

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Joe Lewis; Luxora Mayor Lee Charles Brown; Billie Fernandez; Circuit Clerk Leslie Mason; Deputy Clerk Ashley McGuirt; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; County Clerk Janice Currie; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Meeting was turned over to Mayor Lee Charles Brown of Luxora. Luxora attended the meeting in regards to their water system. Grant was received from ARDOT for a drainage problem. \$211,000.00 from Arkansas Relief Fund would fund repairs to Canal Street. Nothing left for the water project. Total cost for repairs to water system \$2,937,115.00. Mayor Brown stated the City needed this project. Distribution center needed to be replaced. Galvanized pipes were still being used and had rusted. Other resources were being look at. USDA, Arkansas Natural Resources. Mayor Brown asked Mississippi County to join in the project. Water system between 60 & 70 years old. Justice Jackson said there was an infrastructure bill going on now that might have monies for this project. Judge Nelson thought the project was worthwhile and needed. Lobbyist could possibly be useful to find other resources.

2. Counties could claim up to \$10 million in loss of revenue. Mississippi County would be able to claim our funds as loss of revenue. Recommendation was needed from the committee to claim the loss of revenue. Justice Tobye McClanahan moved to claim the funds as loss of revenue. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Passed.

3. The committee discussed hiring a consultant. Payment to consultant should never be on a percentage basis but hourly basis. Most restrictions were now off. No Elected Officials could receive premium pay. Mr. Henry said decisions made should be done slowly. Committee needed to oversee the projects long term. Association of Counties webpage had information on the rescue plan. Money had to be obligated by 2024 and filled by 2026. Federal and State consultant may be needed. Committee decided not to hire a consultant at this time. Justice Jackson said the Justices should review the Tadzo study.

4. Health units. May not spend as much as previously thought. Labs and refrigeration needed updating. Judge Nelson said a wish list needed to be done and kept in one place.

5. Justice Mangat asked about the cars for the Sheriff's Department. Justice Ash had the list of cars at the Sheriff's Department. The list included cars that would be sold. One car from the front office would be loaned to Wayne Reynolds until his new vehicle was found. Sheriff Cook listed cars that would be eliminated. Mr. Reynolds may get funds from Adam to help with the purchase of his vehicle. Eight cars were ordered and an additional 10 were needed. Sheriff's vehicles needed to be down to 50. Patrol cars would not be cut back.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George