

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Joe Lewis Sr.; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Economic Development Clif Chitwood; Barrett Harrison; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Judge John Alan Nelson; Mayor Sally Wilson NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Two orders of business. 1. Big River Steel and Economic Development incentive. 2. Lobbying firm. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood.

2. U.S. Steel owner of Big River Steel and the site consultant engaged were dealing with Economic Development. Discussion with both for the work here live here program. Supported by both. Site consultant had asked make a payment in capital equipment. \$2.5 million in the beginning and \$2.5 million when project complete. Money used to offset their purchase of land, machinery. \$3 billion dollar investment. State of Arkansas made a \$50 million grant towards the same funds. City of Osceola making \$2 million grant. Work here live here program would still be in effect. Commitment appropriated \$1.8 million could be utilized against the \$2.5 million. Investment recovered in five years on incentive. Additional appropriation of \$700,000.00 needed. Motion was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan to appropriate \$700,000.00 for total of \$2.5 million for economic incentives. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed and will go to Finance.

3. Mr. Scott and Mr. Chitwood met with contractors and builders in the County also bankers and financial institutions.

4. Northern section of the air base housing was falling apart. Judge Randy Carney tore several houses down and the county ended up in a law suit with ADEQ. Asbestos and lead paint were found. Cost \$20 to \$30 thousand per unit to tear down. Government money was available. Over \$8 million in grants available. Brownfield Grant. County looked into hiring a lobbyist to represent the county interest. There were 400 units that needed to come down. Structures were a toxic area that needed cleaning. Tiber Creek Group contacted Judge Nelson and were interested. Cost \$10,000.00 per month. 12 months. \$120,000.00 a year. Justice McClanahan stated the \$120,000.00 could be gotten back in landfill fees. Economic Development funds would not be used. Come from county general. Westminster had title to the property. Mark Whitmore with the Association of Counties would be contacted. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to move the project to Finance and the full Court and allow the County Judge to start the process. Second was made by Justice Tobye McClanahan. Motion passed.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George