

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Fred Fleeman; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Betty Hepler; Finance Kelli Jones; Assessor Harley Bradley; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Regular Quorum Court Meeting was Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Osceola Courthouse. All Elected Officials doing good. July 31st 58% of the year. Road Department had spent some money this year. Landfill 74% but that was with \$500,000.00 CD purchase. Economic Development at 33%. Jail had been appropriated \$1.9 million. Justice White asked Janice Currie about elections coming up. Mrs. Currie stated things were going well. Municipal filing was completed. Election Coordinator was working out well. Justice White asked about the coordinator wages. Showed mostly mileage and overtime. ½ year was budgeted for previous coordinator. Election coordinator was now in the County Clerk's budget. Voting machines were in good shape. New tablets were better than what they had now. Sheriff's Department over budget \$6,000.00 with five months left in the year. Reason overtime & call out pay. Transfer switch had gone out on the generator. Money was in the budget. Sheriff's Department brought requests last month. Committee thought they needed 7 PVT's, 2 spike strips on each shift, radar units to use a tool to slow traffic down, lap tops for patrol units. Bid for radios expired and Motorola extended the bid. \$1.5 million project. Radios were at the end of life. Justice Ash recommended putting \$100,000.00 a year back for future purchase of radios.

2. JESAP had been received for salary comparison. County was in the best shape than ever. Three recommendations were received. 1. Utilize recommended salary range minimums, mid points and maximums as noted, spread sheets in exhibit 6. Pay averages based on a 9.34% with an upper salary range score adjustment. 2. Increase employees pay by a minimum of 5% to remain competitive with the local regional market. 3. Bring one employee pay within the current salary range or grade minimum if the employee's pay was based on a 40 or more hours per week. Kelli Jones got Justice White payroll totals. County payroll a little over \$12 million. 5% on \$12 million would be a \$600,000.00 increase in County payroll. One employee was under minimum. Some employees were still in the 2nd quartile.

3. HRA appropriation. Appropriation would be made thru the end of the year. Kelli Jones would prepare the figures. Motion was made by Justice Reggie Cullom to appropriate the fund for the rest of the year. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

4. Frigortec. Incentive was \$12,500.00 for 30 jobs or \$375,000.00. Selling the building for \$500,000.00 and doing improvements of \$600,000.00. Justice White said Clif Chitwood was asking for \$375,000.00. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to appropriate \$375,000.00 for Frigortec. Second was made by Justice Burge. Motion passed.

5. NextEra Energy Resources. Asked for a 65% tax abatement for a \$3 million dollar investment for 1,500 acres of solar fields. Located N. of Wal Mart along I-55 corridor. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to give NextEra the 65% tax abatement. Second was made by Justice Burge. Motion passed.

6. ARP Committee. KATV were doing a one day Arkansas destination promotion. Live remote from Dyess. One hour program with 6 spots that Delta Byways would like Miss. Co. to buy. Cost \$1,250.00. Motion was made by Justice Jackson to appropriate \$1,250.00 from the line item that Eddie Jones recommended for KATV promotion. Second was made by Justice Burge. Motion passed.

7. Burdette had an emergency with a broken water line and problems with their main well. Cost \$15,275.90. County agreed to help with the emergency. Motion was made by Justice Jackson to appropriate \$15,275.90 from ARP funds to the City of Burdette for the emergency. Second was made by Justice Fleeman. Motion passed.

8. No discussion or appropriation on radios at this time. More information needed. \$1.5 million. Grants may be available.

9. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George