

Garland County, Arkansas  
Finance Committee  
Minutes  
November 1, 2021

Members Present: Vice-Chairman Braziel, Justices Horner, Raney, Anderson, Hunter, and Owen  
Members Absent: Chairman McKee  
Also Present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Vice-Chairman Braziel called the meeting to order and introduced a resolution authorizing the Sheriff to apply for an FY 2021 Justice Assistance Grant for \$26,477.00. No local match is required. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced an ordinance to levy the county, municipal, and school taxes for 2021, collectible in 2022. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Hunter. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced an ordinance to amend the 2021 Budget Ordinance O-20-35; to anticipate revenue, appropriate funds and authorize a one-time premium pay to essential county employees from funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund to the County Judge's Budget and for other purposes.

- a. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$598,120.00 of these funds for premium pay and matching benefits to all eligible employees with the exclusion of all Elected Officials, Poll Workers, Equalization Board members, County Library employees, and Law Library employees.
- b. An eligible employee is defined as an essential worker who worked between January 3, 2021, and October 23, 2021, and is in active status on December 3, 2021.
- c. The eligible full-time employees will receive \$1.00 per hour for up to 1,200 hours worked between January 3, 2021, and October 23, 2021, and eligible part-time employees will receive \$1.00 per hour for up to 600 hours worked between January 3, 2021, and October 23, 2021.
- d. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$59,812.00 in the American Rescue Plan Fund as a transfer out to pay the General Fund for administrative fees of 10% of the above appropriation.

A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Judge Mahoney explained the premium payments would be paid for hours worked. He also indicated how important the workforce is to our county. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced an ordinance to amend the 2021 Budget Ordinance O-20-35; to anticipate revenues, appropriate, and transfer funds in various budgets:

- a. The Sheriff deposited \$36,602.23 with the County Treasurer for reimbursement from the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant Fund and would like to reimburse the Ouachita Memorial Hospital (OMH) Sale Fund by appropriating these funds in the Sheriff's Budget;
- b. The Sheriff requests a transfer of \$67,512.00 in the Detention Facility's Fund, County Jail Budget from the Salaries, Full-Time line item, with \$30,000.00 transferring to the Overtime line item and \$37,512.00 transferring to Machinery and Equipment
- c. The County Judge requests a transfer and appropriation of \$158,084.58 in the General Fund, Office of Emergency Management Budget, Transfers Out line item, to the General Fund, Transfers Out Budget, Transfers Out line item to pay for salaries reimbursed by the General Fund.
- d. The County Judge requests a transfer and appropriation of \$200,000.00 in the Ouachita Memorial Hospital (OMH) Sale Fund, Special Projects, Transfers Out line item, to the General Fund, Transfers Out Budget, Transfers Out line item to pay the Road Fund for 3% of Sales Tax collected.

A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Judge Mahoney explained the need for the transfers. Heather Crawford, Detention Facility Finance Manager, told the committee about the need for overtime due to vacancies and the new equipment for the kitchen. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel asked Gary Troutman, Hot Springs Metro Partnership President, to give his report. He reported that Alliance Rubber was awarded the Governor's award for excellence in global trade for companies of their size. He also indicated that the chamber had increased membership over the past three years by 470 even with the pandemic, thanks to Shannon LaDuke, Business Development Director. He reported on several other economic development issues. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Horner, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel asked the Justices to review the positions changes, overtime, sales tax, and Oaklawn reports. There was some discussion; then the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Ashmore, CPA  
Garland County Comptroller