

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 1:25 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Rick Ash, Justice Neil Burge, Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Betty Hepler, Justice Tobby McClanahan, Justice Cecil McDonald, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Michael White, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, County Clerk Janice Currie, Public Affairs Tom Henry, Sheriff Dale Cook, Captain Bo McCollum, Juvenile Officer Daryl Turner, Juvenile District Supervisor D.C. Barnes and *NEA Town Courier* Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Ash. Order of business today. Consideration of whether to forward the Sheriff's plan to close the juvenile jail and make personnel changes that would reduce costs which would be used to give raises to the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Justice Rick Ash began the meeting by recommending that the committee approve the plan and pass it on to the Finance Committee. Justice Molly Jackson make a motion that it be done, with Justice Michael White seconding. Justice Rick Ash explained that Blytheville now starts a brand-new person with no experience at \$33,000 and after one year that goes to \$37,000. Osceola starts at over \$40,000. Poinsett County, which is adjacent to Mississippi County, is starting their salaries now at \$39,000 and if they are certified when they come into the department start at \$40,500 (certification required and one-year employment and graduated the academy, plus they are adding \$200 per year of experience as a police officer)...we're not going to be able to match Poinsett County, but I think we're going to be close enough that somebody won't want to move over to Poinsett County over \$1,500 a year. Sheriff Dale Cook explained that every surrounding county, since Poinsett County passed its new one-cent sales tax for their Sheriff Department/Jail, is looking for money. If we don't, we're going to lose them. Justice Molly Jackson also explained that Financial Management Director Kelli Jones' handout included what the hourly rate would be, taking into consideration the number of hours worked by each slot. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Henry