

Arleida Bennett of Volunteer Oxford, appeared before the Board to advise that RSVP was being reorganized into Volunteer Oxford and therefore recommended that Lafayette County's portion of funding provided to RSVP be changed to reflect the earmark to Volunteer Oxford and paid to the city of Oxford.

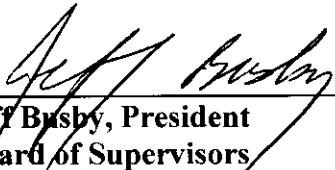
**ORDER: AUTHORIZE EARMARKED FUNDS OF \$8,000.00 TO RSVP  
BE TRANSFERRED TO VOLUNTEER OXFORD**


Motion was made by Kevin Frye, duly seconded by Mike Roberts, to authorize the change in the funds previously earmarked to RSVP be changed to Volunteer Oxford and paid to the City of Oxford.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Supervisor Kevin Frye. voted yes  
Supervisor Jeff Busby. voted yes  
Supervisor David Rikard. voted yes  
Supervisor Chad McLarty. voted yes  
Supervisor Mike Roberts. voted yes

After the vote, President Busby, declared the motion carried, this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Busby, President  
Board of Supervisors

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Wall, Chancery Clerk

## VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) supports collaboration among organizations within a community through local services provided by national service programs such as Senior Corps (RSVP) and AmeriCorps members. For the past 6 years, the Lafayette, Oxford and University (LOU) community has been fortunate enough to have Volunteer Oxford bring together the Senior Corps programs (RSVP and FGP), the University of Mississippi AmeriCorps VISTA programs, organizations from our community and local citizens, by engaging our community and strengthening volunteerism because the national days of service have become community events.

The facts, stories and videos from these days of service, have demonstrated the profound impact these community events have had and how they have helped to unite our community and encourage citizens to get involved and volunteer.

Volunteer Oxford has been notified that federal funding will no longer be available to support Volunteer Centers in Mississippi effective November 1, 2017. Therefore, Volunteer Oxford will no longer be available to convene national service organizations, local agencies and community members to plan and carry out national days of service and participate in other community events that support volunteerism and support a network of agencies and organizations trying to build a better community.

The national days of service and other community events will not “go away” just because Volunteer Oxford is no longer here. The momentum for days of service and community events such as these is great and needs to continue. This has been witnessed by the recent 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service and the MLK Day of Service program in January. Since RSVP is a national service organization, it will assume the role for the City of Oxford and Lafayette County to keep the community engaged in days of national service, along with the University and the North MS VISTA Project. It will be hard for the current RSVP staff to continue these events at the level of recognition they have attained. We are proposing that the \$8,000 already allocated for Volunteer Oxford be given to the City of Oxford to help fund a part-time position and this individual will work with children, students and individuals in the younger age groups that RSVP cannot serve. RSVP directly serves individuals 55 years of age and older. The new program will be the **Volunteer Connection**. This will give individuals that want to volunteer the opportunity to access the same computer software (GiveGab) that was available through Volunteer Oxford (RSVP has been asked to take over this software program) and provide a part-time staff person to work with the days of service so that we can continue to involve all age groups.

Events such as the Days of Service are not planned and executed in a day. It takes months of planning, coordinating, engaging local citizens and sponsors, marketing and finally bringing it all together for that one special day of service. In the past, these days of service and recognition

have brought this community together and RSVP wants this to continue as a priority for our community and continue to involve the students in our public schools as well as older volunteers.

**Days of Service and Special Projects:**

**MLK Jr. Day of Service – January 15, 2018**

Planning begins with community partners, national service programs, etc. November 1, 2017

**National Mentoring Month – January 2018**

Planning begins with community organizations and RSVP November 2017

**UM Big Event – March 2018**

Organizing projects for community begins in late January/February 2018

**National Volunteer Week – April 2018**

Week of activities involving volunteers and recognizing them for their service

**Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service – April 2018**

Planning begins with RSVP, Foster Grandparent Program and North MS VISTA Project late February/March 2018

**40+ Health & Wellness Fair – October 2018**

Planning begins in March 2018 for this event

**9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service – September 11, 2018**

Planning begins with community organizations, national service programs, etc in June 2018

**National Preparedness Month – September 2018**

Coordinate with Oxford Emergency Management, Lafayette County Emergency Management and North Central MS Medical Reserve Corps one or two disaster preparedness education programs for the community utilizing RSVP volunteers

**Veterans Day – November 2018**

Coordinate RSVP program for veterans in the community. This is a priority focus area for CNCS grantees.