

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2022 1:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Michael White; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Finance Kelli Jones; OEM Wayne Reynolds; Rochelle Steele; County Clerk Janice Currie; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

**1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Molly Jackson. Kelli Jones emailed the letter Stephens sent to the Justices. Several years ago Stephens thought they had found something during the Trump administration that would allow the County to pay Medicare supplements. County decided they would pay \$400.00 toward a supplement. Stephens notified in December that is no longer the case. Research would be done. County would go forward with advice from Stephens, Stephens Attorney and Eddie Jones to code the money as insurance premiums. The money came thru CAS. (Consolidated Admin. Services) that handled the HRA accounts. The County paid CAS and CAS paid the employees that were on Medicare. Employees were responsible for paying their premiums.**

**2. Options. Money could be disbursed to employees thru payroll. The payments would be taxed. Pre tax was the problem. County would be responsible for social security, Medicare and retirement. JP's were maxed out on what they could be compensated and could no longer eligible for payments. Eddie Jones said there was another possibility. Mr. Jones could set up a compensation that would not be payroll. Cash in Lieu of Benefits Program. Similar to a cafeteria Plan. Employees could be paid and would not show up on W-2. Justice Burge stated under Medicare rules if you selected regular Medicare and a supplement no questions were asked about pre- existing conditions for 90 days. If supplement was dropped and tried to get another one medical history could be checked. Justice Ash asked if Stephens could write a Medicare Blue Cross Blue Shield policy that could be used to pay for the JP's. Justice Ash recommended to table the decision until information was received. Other Counties would be asked if they had set up a fund for the payments. Two other options were to extend another month or do a taxed bonus. Kelli Jones didn't know if CAS would extend another month. HRA thru CAS could be stopped and put on hold to find information about Cash in Lieu of program. Employees could then be reimbursed for the payments. 15 employees would be out \$400.00 a month until the problem was fixed. Justices did not think that was an option. Options would be discussed in the Finance Meeting. Justice Betty Hepler made a motion to table until Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> for more information. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Insurance meeting would be scheduled for 1:30 before Finance on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**3. Justice Ash asked for an update on unpaid medical claims. Some employees were still receiving collections. No update had been received.**

**4. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**