

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 1:30 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

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

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael White. Order of business today. Consideration of Sheriff Dale Cook's plan to close the juvenile jail and make personnel changes that would create saving large enough to fund staff raises, appropriation of \$2 million for construction, regular monthly business and to continue reviewing projected 2022 revenues for annual county budgeting purposes. Motions passed.

2. Justice Rick Ash explained that the Sheriff's plan would eliminate about \$400,000 in salaries and ultimately save \$75,000 after raises. Savings also include eliminating the higher calorie diets and expensive medical requirements of juvenile inmates. Capt. Bo McCollum said it costs the county \$55 per day per juvenile, not including personnel costs. The plan calls for the juvenile jail to close effective October 3, 2021. Sheriff Cook stated that Craighead County charges \$45 per day for adults and \$65 per day for juveniles, but that the State only pays \$32 per day to us. Justice Harbans Mangat made the motion to follow the Personnel and Fire, Police and Safety Committees in recommending implementation of the raise schedule by closing the juvenile jail and by following the personnel changes offered by the Sheriff's Department. The motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Cook said he'd talk with Mr. Barnes to clear up transportation questions and communication gaps. He also asked for a list of all on-call Juvenile Office employees each day and requested that the Juvenile Office help transport non-violent offenders. Mr. Barnes said they would definitely work together to make things run smooth. Justice Michael White then explained that Financial Management Director Kelli Jones had send everyone monthly expenditures, year-to-date expenditures, a Budget Detail Report and a monthly Transactions Report. Mrs. Jones explained that the expense percentage didn't match perfectly with the transaction report because she had to combine the expenses from the old system (first quarter of the year) and the new system to be accurate. Justice White explained that the year-to-date numbers were through the month of August, through the first two-thirds of the year (66%). He added that he didn't see anything that just stood out to him. Justice Molly Jackson made a motion that the committee appropriate \$2 million for construction. Justice Harbans Mangat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The committee then turned its attention to proposed 2022 county revenues, reviewing 23 smaller and/or special revenue funds to continue this year's budgeting process. Mrs. Jones said there are still 14 more that have not been reviewed. Next, Justice White announced expenditure budgets would begin to be reviews on October 4.

3. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Henry