

**ROAD & BRIDGES COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2024 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Drake Brown; Finance Kelli Jones; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Meeting was turned over to Judge Nelson. Red clay gravel was being stockpiled. Three trucking firms had been contracted to haul the gravel. Total 14 trucks. Mississippi County trucks were hauling slag. The county had a total of 11 graders. Six were 1997-2002 and one spare. Two new graders were purchased this year. \$230,000.00 a piece. Cleaning and replacing culverts were being done. Two pallets of salt had been spread. Three new pickup trucks were coming. Justice Cullom said the GPS needed to be changed to stop sending trucks to 449 also a wash out that needed repaired. 175 going north toward Dyess had a wash out that needed to be repaired. Judge Nelson could tag the road local traffic only. \$100 million was being lobbying for the area. Attempting to get a temporary traffic light on 98 and 161.

2. Update on farm land. Rent was received for \$72,000.00, cash override \$29,658.70. Total \$101,658.70. \$57,000.00 than previous rent.

3. Letter of Intent was received for the property across from Love's Truck Stop. The Assessor had appraised the property. HVAC in Blytheville was on the roof. D & L prepared a proposal for maintenance of the system. The committee decided to only service once per year. Bray Sheet Metal had prepared a quote for cleaning gutters and downspouts for both the Osceola and Blytheville Courthouse twice a year. \$109,000.0 grant was received for repairing the cornice work in Osceola. Dan Brown was sworn in for the Hospital Board. Rural Hospital program. \$3.4 million for Osceola and \$3.8 million for Blytheville every year.

4. Solar farms. 27,000 acres in Mississippi County and at least that more coming. County did not approve the solar farms. Solar farm in Wilson was contracted with Entergy and did not ask for the 65% abatement. Justice Jackson asked if the County could mandate that trees be planted in front of the farms. One county in Nevada was mandating a \$1,000.00 per panel permit fee. The Court would look into options. Justice Burge thought the farms would be over built and some would go bankrupt. Life of the panels were 20 years and some components could not be disposed of in the landfill.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George