

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Economic Development Clif Chitwood; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

**1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Two items of business were discussed. 1. Potential hire of a lobbyist at Federal level for grant writing. 2. Work here live here incentive.**

**2. The committee wanted to hire a lobbyist and money had been appropriated. Justice White asked Judge Nelson for an update. Meeting turned over to Judge Nelson. Congratulations were given for the announcement of new steel mill in Mississippi County. RFQ's were written. Final edits had been done and the Treasurer was making sure it met the perimeters. Legal obligations had been met with the publication. Judge Nelson had a meeting with the Tiber Creek Group Monday. Julie Mullenix and Chad Causey had been contacted. Senator Cotton and Senator Bozeman had been contacted. Westminster property had been visited and had deteriorated more over the year. Buildings were collapsing and streets were going down. 110 acres, 400 structures. Westminster Village Board had been contacted to see if they would release the property to other entities. 90% of large grants seen that went for cleanup instead of assessment were around \$500,000.00. EPA may be the way to go. One property that received a grant was going to be developed for a first responder training center. \$10,000.00 a month to retain a lobbyist did not cover the fees. Other fees were phone calls, emails, letters, meetings. Judge Nelson thought the property could be cleaned up. Judge Nelson asked if the County cleaned the property would Westminster be able to keep mowed. A plan would be needed to get a grant. Judge Nelson would like to have at least 4 firms answer the RFQ's. No contract would be signed unless approved by the Quorum Court.**

**3. Work here live here incentive. Clif Chitwood thanked the Court for their support for U.S. Steel. Mr. Scott and Jackson had been getting inquiries about the incentive. GREDA had been receiving inquiries from people who presently owned a home in Mississippi County and were going to work for a larger company if they qualified. GREDA believed they should qualify. Justice Ash stated there were no homes in Blytheville for sale. Availability of land would be a problem. Westminster property could possibly be used for development. Infrastructure needed to be installed before contractors could build. Governor Hutchinson mentioned the work here live here incentive. Mr. Chitwood referred to no. 19 of the incentive. If I already live in Mississippi County, will I qualify for the loan? If you have not owned a home in Mississippi County, Arkansas during the past five years you are eligible but if you have owned a home you were not eligible. New request. They would be eligible. Restricted to manufacturing companies. Mayor Wilson mentioned purchasing land to be available to contractors or adding to the incentive. Gosnell, Armored, Manila, Rivercrest had the highest school scores. Justice Tobye McClanahan made a motion to allow GREDA to adjust the verbiage at their discretion. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.**

**4. Meeting adjourned.**  
**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**