

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Betty Hepler; Extension Office, Ray Benson; Circuit Clerk, Leslie Mason; Collector, Susan McCormick; Health Department, Laura Thaxton; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Sheriff, Dale Cook; Finance, Kelli Jones; John David Nelson; Dennis Prude; NEA Town Courier, Jonet Washington; Judge, John Alan Nelson.

- 1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White.**
- 2. Justice White stated we are 67% thru the year. Elected Officials are under budget. County Clerk 66%, County Judge 68%, County General 62%, County Roads 48%, County Landfill 51%, Jail 58%. County General is down. Little over \$1 million.**
- 3. Taylor Hendrix has been doing some work at the landfill correcting Cell 1. The money for this project was not put in the 2019 budget. Justice Burge stated with was an oversight. The contract was signed last October or November. \$500,000.00. Part was paid in 2018 and the balance is \$298,119.58. Mr. Hendrix made a draw in August 2019. \$121,085.01. We need to appropriate \$298,119.58. The balance of the original contract. Justice White suggested to appropriate \$300,000.00. Justice Burge made a motion to amend the budget \$300,000.00 under permit modifications. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will be presented to the Quorum Court.**
- 4. Justice White stated this was a good time for the Elected Officials and Supervisors to review their inventory lists. The auditors will be reviewing the lists and it also affects our insurance rates. Finance Director, Kelli Jones requested the Elected Officials start scheduling their appointments to work on the budget.**
- 5. Courthouse bids. Judge Nelson stated there was a pre-bid meeting last week for the roofs in the Blytheville and Osceola Courthouses. There was a pre-bid meeting this morning for the construction of the new landfill cell. John David Nelson stated Aaron Ruby is focused on the roof bids. The deadline has been extended. The drawings should be done by the end of October.**
- 6. Road Department. Justice White asked about the contract labor in the Road Department. \$9,200.00 this month. Judge Nelson stated Mr. Hutto is now a full time employee. Brothers Truck & Trail \$16,000.00 for a trailer. Judge Nelson stated we should be \$620,000.00 under budget at the end of the year. Justice White stated some of the smaller funds are running low for the year.**
- 7. Judge Nelson handed out information for tank removal at the gas station on Hwy. 61. \$42,820.00. We will be removing the station in the future. Justice Nelson stated the property should be sold. No action needed now. The bill boards on the property have been offered to ANC. We received \$4,000.00 income from them this year. Quorum Court will meet at the**

**Blytheville Courthouse in September. The Courtrooms in Burdette will be open October 14, 2019.**

**8. Health Department. Laura Thaxton stated last year the department had asked for an increase in funds for maintenance. \$10,000.00 was appropriated. \$6,000.00 is needed for an air conditioner unit that does not work. The department will have 2 more units that will need to be replaced. Painting is still needed. A grant for \$10,000.00 will be applied for when 3 estimates are received. No major changes in the Health Department budget. 2020 request. \$95,052.00.**

**9. Cooperative Extension Office. Ray Benson stated they were in the first full day in the new Extension Office location in Osceola. Our budget is a cost share. The only increase in the budget is for the rent in the Osceola office. The building is owned by the Soil Conservation District. The County's biggest expenditure is the match money. \$120,000.00 on an annual basis. This retains 4 agents. Mr. Benson stated there is an air conditioner unit that could be possibly be used in another location. 2020 request. \$129,480.00**

**10. County Clerk. Justice White stated it 2020 is an election year. County Clerk stated on the salaries she requested a 3% raise and \$1,500.00 across the board was figured into the budget. Small equipment increased to purchase new computers. County Clerk Automation fund the least of all Elected Officials. 2020 request \$374,763.00.**

**11. Veterans Office: Mr. Dixon has asked to carry everything across. 2020 requests \$49,402.00. With raises 50,631.00.**

**12. Finance Director, Kelli Jones has added a column for raises. It reflects \$1,000.00 across the board raises for full time employees, \$1,500.00 for Elected Officials and .50 an hour for hourly employees.**

**13. Circuit Clerk, Leslie Mason stated she has her home base in Blytheville. The Arkansas Association of Counties lawyer said she would have to fall back on the County Handbook Policy for mileage from her home office to the Burdette Courthouse. The Court will set some type of policy. Justice White asked the Circuit Clerk what she was asking for. She stated she was not asking for mileage for any employee. I want to make sure I am counting my mileage properly.**

**14. Judge Nelson had a question about Ordinance O-2019-21. The Court passed the Ordinance to allow the employee to work 40 hours a week. We need to make sure we are paying them the right amount of hours.**

**15. Judge Nelson stated we received a good report from ADEQ at the landfill. Tadzo is in town this week for meetings. Manila tomorrow 4:30 to 6:30. There will also be meetings in Blytheville and Osceola**

**17. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**