

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Harbans Mangat, Justice Neil Burge, Justice Aaron Fleeman, Justice Reggie Cullom, Justice Rick Ash, Justice Cecil McDonald, Justice Betty Hepler, Justice Tobbye McClanahan, County Clerk Janice Currie, Finance Kelli Jones, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, BGRAA, Public Affairs Tom Henry, Judge John Alan Nelson, NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Justice Jackson turned the meeting over to BGRAA.

2. BGRAA extended an invitation to the Justices to look at the museum. Alert pad was visited and looked at the deterioration. The building was 25,000 square foot and going to be one of the central exhibits. Building was on the National Register of Historic Places. BGRAA didn't have the funds to repair the building. Our request was for \$500,000.00. State had given BGRAA \$500,000.00 from the Governor's Discretionary Fund. The alert pad was used as housing for the alert team. Justice McClanahan thought this was an Economic Development expense. Tourism fell under Economic Development. Studies that were done suggested 50,000 people would be seen between years two and three. National Park Service called and were interested in the facility. 157,000 visitors to the facility in the Dakotas. Open six months out of the year. Geographic location in Blytheville would do better. This project would be the anchor for all other tourism in east Arkansas. Judge Nelson thought the project was a county issue instead of Economic Development. Aeroplex was the largest and most important asset in Mississippi County. Property taxes were paid on property that generated income. Justices were in favor of the project. Money would come from CD. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate the \$500,000.00 for the alert center. Second was made by Justice Aaron Fleeman. Motion passed.

3. Monthly expenditures. No large expenses.

4. Energy & Property Committee recommended to appropriate \$442,087.43 to the Courthouse construction fund. Elevators were on site. Courtroom was finished. Evergreen would return to make some repairs. Contractor was holding to October finish date. Budget looked good. Mr. Brownlee received a check that was reduced. Mr. Brownlee believed the fees should be paid. Motion was made by Justice Harbans Mangat to appropriate \$442,087.43 to the construction fund. Second was made by Justice Reggie Cullom. Motion passed.

5. Planning & Development. Mr. Chitwood requested \$2.7 million commitment with \$300,000.00 available immediately for training and development for Project A. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate the \$2,400,000.00 for Project A commitment and \$300,000.00 for Project A Workforce Training. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

6. Sanitation & Solid Waste. Justice Burge talked about a reserve for future closing of the cells. Justice Burge recommended to move \$250,000.00 to a CD. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to move \$250,000.00 to a CD for future use. Second was made by Justice Aaron Fleeman. Motion passed. Purchase of a pick up truck in the amount of \$24,923.00. Money was in current budget. Moved from equipment to vehicle. Purchase of excavator for \$198,980.00 plus tax. Motion was made Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate \$198,980.00 to purchase an excavator. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

7. Budget prep calendar. Sept. 13. First look at anticipated revenues. Sept. 20. Regular Finance Meeting, complete review anticipated revenues. Oct. 4. Review 2022 expenditure budget requests from Elected Officials. Continue meeting every Monday until 2022 budget is complete.

8. Currently \$857,378.00 in State balance with ARDOT. Request from the City of Wilson to extend road improvements on Lake Road. Tourism had taken off earlier than anticipated. \$107,715.00 in road improvements requested. Request qualified for the State money. \$107,715.00 deducted from State aid balance. County responsible for 10%. \$ 10,715.00 from asphalt line item. County had an Ordinance that addressed the right of ways for new roads being constructed. Lindsey Holloman sent an e-mail to the Association of Counties regarding the purchase of two ambulances from the American Rescue Fund. Ms. Holloman believes the purchase fits between the guidelines. Pafford sent a report on what the ambulances needed to be fitted with. Justice Cullom said the State would give the county 5 ventilators. Ambulance service would be improved in Mississippi County. County would not pay the salaries for staffing the ambulances.

9. Roads & Bridges Meeting Friday August 20 at 1:30. Annex building.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George