

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING GARLAND COUNTY
COURTHOUSE COUNTY
COURTROOM 200**

June 5, 2023, AT 5:30 PM.

Minutes

Members Present: Vice-Chairwoman Dixon, Justices McGrew, Anderson, Owen, Hunter, and Raney

Members absent: Chairman Braziel

Also present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Vice Chairwoman Dixon called the meeting to order, and after being asked, Justice Anderson presented the invocation.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced a resolution authorizing the Division II Juvenile Judge to apply for a fiscal year 2023 Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts supplemental Juvenile Court grant totaling \$26,760 with no local match required. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced a resolution authorizing the Garland County Sheriff to apply for a fiscal year 2023-2024 selective traffic enforcement program grant totaling \$120,000. The grant is for \$100,000, and the local match will be \$20,000. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Owen. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained the use of this grant. Justice Owen noted that this grant was not possible until a few years ago when the Quorum Court approved overtime. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced an ordinance to amend the 2023 Garland County Budget Ordinance O-22-57; to appropriate in various budgets and close five inactive funds.

- a. The County Librarian requests an appropriation of \$2,000,000 in the County Library Fund to the County Library Budget, distribution line item to distribute property taxes as they are collected, per Ordinance O-22-48.
- b. The County Clerk requests an appropriation of \$28,000 in the County General Fund to the County Clerk Budget for postage.
- c. The Sheriff requests a transfer of \$708.47 from position control number (PCN) 1000.0400.0570 to PCN 1000.0400.0545 in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, to meet contract requirements for resource officers.
- d. The Division II Juvenile Court Judge requests an appropriation of \$46,000 in the County General Fund to the Circuit Court Division II Budget to purchase a vehicle and insurance.
- e. The County Judge requests to close the Mountain Valley Community Block Grant Fund, the Morfe Windows, LLC Community Block Grant Fund, Peers

Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) Grant Fund, the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Fund, and the County Library Reserve Fund. All five of these funds have a zero balance in the Treasurer's bank account.

Judge Mahoney explained how the Library now administers its funds. A motion for a do pass to approve section (a) was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

A motion for a do pass to approve section (b) was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Justice Owen indicated the County Clerk included a letter that explained the need. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Judge Mahoney explained this is to align the pay to meet the contract. A motion for a do pass to approve section (c) was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice McGrew. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

A motion for a do pass to approve section (d) was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Anderson. Justice Raney asked about the vehicle situation in this department. Judge Mahoney explained that they have been using aged vehicles that need repairs. He said he was actually the one who requested this vehicle appropriation. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for further discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

A motion for a do pass to approve section (e) was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced a transfer of \$34,990.23 from the repairs and maintenance line item to the machinery and equipment line item in the General Reserve Capital Improvement Fund to pay for the audio/video system installed in the Mahoney Building.

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
1801.0112.2035	1801.0112.4004	\$34,990.23

A motion to approve was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Owen. Judge Mahoney explained the need and the system. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced a transfer of \$1,700,000 from improvements other than buildings to construction in progress in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund to pay for upgrades to the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) Aviat microwave links. We anticipate this project to continue through 2024.

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
3046.0100.4003	3046.0100.4006	\$1,700,000

A motion to approve was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion. Judge Mahoney explained the need. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced a transfer of \$100,000 from improvements other than buildings to small equipment in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund to pay for furnishings in the Mahoney Building.

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
3046.0100.4003	3046.0100.2003	\$100,000

A motion to approve was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for discussion. Comptroller Ashmore explained that we originally budgeted \$1,800,000 for the AWIN, and the bid came in under \$1,700,000, so we were moving the other \$100,000 to small equipment to use for anything that came up in the completion of the Mahoney Building. Judge Mahoney explained the remaining construction and how the building will be utilized and set up. He told the committee about the Job Fair that Human Resource Director Valerie Dodge and Human Resources Manager Jennifer Hermann put on last week and how we received 25 applicants, and around 50 people came through. He said they did an excellent job of pulling this together in a short time. After the discussion, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairwoman Dixon introduced Hot Springs Metro Partnership (HSMP)- Gary Troutman, President, who gave his report. A motion for do pass to pay the June invoice was made by Justice Anderson. Justice Myers asked Vice Chairman Dixon to speak to the committee. He said in April, he had made a motion to approve the HSMP invoice in Quorum Court, but in May, he did not vote to approve the invoice because of some concerns about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and how HSMP had not complied in an article he read in the Sentinel Record. After the meeting, he realized even though the HSMP staff gives a detailed report of the activities, they never talk about how the taxpayer's dollars that the Quorum Court is responsible for are being spent. Justice Myers said he had a very productive meeting with the staff of HSMP, where they provided him with the 2021 and 2022 profit loss statements and balance sheets, and they were working on providing the current reports and the bank statements for each of these periods. Justice Myers stated that he is not a member of the Finance Committee, but he asked the committee to table paying the June invoice until he can get the other statements and review them. He said the HSMP staff were very cooperative. He would like the Quorum Court to take a closer look at how the taxpayer's money is being spent, and if everything was appropriate, they could pass both the June and July invoices in July.


Vice Chairman Dixon asked if anyone had any questions. Justice Anderson asked Mr. Troutman, if this invoice is tabled, how will it affect the operations of the HSMP? Mr. Troutman said it would not be that detrimental, but he has reported to the county twice a month for the past five years as candid as they can be. He indicated HSMP would provide Justice Myers with his request that his CFO had been out of the office the past week. Justice McGrew asked if the county is under contract, and Judge Mahoney said yes, we are under contract. There was some additional discussion. Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked if there was a motion, and Comptroller Ashmore said she thought Justice Anderson made the motion, and

Vice Chairwoman Dixon asked for a second. Justice Owen made the second. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Dixon asked the committee to review the position salary adjustments, and Comptroller Ashmore asked them to strike the last position change. There was some discussion on the overtime report, and Judge Mahoney indicated that we had a spring fling and a flood that increased overtime.

Judge Mahoney went over the sales tax collections, rebate reports, and Oaklawn reports. There was some discussion, and Vice Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ashmore, CPA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan Ashmore, CPA
Garland County Comptroller