

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Tobbye McClanahan; Bryce Cook; Brittney Fitzgerald; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; County Clerk Janice Currie; Curtis Walker, County Attorney Jacob Holmes; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. First order of business. Drug Task Force were requesting a case coordinator for Mississippi County. Meeting was turned over to Bryce Cook.

2. Mr. Cook stated he was the prosecuting attorney for the 2nd judicial district. Responsibilities were to prosecute drug cases in Mississippi County including all felony drug cases in both Blytheville and Osceola. DTF was developed years ago. Until recently all staff was in Craighead County and reimbursed thru a grant. Brittney Fitzgerald was splitting her time between Mississippi and Clay County. The primary responsibilities were gathering information for filing cases. There were two full time case coordinators for Mississippi County. DTF dockets had as many cases as the victim dockets, also files Civil actions. Asking the County to provide one full time case coordinator for DTS cases in Mississippi County. There were three different DTF agencies in Mississippi County. Office would be located in Mississippi County. Salary asked for would be current to what is being paid thru Craighead County.

3. Justice Ash asked how many cases the DTF had in Mississippi County. Numbers were not available. Osceola, Blytheville and the Sheriff's Department were now separated. Clay, Green, Craighead, Poinsette, Mississippi Counties were in 2nd Judicial District. Over 400 drug cases were filed a year in Mississippi County. Justice Jackson asked if the victim coordinators could help with the DTF cases. Justice Burge stated it was ridiculous Mississippi County had three DTF agencies. Funding now provided three full time positions. Curtis Walker was asked how many victim cases they were carrying. 350 to 400. Money collected in forfeitures went back to the DTF to fund further investigations, furnish equipment. DTF board met once a month. Reports were updated and could be provided. When grant money was available the money would be reimbursed to Mississippi County. Justice Ash asked if the court wanted to add the position and move to Finance. City of Blytheville and City of Osceola would be asked if they could contribute to the salary. Judge Nelson was asked to talk to Osceola and Blytheville. Justice Mangat would like to see the case load before recommending and talk to Osceola and Blytheville. Report was asked for the past three months of cases filed. Brittney Fitzgerald didn't live in Mississippi County and does not get gas mileage now.

4. Request from County Clerk Janice Currie. Mrs. Currie asked to put the election coordinator in the County Clerk's office. Mrs. Currie would be moving a person in her office to the position and be an additional duty. Current election coordinator Melissa Logan would be kept thru the primary. Contract labor later if more training was needed. Election

coordinator is under the Judge's budget. Judge Nelson was in agreement. Meeting turned over to Janice Currie.

5. Mrs. Currie was asked to get information on any law or statute governing the Election Coordinator and how many counties was the coordinator under the County Clerk. Secretary of State's Office said several counties were under the County Clerk. Legal was asked and no statutes or laws governing the election coordinator. Training and certifications were needed for the position. Clerk would work in the office when there were no elections. When elections were held, preparation, election process, run off process they would be working the election center process for 2 or 3 months. Mrs. Currie had an employee she had in mind for the position. To replace her Mrs. Currie would need to hire another person. Election coordinator salary \$32,000.00. part time. Mrs. Currie recommended the new election coordinator made what her Chief Deputy made. \$32,758.00. Employee's current salary was \$25,000.00. Position would be created equivalent to the Deputy Clerk pay. Some clerk duties as well as election coordinator. New hire would start at a training wage. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to create a new slot for election coordinator/ deputy clerk salary \$32,758.00 and hire another full -time person at training wage. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed and will move to Finance.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George