

**Mississippi County  
SANITATION & SOLID WASTE  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 13, 2005**

A scheduled meeting of the Sanitation & Solid Waste Committee convened at 2:00 p.m., December 13, 2005 at the Office of the County Judge, Blytheville Courthouse. Presiding Chairman was Justice Michael White. Members of the Committee present were Justices, Ken Kennemore and Michael Gammill. Others present were Judge Steve McGuire, Laura Hansen, Billy Buck, Landfill Supervisor, Justice Joe Lewis, Justice Jonathan Abbott and Pat Lendennie from The Courier News. Absent from the meeting was Justice Jesse Fleming and Justice Tommy Dilldine.

Justice White called the meeting to order and requested that Judge McGuire introduce the purpose. Judge McGuire indicated that we need to begin the purchasing process for two pieces of equipment that has been appropriated for in the 2006 budget. He indicated that we have already reviewed the need for the equipment and basically what we are meeting on today is to determine whether we should purchase *new or rebuilt* equipment. He handed out information regarding a Trash Compactor and a 90 to 95 HP Dozer. There are two types of trash compactors; one is a three-wheel type and the other type being a regular 4-wheel type.

Justice White requested an opinion from Billy as to his preference and Billy indicated that "it is easier to train people on the Cat because it has a steering wheel and the other has a joy-stick. I feel better when the driver feels more comfortable because then they are safer". Justice Gammill stated that in his experiences, any piece of equipment that is **built** for the job seems to work out better than equipment that has been **altered** to fit the job which is what the case would be with the 3-wheel type.

The Committee reviewed all the options and discussed the warranties associated with the different pieces of equipment. The fact was reiterated that the work that this equipment is required to do deals with extreme conditions and therefore it is necessary to consider not only price and financing options but long term maintenance scenarios as well. Judge McGuire indicated that we need to get started on the bidding process because it all takes time and the equipment will not be delivered until 90 to 180 days after the order is placed. The Committee reviewed the specifications on a new dozer and agreed that the best option would be to purchase a new 90 to 95 HP type. We will bid this out as well and there are a number of Brands on the market.

A motion was made by Justice Gammill to authorize Judge McGuire to advertise for the purchase of a new 4-wheel type trash compactor and a new 90 to 95 type dozer and to negotiate with local agencies on financing. The motion was seconded by Justice Kennemore. All were in favor.

The Committee complimented Billy Buck on the outstanding job he is doing as the Landfill Supervisor and recognized his abilities as well as working well with the State inspector. Judge then informed the Committee that the good news is that we have received a permit to go up to 20 ft high in the Class 4 landfill which will give us about 3 to 4 years more space and relieves a lot of stress.

Billy updated the Committee regarding status of the scales and other enhancements that are taking place at the Landfill and Chairman White encouraged the Committee members to visit the Landfill. "It really is looks good."

No other business and the meeting concluded at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Hansen  
Administrative Assistant

*Merry  
Christmas!*

Planning and Development Meeting  
Mississippi County Courthouse  
November 24, 2008  
10:00 a.m.

A scheduled meeting of the Planning & Development Committee was held in the Blytheville Courthouse. Committee members present were Justices Bill Nelson, Tommy Bennett, Sylvester Belcher, and Joe Lewis. Absent were Justices Emmanuel Lofton, Ken Kennemore and Judge Steve McGuire. Others present were Clif Chitwood of the Great River Economic Development Foundation, Justice Dilldine, Justice Elect Jonathan Abbott, and Laura Hansen. Press was invited but not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Nelson followed by the Committee requesting an update of the information that is circulating regarding the Atlas plant closing. Clif indicated that he has contacted Linda Thompson who informed him that they are going into a 60 to 90 day furlough and stopping production for up to eight weeks with the employees receiving pay. The company is still investing in capital and is in fact putting in new expensive equipment to produce a new product. They are just basically waiting it out for the price of steel to go down. Clif stated that "Atlas is fully committed and is really one of our best projects". They were instrumental in raising the overall wages for our citizens." At this point we just need to ride this out and give them a little time and hopefully; the employees will wait and not go elsewhere for work. They (Atlas) have certainly out performed and done everything that we have asked.

Clif was questioned as to if he was aware of any other companies in the County "in trouble"? He responded that is hard to tell right now. However, he felt that a source of optimism is the new Stimulus Package that our U.S. President Elect is promoting that will have a significantly positive impact on Mississippi County. He is promoting a package for building of infrastructure, roads, bridges and schools which the steel industries in Mississippi County are one of the biggest suppliers in the Country of those types of products. This should certainly be a promising thing for our area.

