



**BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES
PULASKI COUNTY QUORUM COURT
PULASKI COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 410
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Justice Massey, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Committee members present: **Coney, J. Green, Keith, Massey, Reed, Robinson, Stowers**

Other Justices present: **Blackwood, Elliott, Lewison**

Justice Stowers made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Justice Coney. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

18-I-61 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019.

Sponsors: Budget Committee

Mr. Mike Hutchens, Comptroller, said adjusting the payscale from 85% to 89% of the market rate used in the study will cost \$861,125, which is about \$1,100,000 less than if they were making a 4% across the board raise. He said the total 2019 budget as proposed is \$500,000 less than the 2018 budget. Justice Stowers made a motion to move the employees who are currently below the 89% up to that level. Mr. Hutchens said they would be adjusting the payscale. He said if someone is below 89% of the market rate, they are then eligible to be moved up to the 89% if the supervisor or elected official thinks they are doing the job they are supposed to. He said it is not an automatic 4%. Justice Stowers asked if those who are already at or above the 89% would see no impact. Mr. Hutchens said that is correct. Justice Green seconded Justice Stowers' motion. Justice Keith asked if the figures for the 89% were already included the proposed budget before them, so the figure given would be the worst case scenario. Mr. Hutchens said yes. Justice Keith asked how many people would not be eligible for the raise and are already at or over the 89%. Mr. Hutchens said about 410. Justice Coney asked how many employees there are total. Mr. Hutchens said 1250. Justice Keith asked if Mr. Hutchens has had any feedback from employees who would not be eligible for the raise. Mr. Hutchens said yes, he hears everything and he starts getting those calls in July. Justice Stowers spoke in favor of lifting

the floor, that is, making sure that no one that works for the county makes below the poverty line. He said this proposal is one more piece to that puzzle to lift the ones that are at the lower end of the scale. Justice Massey said she understands it being left up to the department heads, and the employees may not all be worthy of a 4% increase, but she thinks all of the employees need to see some sort of increase or they need to let them go. She said she thinks it is a right if they are employed. Mr. Hutchens said he is confident that they will have a stack of status forms at the beginning of the year. Justice Coney said she hopes the supervisors are fair. She thinks as long as the employees are doing their job and the departments are running smoothly, then they should get a raise. Justice Stowers rephrased his original motion to send Item 18-I-61 to the full Quorum Court with a do-pass recommendation. Justice J. Green seconded the motion.

Vote to send Item 18-I-61 to the full Quorum Court with a do-pass recommendation: 7-0

Ayes: Coney, J. Green, Keith, Massey, Reed, Robinson, Stowers

Non-voting: McMullen

The meeting was adjourned.