

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Board of Supervisors of Clay County, Mississippi, met at the Clay Courthouse in West Point, MS, on the 17th day of August, 2017, at 9 00 a m , and present were Lynn Horton, Luke Lummus, Shelton Deanes, President, and Joe Chandler Also present were Amy G Berry, Chancery Clerk, Angela Turner-Ford, Board Attorney, and Eddie Scott, the Clay County Sheriff, when and where the following proceedings were as determined to wit,

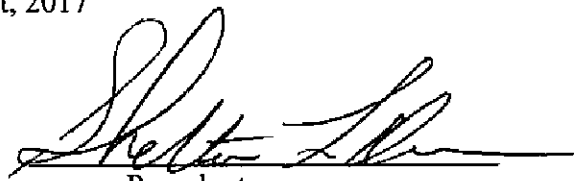
NO _____

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING AND AMENDING THE AGENDA FOR THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2017**

There came on this day for consideration the matter of adopting the agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting held on August 17, 2017

After motion by Joe Chandler and second by Luke Lummus this Board doth vote unanimously to adopt the agenda as attached hereto as Exhibit A as presented

SO ORDERED this the 17th day of August, 2017



President

**Clay County Board of Supervisors
Agenda for Board Meeting Held
Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 9 00 a m**

- Call to Order
- Welcome and Prayer
- Adopt and Amend the Agenda
- Hon Judge Howard
 - Funding for Court Reporters
- Dawn Wilburn – Habitat for Humanity
- Recess until Tuesday 22, 2017 at 9 00 a m at the Clay County Courthouse

Amendments

NO _____

IN THE MATTER OF TAKING COURT REPORTER RAISES UNDER ADVISEMENT

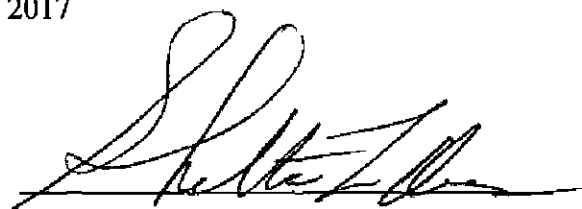
There came on this day for consideration the matter of taking court reporter raises under advisement

It appears to this Board the Circuit Court reporters are asking a \$12,000 raise per Circuit Court Reporter as attached hereto as Exhibit A, and,

It appears to this Board there are three (3) Circuit Court Reporters and three (3) Chancery Court Reporters, however, because the 14th Chancery Court District is made up of six (6) Counties versus the Circuit District being made up of four (4) Counties, Clay's percentage of responsibility will be smaller

After motion by Luke Lummus and second by Lynn Horton this Board doth vote unanimously to authorize to take the said matter under advisement for further review and consideration by this Board

SO ORDERED this the 17th day of August, 2017



President

After motion by Luke Lummus and second by Joe Chandler this Board doth vote unanimously to recess until Thursday, August 24, 2017, at 9 00 a m at the Clay County Courthouse

SO ORDERED this the 17th day of August, 2017



President

Reasons Why a Circuit Court Reporter Deserves a Pay Raise

- 16th Circuit Court District has an extremely high percentage of hearing, trial, and appeals as compared to other districts in the state
- Have frequent setting outside of the regularly scheduled court terms causing the court reporters to complete transcripts during the evening hours and on weekends. Court Reporters have to also take settings outside of terms with Senior Judges who are handling recusal cases in our district
- Court Reporters have not had a full raise since 2003, not even the cost-of-living raises given to the other support staff employees in our district
- Officials cannot make extra money outside of their official duties because a MS Supreme Court order prohibits official reporters from taking depositions
- There is an overall shortage of court reporters in the state since Ole miss closed its program in 2002. Judge Kitchens has not been able to find a freelancer for all of his court dates while his reporter is on maternity leave
- Because the court reporter salary is lower in this district, it's difficult finding freelancers to fill in due to a lower pay rate per day since it is based on our salary. It is also difficult attracting a new court reporter when one leaves due to the lower salary
- Judge Coleman had a reporter turn down the position that became available in July because she could make more money freelancing since the 16th Circuit District did not approve all three tiers of the raise
- Hiring a fourth reporter to help with the case load of the 16th Circuit District would cost the counties more than pay raises

Circuit Court Reporter's Role and Responsibilities

- To be present at all court proceedings and make a verbatim official record with a stenographic machine
- To mark all exhibits and file them with the circuit clerk
- Transcribe and file appeals with the MS Supreme Court within 60 days while attending court terms, motion days and any special settings
- Transcribe all guilty pleas and file them in the court files
- Required to be certified with the state in order for transcripts to be accepted in any court. Certification requires the skill of writing a minimum of 225 words a minute on a stenographic machine.

**County Contribution to Increase Circuit Court
Reporter's Salary to \$64,000
(including benefits)**

*\$10,757
63*

		<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>
Clay	24%	\$298.80	\$3,585.63
Lowndes	37%	\$460.65	\$5,527.85
Noxubee	15%	\$87.63	\$1,051.58
Oktribbeha	24%	\$298.80	\$3,585.63

x3 For circuit

*Chancery would use the
same base - but diff. 90
from circuit 90-50
year out. would
Be less*

Current Court Reporter Salary + Benefits

Clay Co	24%	\$12,480 00 + 4,013 54	= \$16,493 54
Lowndes	37%	\$19,240 00 + 6,187 54	= \$25,427 54
Noxubee	15%	\$7,800 + 900 (2 nd tier) + 2,797 90	= \$11,497 90
Oktibbeha	24%	\$12,480 00 + 4,013 54	= \$16,493 54

Salary + Benefits: \$52,900.00 + \$17,012 52

Total: \$69,912 52

Cindy Zelinka's Qualifications

- Graduated from a four-year program with a Bachelor of Court Reporting from the University of Mississippi
- Worked for 6 years at the Mississippi Workers Compensation Commission
- Worked for 7 years as an Official Chancery Court Reporter in the 14th Chancery District for Judge Robert Lancaster.
- Has worked as an Official Circuit Court Reporter for 14 years with the majority of those years working for the Senior Circuit Judge
- Has 29 years total experience as a Court Reporter