

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 14, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Aaron Fleeman; Justice, Reggie Cullom; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Cecil McDonald; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Tobye McClanahan; Attorney, Jacob Holmes; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance, Kelli Jones; Collector, Susan Short; Public Affairs, Tom Henry; Judge, John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. No Appropriations or Ordinances or moves to be made to the full Court. Treasurer didn't have anything for the Committee. County General balance a few weeks ago below \$200,000.00. Today back up \$236,270.00. County received first payment for the American Rescue Funds. Line item had been established to receive funds. First payment \$3,947,990.00. The fund would be audited and if the money was misspent the County would have to reimburse. 3 years to have a plan. Guidelines needed to be followed. Judge Nelson stated he would be attending a meeting concerning the Rescue Funds at the County Judge's Conference in Jonesboro, AR. There were two offices that would be making a request. Veterans Office from the Regional Director for equipment needed. County Judge's Office request for Tom Henry who replaced Steven Savage.

2. Year to date expenditures. Not all figures transported from the old software. Six month timeline. Payroll and Accounts Payable. \$236,276.00 in County General. \$3,947,990.00 in Rescue Plan Account, Road Fund \$1.8 million, Solid waste over \$1 million. Funds needed to be established for to pay for the next class 1 cell and post closure funding. Energy & Property no additional appropriations for this months. \$800,000.00 left appropriated after bills paid. Energy & Property in two weeks. Justice Jackson said Aaron Ruby reported all copper had been returned to the County.

3. Insurance. Justice Cullom asked about the Insurance payback for the unpaid claims in 2019. Justice Fleeman stated some providers were trying to renegotiate with the County. Discussion with Jeremy Thomas whether Performance Health were willing to administer if flat fee was paid and they sent the checks to the providers. Most providers were willing to take the negotiated price. Discussion to pay outstanding bills was held in January and is now June. Justice White stated money the employees had paid on claims would be reimbursed with accurate records. Performance Health was no longer the administrator. Current administrator would be contacted. Justice Cullom had someone in collections that was willing to help. \$1.4 million total figure. Negotiated amount \$658,000.00. Justice Fleeman asked Jeremy Thomas for an accurate figure. Justice Jackson asked if the County could give the money to employees to pay their bills. Employees would be responsible for payment and would have to sign off claims were paid. Justice White asked if we had an amount and the total claims where Gerber should pay. Arbitration may take a year to complete. Justices agreed to pay the \$658,000.00 if the arbitration was not affected. Letter of release would need to be signed. County needed to be paid not anyone else. Judge Nelson thought the County should take care of the bills. Payments should be paid to the providers.

4. Judge Nelson said a fund should be established to pay providers. Money would come from CD reserve and reimbursed when law suit settled. Jeremy Thomas was asked to attend the Quorum Court meeting if he was available. Auditors were contacted to see whether a line item or fund should be set up. Jacob Holmes would submit the bills to the Finance Department based on the negotiated price. Letter of release needed to be received from the providers.

5. Motion was made by Justice, Reggie Cullom to allow Treasurer, Peggy Meatte to work with a collection agency to create a potential position in contract labor and establish a line item for the payment of unpaid claims. Second was made by Justice, Aaron Fleeman. Jacob Holmes would prepare a Resolution. Employees were responsible for paying back the County if they received money from the arbitration.

6. Bonuses were given when raises couldn't be given. Justice Ash stated salaries could be raised and employees pay part of insurance premiums. Cafeteria plan so pre tax was given. Justice Cullom stated the County should stop premium shopping and buy good insurance. Quality insurance companies had been used for the past two years.

7. Quorum Court Tuesday, June 22. 7:00 p.m. Burdette Courthouse.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George