

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2021, 1:30 P.M.
ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Ceell McDonald, Justice Aaron Fleeman, Justice Neil Burge, Justice Molly Jackson, Judge John Alan Nelson, Sheriff Dale Cook, Major Robb Rounsavall, Captain Bo McCollum, County Clerk Janice Currie, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, Finance Director Kelli Jones, Mark Brasfield (NEA Town Courier), Public Affairs Director Tom Henry and Jeremy Bennett

1. Justice White called the meeting to order and continued the annual budgetary process. The committee discussed four expenditure budgets including the Road Department, Coroner, Judge Dan Ritchey and Sheriff/Jail budgets. The committee also examined projected revenue budgets from the Senior Citizen's Center, the Circuit Clerk Osceola Recorder 25%, Circuit Clerk Recorder 75%, Economic Development CD Fun, Sheriff Helicopter Fund, Sheriff Emergency Operations Fund, Economic Development, GIA Juvenile Grant Fund, JAG Grant Fund, LLEBG Grant Fun, Mental Health Grant Fund, and Courthouse Construction Fund.

2. Finance Director Kelli Jones told the committee the Senior Citizens Center would meet again next week to go over revenues because expenditures were considerably higher than revenues at this time. She added the Senior Citizens Center received quite a bit of CARES Act money this year, but it is unclear whether they will receive any more in 2022. Justice Michael White explained that the Senior Citizen Center is one of the county's larger supplements and that their portion of the county budget has varied from \$40,000 at one time to \$343,000 in 2020.

3. Road Department Superintendent Tony Stone presented his proposed budget essentially with no change from last year. Likewise, the Coroner and Judge Ritchey's budgets maintained essentially the same totals, with the exception of Judge Ritchey requesting a reduction in two-line items in order to purchase a laptop.

4. Within the Sheriff's Department budget, discussion was had whether the county should increase from six new vehicles to eight each year. When asked by Justice Jackson, Sheriff Cook said the department had 44-45 cars. The Sheriff estimated the cost of each new car, when outfitted, to be mid-to-high \$30,000s. Justice Jackson asked for an inventory of the cars, their mileage and their condition. Justice McDonald asked about estimated repair costs. Justice Ash told the committee that vehicle maintenance was annually between \$50-\$60,000 when he first came on the court, so they began to buy five new cars a year. Justice White suggested this year might be a good year to up the number because of other additional funds available this year. Sheriff Cook also requested the expenditure line item for transporting/housing juvenile inmates elsewhere be removed from his budget and given to the Juvenile Office's budget so that the Juvenile Director could better manage the money.

5. The committee, despite the current "hiring freeze", was asked to permit the Senior Citizens Center to replace a kitchen helper that had left and that the Sheriff's Department be able to fill two new vacancies in the department and a vacant slot in the jail. Justice Harbans Mangat made the motion and Justice Neil Burge seconded it. The motion passed.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Tom Henry