

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
JULY 25, 2011

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, July 25, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. Present and Presiding, the Honorable Sue Jean Wilson, Chairman, the Honorable Mitzi Bowen, County Clerk, Doug Shults, County Attorney, and the following Commissioners:

ROLL CALL: Esq. Dwight Bennett, "Yes", Esq. Doug Bowman, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Mickey Hatcher, "Yes", Esq. Bill Hensley, absent, Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Loran Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

8- Present

1- Absent

Esq. Mickey Hatcher opened the meeting with Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Esq. Doug Bowman.

Agenda Item #4
Approve Minutes

Motion made by Esq. James Howell, said motion seconded by Esq. Mickey Hatcher that the minutes of June 27, 2011 (Regular) be approved. (Changes Noted)

Agenda Item #5
Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Honorable Sue Jean Wilson recognized visitors and citizens.

Mr. Bruce Herbertson addressed the commission concerning the Sheriff Departments budget and Sheriff Harris' ability to effectively maintain and execute his position under his current medical situation.

Agenda Item #6
Trustee's 2009 Property Tax Release- Recognize Mr. Paul Berry

Mr. Berry addressed the commission asking to be relieved from the 2009 property taxes which have been turned over to the Clerk and Masters Office.

8- Aye

0- No

1- Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 7
Recognize Robert Edwards

Mr. Robert Edwards addressed the commission concerning a business being operated across from his residence at 1249 Scioto Rd, Unicoi, TN 37692. Mr. Edwards is

concerned with safety hazards on the main road and the environment due to the business across from his residence, owned by Lester Orsborn. Mr. Edwards contacted the Sheriffs Department due to the mud and debris in the road. Workers were sent out to clean the road. Mr. Edwards said that he has been harassed by the employees of the business after contacting law enforcement. The EPA has been notified of the situation. Mr. Edwards is asking the commission for help with the matter and asked why some type of zoning has not been implemented. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked the name of the company, which Mr. Edwards responded they are Buchanan Trucking Outfit out of North Carolina and they are tearing trailers apart and then taking them and selling them. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated he had a problem with the mud in the road because it is a safety issue, and it should be addressed by the Sheriffs Department or Road Superintendent Terry Haynes. Mr. Ronnie Adkins with the Sheriffs Department addressed the situation stating that an officer had been sent up to the business. The officer shut the business down due to the fact they did not have a county business license. The business then came and obtained a business license and resumed operations. Mr. Alan Van Fossen addressed the commission on the matter; his property joins Mr. Orsborn's property. He stated that the property is saturated with waste oil, there are junk piles, that work is done late into the night, and is basically a trash yard in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Van Fossen stated that someone may want to contact the EPA. Mr. Ed Herndon stated that the EPA has already been notified, and the department of environment is investigating. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked if the commission could request the EPA to give the results of their investigation to the commission. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked Ms. English with the Health Department about the matter. Ms. English stated that most of the time with situations such as this the environmental office out of Johnson City, TN is who deals with the issue. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked if the planning commission had a place to research zoning regulations. Esq. Doug Bowman stated that the state took away the planning office and all of the planning resources. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson then asked if it would be proper for the policy committee to research zoning and bring it back to the commission and that the need has arisen. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that she was going to call the EPA herself and get back with Mr. Edwards. Mr. Lester Orsborn addressed the commission. The property in question belongs to him and has been the site of a business operation since 1982. He stated that his property tax was increased when he dug footers for the building, and divided part of the property off. Mr. Orsborn assumed this was due to it being used for commercial use of a business. He also stated that the business is operating properly, the EPA has checked it out, and that he was there before Mr. Edwards or Mr. Van Fossen, and they knew what was there when they bought their property. Mr. Orsborn stated that Mr. Edwards is operating a business without a license in the county. Mr. Orsborn also stated that they will make sure the road is cleaned up if there is a problem with it.

Agenda Item #8

Discuss speed bumps on Zack Whitson Lane (River Hill)

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to table discussing the speed bumps on Zack Whitson Lane (River Hill) and refer it to the Road Committee. Esq. Loren Thomas stated that he had a petition and would like to open the floor to the citizens on the matter. Ms. Regina Tolley addressed the commission stating people speed on the road, there are children playing, and the road is very narrow. Ms. Tolley stated that something needs to be done before someone gets hurt. Esq. Gene Wilson asked if a one way street or speed bumps would be better. Ms. Tolley stated that no one will pay attention to a one way street. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that when the road committee meets on the matter it will be published in the paper so citizens may attend. Mr. Charles Hensley addressed the commission stating he is against speed bumps on Zack Whitson Lane. Mr. Hensley stated that most the people that drive on that road don't live on that road. He agrees that something needs to be done to slow people down but doesn't want speed bumps due to his vehicle being low to the ground. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated there are regulations on how high the speed bumps have to be.

Agenda Item # 9
Quarterly Reports

Motion made by Esq. Mickey Hatcher, said motion seconded by Esq. Doug Bowman approve all quarterly reports. (Copies in File)

8- Aye

0- No

1- Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #10
Committee Reports

None

Agenda Item # 11
Elect Notaries

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Dwight Bennett that the following notaries be approved: Evelyn L. Van Dyke (Clinchfield Federal Credit Union) and Douglas Shults (Shults & Shults Law Office).

8- Aye

0- No

1- Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 12
Motion for Adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by James Howell to adjourn the meeting of July 25, 2011.

8- Aye

0- No

1- Absent

Motion approved.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

SUE JEAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN