finance, Kelli Jones; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Attorney, Jeremy Thomas, County Attorney, Jacob Holmes; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; Angie Nelson; Judge, John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier, Revis Blaylock:

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Aaron Fleeman. Justice Fleeman asked if the committee were familiar with the law suit. Jeremy Thomas stated he received a proposed scheduling order. Arbitration Association asked for information before conference call next week. Proposed dates for trial were September for the County and Gerber March 2022. Mediation date for County April 2021, Gerber September 2021. Justice Cullom stated the bills do not belong to the County but the employees. When negotiating we were doing it with the employees money. Justice Cullom stated the Court needed to find out what the amount owed on unpaid bills. Insurance was a benefit to the employees. Mr. Thomas stated if an employee had paid on past bills they should have their money refunded. Judge Nelson stated the County should not purchase any insurance that is not regulated by the State Insurance Commission.

2. Concerns from Justices. Justice Fleeman asked if the County were to pay the unpaid claims would the County be reimbursed. Mr. Thomas stated the County would get a certain amount of money. If the suit was lost the County would be out of any money paid on claims. Total \$2.8 million in un paid claims. Justice White stated if the County paid \$653,349.29 and the arbitration paid \$450,000.00. The County would be out remainder. Justice Ash asked if Performance Health could provide the EOB's on claims to be paid. Justice Cullom suggested we could ask for settlements. Some employees may be denied service because of past unpaid claims.

3. Mr. Thomas would contact Performance Health for information needed to see the amount of claims owed. Justice Fleeman would call a meeting when the information was received.

4. Jeremy Thomas stated the arbitration committee asked for one representative from each county be provided. Kelli Jones was the person receiving most of the complaints. The arbitration committee needs to know how the unpaid claims are affecting employees. Statements from the employees may be helpful. Letter had been drafted by Mr. Thomas to explain to collectors but had not been successful. Affidavits would be prepared for employees to enter complaints and information.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George