Justice Nelson thanked Clif for his report and stated that we have two items for the Committee to review. Firstly, he presented information from the Great River Economic Development Foundation regarding their budget request for the next year. The Committee discussed the budget and it was noted that there was very little change. He did indicate that there is an increase (8 to 10%) in the salary for Clif and Ms. Jenkins which did not appear to be of concern and added that are a contracted agency. Clif was complimented for the work that he does and the Committee felt the increase was acceptable. A motion was made from Justice Bennett to approve the proposed budget for the 2009 year for Great River Economic Development Foundation. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Next, a Tax Back Resolution for a company in Osceola was presented and Clif then responded to questions from the Committee.

He informed them that the *Tax Back* program (as authorized by section 15-4-2706(d) of the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003) would refund all County sales tax paid for any materials used for construction or upgrading when a company locates in Mississippi County. This refund is for construction phase only. He went on to inform

the Committee of Actagrow LLC, which is located in Osceola in the old Eckadams Building, has requested that they be allowed to participate in the program. The County has not invested any money in to this company and their target is to employ 30 to 35 people.

A motion was made by Justice Belcher allowing the Actagro LLC to participate in the Tax Back Program for Mississippi County. The motion was seconded by Justice Bennett and all were in favor.

Justice Bennett questioned Clif regarding a report from the Buxton Study that was funded with County incentive funds. He did not remember of there being any type of report received of the results regarding the study.

Clif indicated that the study was really a "reality check" for our area. There were many people that speculated that we were suitable for certain businesses and the study revealed that that was not necessarily the case. He did state that the Blytheville Chamber of Commerce has diligently worked every name on the list and we may see one possibility soon.

Clif encouraged the group that if we can just hold on or maintain, next year will be a rebound year. We have the *Black Boxes* ready to send out and are planning on making personal visits. If the new President's programs take off, were in a pretty good position to attract more new industry.

No further business and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.



Laura Hansen  
Administrative Assistant

Planning and Development Meeting  
Mississippi County Courthouse  
January 12, 2009  
1:30 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of the Planning & Development Committee was held in the Blytheville Courthouse. Committee members present were Justices Bill Nelson, Ken Kennemore, Emmanuel Lofton, Jonathan Abbott and Joe Lewis. Justice Sylvester Belcher was absent. Others present were Judge McGuire, Clif Chitwood of the Great River Economic Development Foundation, Justice Barry Ball, Burdette Mayor Tim Sullivan, Laura Hansen and Donna Hilton of the Courier News.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Nelson and Clif Chitwood offered two items for this Committee to consider.

He began with an update on the progress of one of our new industries, Aviation Repair Technology (ART). It was noted that people are moving into town and the hiring process is progressing. He indicated that Phase Two may even come in ahead of schedule hinting to as soon as the end of this year (2009). He went on to request that the Committee consider and recommend to the Full Court a resolution offering a *Tax Back* incentive to ART during the start up process. It was noted the City would be passing one as well. A motion was made by Justice Kennemore to accept the Tax Back Resolution for ART and send to the Full Court. The motion was seconded by Justice Abbott and all were in favor.

Justice Lofton raised a question regarding a presentation at one of the local civic clubs where Mr. Mike Castle of ART stated that the hourly rate would be \$8.50 to start and going up to \$10.00 after training. Mr. Lofton stated that he understood that our agreement was that the average wage was to be higher than this. "I have never heard of \$8.50 before".

Clif went on to explain that there would be some of the more qualified jobs requiring FAA licensing and jet engine technology that would be much higher but he was not of the opinion that the quoted wage would be the average. They have brought in more people from outside than hired locally and he pledged to check into what Mr. Lofton reported.

Justice Lewis presented his opinion on *people outside of Mississippi County being brought in and hired*. We have people here that can do the job and they should be getting the jobs. We need to do what we can to help this along. A discussion followed.

The Chair then recognized Mayor Sullivan and asked for his presentation.

Mayor Sullivan introduced information regarding the antiquated water system in Burdette. The water treatment plant was built in 1973 and "we are struggling to keep the system properly functioning." This system serves the Mississippi County Jail, ANC Burdette campus and also the Mississippi County Work Release Center along with many rural Mississippi County citizens. This does not only affect Burdette citizens but those in the outlying areas as well, he explained. He informed the group that there are really two projects: an additional secondary tank that is to be used as a back up if needed and then the primary system. It is not an elaborate system but will be more automated. We have received grant funding from USDA and \$150,000 from Governor Huckabee's discretionary fund and we are still lacking about \$40,000.00. He asked if there was any possibility for funding out of this Committee.

