

**ENERGY & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2021 1:00 P.M. ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson, Justice Aaron Fleeman, Justice Rick Ash, Justice Tobbye McClanahan, Justice Neil Burge, Justice Cecil McDonald, Treasurer Peggy Meatte, Bryce Cook, Brittney Fitzgerald, Public Affairs Tom Henry, NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Jackson. Justice Jackson stated the County owned farmland close to the landfill. Approximately 300 acres. The land was open for bids and was cash rent. Public notices were published in the newspaper twice and a bid opening held in the Judge's office. Bids were opened the end of November. Meeting was turned over the Judge John Alan Nelson.

2. Judge Nelson stated the farm land was not improved. Farm land may not be able to be rented in the future if not improved. Improved land would increase revenues. Improving the property was looked into in 2015. Vendor was called to get an estimate on putting in two wells. Cost around \$1,120.00 per acre to put land to grade. Renter could be given the opportunity to put the land to grade themselves and given an extended lease. County may want to have the land put to grade ourselves and rent. Cost around \$350,000.00. Completion middle of summer 2022. Justice Burge stated it would be a good investment. Rent would probably triple and improved the value of the land. Justice Ash stated in the past the County had done cash rent. Possibly crop rent would be looked into and reduce the amount the County would take from the farmer to do the leveling themselves. Justice McClanahan asked if a crop year would be lost. Could be worked to have a winter wheat crop. \$3,000.00 for updated cut sheet prepared.

3. Justice Ash recommend to move to Finance Committee the \$3,000.00 for new cut sheets. Bid notices would be delayed.

4. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George