

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2021 6:00 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Neil Burge, Justice Reggie Cullom, Justice Rick Ash, Justice Cecil McDonald, Justice Betty Hepler, Justice Tobye McClanahan, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, Collector Susan Short, County Clerk Janice Currie, Attorney, Jeremy Thomas, County Attorney Jacob Holmes, Attorney Dave Nichol, Judge John Alan Nelson, Public Affairs Tom Henry, NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

**1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Justice White introduced the committee members and other Justices present. Process was started to pay the unpaid 2019 insurance claims to the providers. Hardships on several county employees. Bankruptcy, continued health care. Legal process took time. Claims totaled \$660,000.00. County government wanted to give employees and providers some form of relief. Meeting was turned over to Judge John Alan Nelson.**

**2. Jeremy Thomas gave an update of the arbitration. Dave Nichol was chief counsel in the arbitration. Depositions had been taken. Mediation scheduled September 7. Hearing scheduled for February 2022. Arbitration decision was not appealable. Mediator was making preliminary calls. Mr. Nichol felt there would be a resolution in early September. The resolution would be insurance company proposing they pay certain percentage of claims. Discussion would be needed to know what the range of the percentage would be acceptable to the county. Litigants involved besides Mississippi County were 7 other counties and one other group, stop loss Gerber Life. Justice Cullom asked if we would negotiate to pay a certain percentage of the bills or wait until negotiations were finished with Gerber. Mr. Nichol stated the county did not have to wait and the option to advance funding to pay claims. The county would be reimbursed by the settlement or judgement. Would the county get their money back from Gerber for negotiated settlement. Gerber would argue they were only responsible for the amount the county negotiated for the settlement. Recommendation. 60 to 70 cents on the dollar. Justice Ash asked if the county settled the claims and have to pay someone to negotiate would the county get reimbursed. Expenses would be repaid. Claims were owed by Gerber.**

**3. Unpaid Employee Health Insurance Claim Debt Settlement Plan.**

**A. Representatives of Performance Health will communicate directly with representatives of Healthcare providers and will negotiate a settlement for each individual county employee not to exceed their “August 12<sup>th</sup> balance”.**

**B. Miss. County Finance Dept. will communicate directly with representatives of Performance Health for the purpose of satisfying all unpaid employee insurance claims, not to exceed the “August 12<sup>th</sup> balance:.. The aggregate “Negotiated Balance” shall not exceed the appropriation fund established for the purpose.**

**C. Performance Health will provide a report to the Miss. Co. Finance Dept. that lists each employee name, social number, the “August 12<sup>th</sup> balance”, account/ reference/ tracking number, healthcare provider name, healthcare provider address and a formatted Microsoft Excel compatible “Comma Separated Values; data file. The August 12<sup>th</sup> balance in aggregate shall not exceed the appropriation fund that has been established for that purpose.**

**D. The County Attorney will prepare a “statement of release that will be incorporated as part of the record and will be completed with each settlement.**

**E. Performance Health will contact each of the healthcare providers on behalf of the county employee to arrange for payment/settlement to be made, but no payment/settlement will be made that exceed their August 12<sup>th</sup> balance.**

**F. If/when the “Negotiated Balance: is less than the “August 12<sup>th</sup> balance”, Performance Health will receive a “percentage of the difference” from Mississippi County as payment for services rendered in the settlement. The “county savings” will be left in the appropriation fund until all accounts are settled. When all accounts have been settled, remaining funds will be returned to the “CD” from which the funds originated.**

**G. County employees that made payments to their healthcare provider that should have been covered by the policy, will be reimbursed from the appropriation fund upon filing “proof of payment” with the Finance Department.**

**H. Payments will not be issued to Healthcare Providers until a completed “statement of release: is filed with the Miss. Co. Finance Dept. A complete “statement of release” includes a signature from the Performance Health representative that negotiated the settlement (acknowledging the payment has not exceeded the Healthcare Provider accepting the negotiated payment amount; the signature/initials of a Miss. Co. Finance Dept. employee indicating that the statement is complete correct; and the County Judge’s signature authorizing a check to be prepared and mailed.**

**I. Prior to reimbursement payments being issued to county employees, proof of payment must be filed with the Miss. Co. Finance Dept. Upon receiving “proof of payment”, the Miss. Co. Finance Dept. will send a signed letter to the County Judge indicating the “proof of payment’ had been filed and confirming the amount to be reimbursed. Upon receipt of the signed letter, the County Judge will also sign the letter authorizing a check to be prepared and mailed. See attached footnotes and example spreadsheet. Employees would also sign a release. Finance would take reports once a week and send to the Quorum Court members.**

**4. Performance Health would do the negotiation. Payments to providers would come from Finance. Health care provider needed to sign settlement, Performance Health sign, Finance review and initial, County Judge sign to have disbursement made. Justice White thought it was a good plan.**

**5. Treasurer Peggy Meatte thought she may need an extra person to help with the payments. The office has extra to take care because of the ARP Funds, audit. Most would be taken care**

**of thru e-mails. Justice White said part time help may be needed. Daily report from Performance Health was needed. Checks were to be written once a week. Social security numbers would be redacted. Contract would be done with Performance Health. Treasurer had no contract labor line in her budget.**

**6. CD would be cashed if needed.**

**7. Sept 13. Start of budget process with revenues. Expenditures will start October 1.**

**8. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**