Justice Bill Nelson indicated that this Committee is the “Keepers” of the Tax funds that are to be used to create jobs and asked the Mayor how he could justify using those funds”.

Mayor Sullivan stated that there would be two jobs created at the Sheriff’s Department and many would be maintained in the County. “It’s not how many are created but how many will be lost if we don’t do it.” Letters of support were presented from the Mississippi County Sheriff and Dr. Myers, President of Arkansas Northeast College. Also, he stated, not only does the County use water supplied by the Burdette water system but that the jail sends there sewage to our pond. This is a share/share situation. “Really this is all about the County when you look at who the recipients are” and Mayor Sullivan stated that he did not want to have to raise the rates of the citizens.

Following discussion the Committee was supportive of the request but skeptical about the logic of using the half cent Economic Development Tax money for this purpose and should tax incentive funds be used to fund this project, there would be many more requests of this nature. *We must be equitable.* It is not fact that the amount is small in relation to the services they provide but, the question is that can we really pay the amount out of Economic Development tax funds. It was also noted by Clif that if the funds are not used for job creation, we are in violation of the intent of the law and could lose out on this taxing ability.

Members of the Committee suggested that Mayor Sullivan go before the Financial Committee and make his request. He was reluctant because he had previously (2 years ago) made a request. The response at that time was the same as stated here, if we do it for this instance, we have to do it for others and there is not enough money available. A brain storming session followed and it was proposed that maybe the major users should be billed to pay the amount to satisfy the \$40,000 and this would not affect the individual citizen. In essence, the major users are County operated and therefore results would be County funded.

The final decision was that Planning and Development Committee could not act on the request.

There was no more business and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Hansen  
Administrative Assistant

**Mississippi County, Arkansas**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Blytheville Courthouse**  
**January 20, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Finance Committee convened at 1:30 p.m., Monday, January 20, 2009 in the Blytheville Court House. Members of the Committee present were Justices John Alan Nelson, Donnie McDaniel, Bill Nelson, Ken Kennemore, and Michael White. Also attending were Judge McGuire, Lib Shippen, Brenda Burk, Gail Warman and Laura Hansen. Press was invited but not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Alan Nelson. Justice Nelson then quizzed Judge McGuire regarding the funds for the hospital that was appropriated in the last Quorum Court meeting. It was noticed that there had not been any of the money spent. Judge McGuire then acknowledged this to be correct. Ameris has not needed to use the funds and have up until now made their payrolls, but he felt that eventually there will be a time that the County will have to step in and pay the employees. Currently the Attorneys are looking into the appropriate way to handle this and Ameris has their own insurance. We are preparing for Stephens Insurance (the administrators) to be in a position to have the benefits for the hospital employees to be covered by Qual Choice which is the County's provider. The issue is that if we treat them as County Employees we would have to also pay into their retirement. We are investigating ways around the issues involve. The bottom line is that we have not "needed to pay it yet". Should Ameris vacate, we are prepared to hire a management organization that will come in and run the hospital operations. Judge McGuire was optimistically expecting to have a proposal soon for a company to come and replace Ameris.

After scrutinizing the line items for expenditures the Committee determined that the financial overview of the County looks to be in good shape. We have enough money in the bank that we may want to purchase an additional Certificate of Deposit. The Committee felt confident with the new Budget and it was stated "The County is Sound". It was determined that the regulations to do the Budget "clean up" allows up to the end of February and if there were any missed expenditures or unpaid bills it would allow them time to come in. The decision was to do it next month.

Justice John Nelson called upon Justice McDaniel, Chairman for the Fire, Police & Safety Committee, to inform the Committee of the situation regarding the status of the Blytheville Jail Fees.

Justice McDaniel indicated that in 2008 the total bill for Jail Fees for the City of Blytheville was \$238,635. They have paid \$92,775 but still owing \$145,860. Justice McDaniel requested that this Committee voice their opinion of further negotiations with Blytheville other than the three options that have been presented to all the municipalities that send prisoners to the County Jail which were sent out in November by Dan Ritchey. The Committee members expressed their opinion that *the original proposal was the only acceptable options and no other negotiations were acceptable.*

Justice Bill Nelson then presented a request from the Mayor of Burdett which had been proposed to the Planning and Development Committee to allocate \$40,000 for upgrades to the Burdette water system. Justice Bill Nelson explained that Burdette had received grant funding and Governors Discretionary Funds but this amount is in excess due to increase of material costs. He explained that because the funding would not create jobs it was inappropriate to be funded through the Planning & Development Committee. It was their recommendation to bring it before the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the proposal and it was determined equability is the issue. The recommendation was that they should bill the major users. If there was a type of surcharge to the major users, (ANC, County Jail and, Workforce Center) spread out over the Bonding period (25 years) it would not be a significant amount. There was no action taken on the proposal.

It was reminded regarding a previous request from the Sheriff for a slot change. After evaluation it was agreed that it was appropriate to proceed with the funding for the slot. A motion from John Alan Nelson was to send to the Full Court an amendment to the 2009 Budget, appropriating the difference of a Patrolman slot to Patrol Lieutenant. The motion was seconded by Justice White and all were in favor.

Judge McGuire presented a letter from Judge Ralph Wilson requesting Mississippi County pay for their portion of expense for a "Comprehensive Court Management System". This expense is distributed amongst the five other Circuit Districts and based on case load. Mississippi County's portion is 17%. The expense would be paid out of the Circuit Court Automation Fund which revenues are collected through the \$5.00 fee assessed on each person who pays a fine pursuant to ACT 1809.

Following discussion and review of the balance in the account a motion was made by Justice Kennemore to send to the Full Court appropriating \$6460 to be used for the "Comprehensive Court Management System" as requested by Circuit Court Judges. The motion was seconded by Justice Nelson and all were in favor.

No more business and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura".

Laura Hansen  
Administrative Assistant

**Mississippi County, Arkansas**  
**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 21, 2009**

A meeting of the Fire, Police & Safety Committee convened at the Blytheville Courthouse at 1:30 p.m. and presiding over the meeting was Chairman Justice Donnie McDaniel. Members of the Committee present included Justices Fleeman, Lofton, and Dilldine. Justice White was absent. Others present were County Attorney Dan Ritchey, Judge McGuire, Laura Hansen, Sheriff Meadows, Justices Barry Ball, Joe Lewis, and Jonathan Abbott, David Lendennie of the MCOEM, Kevin Jackson and Chris Sims of the Mississippi County Emergency Medical Squad and Rick Harris and Donna Hilton of the Courier News.

Justice McDaniel called the meeting to order and recognized the members of the Mississippi County Emergency Squad (MCEMS) and requested they present their proposal. Kevin Jackson acted as spokesperson and stated that the Code Enforcement Officer had provided him with an Ordinance that required all City dwellings to have the house numbers visibly posted and that there is not such Ordinance in place for the County. He explained that it is a time wasting element when emergency personnel can't find house because the numbers are not visible. He proposed that perhaps a County Ordinance could be issued.

Following discussion it was determined that it would be more appropriate to do a public awareness campaign and it was not feasible for the County enact and Ordinance that they could not possibly enforce. It was noted that all emergency personal should be properly trained on reading the Mississippi County 911 maps. Mr. Lendennie, Jackson and Sims then left the meeting.

Attorney Dan Ritchey then addressed the Committee requesting guidance on how they wanted him to respond to the proposal from Blytheville City for the jail fees. He reminded them that the letters were sent last November to each municipality offering three proposals. As of now Dell has agreed to \$45.00 per day, Gosnell has agreed to \$45.00 per day, Leachville agreed to \$40.00 and they will cover the medical costs for their inmates. There has been no response from Manila. He reminded them that in the event of no agreement, it will be \$55 per day as of January 2009. Blytheville City had proposed to pay only \$146,000 which was a number that they arrived at from a budget planning document that was used only as a planning instrument. Any agreement with Blytheville City should apply to all cities.

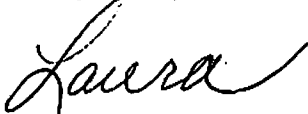
Options of collecting the funds were discussed including not paying Blytheville for 911 and etc services that the County has to pay to them. Other considerations were of rejecting the misdemeanants. Dan stated that he would do some research on the legal possibilities. It was quizzed how you expect inmates to pay their fines if they are in jail which is why they are placed there in the first place.

Final decision was that Blytheville's proposal was to be rejected. Justice Lofton stressed the idea that the City Council deserved to be properly informed of all the costs related and all issues involved and proposed that a meeting between the Fire, Police and Safety Committee and the City Council be arranged.

Dan Ritchey indicated that he would respond in writing of the rejection to the City and also inform them of the desire to meet with their Council.

No further business and the meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura".

Laura Hansen  
Administrative Assistant