

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
July 27, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, July 27, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. Present and Presiding, the Honorable Mitzi Bowen, County Clerk, Doug Shults, County Attorney, and the following Commissioners:

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “Yes”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “Yes”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes”, Esq. Glen White, “Yes”.

9- Present
0-Absent

Esq. Darren Shelton opened the meeting with Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Esq. Bridget Peters.

Agenda Item #4
Approve Minutes

Motion made by Esq. Glen White, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve the minutes of June 22, 2015, County Commission Meeting.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “Yes”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “Yes”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes”, Esq. Glen White, “Yes”.

9- Yes
0- No
Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #5
Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Jim Lingel stated that he has lived in the county for about 7 years. I have a suggestion that might save some money for the county. My suggestion is as inmates are booked into the county jail that we might have a booking sheet or questionnaire asking if they are a Veteran or not. If they have an illness or treatments, have them sign a release form. This would save on the medical expense in the jail.

JM Harris addressed the commission with concerns on the Dump sites in Unicoi County and if they have scales. Kenneth Garland answered, no. JM Harris stated if the wood going into the sites are not house hold waste, if you would weigh it, you could be able to charge the contractors. I know it’s hard to make a budget. JM Harris asked the County Mayor if all of the offices are paying their way. County Mayor Greg Lynch stated that we operate under a fee schedule. Kenneth Garland stated No; we wouldn’t be borrowing money, or taking money out of the hospital’s money to work the budget. JM Harris stated

that each office should be paying their way. Kenneth Garland stated if we did not have the hospital money we would be in bad shape.

Jaime Harris stated who is working on getting jobs in this county by going out to job fairs and recruiting jobs? I know for a fact a business that brings in a lot of revenue in this town that is packing up. The company that is packing up has purchased land in Boones Creek. This will include about 200 jobs with half staying by 2016. We need to do something to bring industry here, for people to spend money and stay here.

Tyler Engle who sits on the Board of Education for District II and a private citizen and taxpayer of Unicoi County addressed the commission. Government we have been talking a lot of revenue for offices and one of the first things that is taught in public management system is government is not a business. We don't work to generate profit that is why we have taxes. We do have to fund our obligations and that is why you are here tonight. We know that our traditional smoke stacks industries have moved out. I have done a little research and 55% of Unicoi County citizens leave the county every morning for work. The average age in Unicoi County is 44, and the average age of a Tennessean is 39. We are getting older. Education is the basis of every job. There are more than a dozen colleges within 2 hrs of Erwin, Tennessee. If, we adequately fund our Education system and Economic Development for our smoke stack industries and manufactures, look at where jobs are going to be, not just tomorrow but in 2036. We have to look down the road. Please continue to fund the Education System and Economic Development Board that is your key drivers.

Tish Oldham stated that she does understand after a very brave decision the other night for you to fully fund the Economic Development Board. I would like to thank you. What a difficult job you have and what a difficult job you have in this room. In 20 years when I have more gray hair than now, I would like to see Unicoi County much further ahead than it is now. At this point if you do not invest in things that will take you further, we will regret it. We have begun to gain momentum and we will continue to gain. I do see a very bright future. I do believe in your people and in this county. I fully believe the children that are sitting in first grade this September and by the time they're 25 yrs old will return home to a well equip county. Please continue to fund things that move you forward. That's my hope and mission when I come here everyday to the office.

Esq. Gene Wilson asked Ms. Oldham if she has been in contact with NN. Ms. Oldham stated yes on a regular basis. What was said here tonight I do not know, I have not had any discussion on that? I continue to work with them and have been for 2 1/2 years. Gene asked if they are leaving Unicoi County. I believe we are highly at risk, Ms. Oldham stated, any company is going to have to have adequate property. Ms Oldham went on to state that she does not think that it's appropriate or professional for me to comment on private entities.

Agenda Item #6

Approve Resolution in Honor of Kortney Shyan Bailey and Sarah Plemmons-Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Glen White to approve Resolution in Honor of Kortney Shyan Bailey and Sarah Plemmons-Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients. Chairman Marie Rice stated that this is the 1st ever Gold Award Recipients for Unicoi County. Both Kortney Shyan Bailey and Sarah Plemmons received copies of resolutions.

Motion unanimously approved
Copy in file

Agenda Item # 7

Trustee 2013 Property Tax Release-Recognize Paul Berry

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Jason Harris to approve Trustee's 2013 property tax release. Total Taxes turned over to Tax Attorney: \$179,486.00

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "Yes", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

9- Yes

0- No

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #8

Quarterly Reports

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve Quarterly reports: Unicoi County Mayor, Medic One and Unicoi County Trustee.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "Yes", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

9- Yes

0- No

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #9

Approve Wayne Peterson Bond Increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000

Motion made by Esq. Glen White, said motion seconded by Esq. John Mosley to approve Wayne Peterson bond increase from \$10,000 to \$50,000

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "Yes", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

9-Yes

0-No

Motion approved. (Copy in File)

Motion made by Esq. Jason Harris, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to rescind June 22, 2015 last month motion, which was to approve option # 1 to leave the insurance as is, according to the minutes.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “No”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “No”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “No”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes”, Esq. Glen White, “No”.

5-Yes

4-No

Motion Approved

Agenda Item #10

Discuss and or vote on recommendation from Unicoi County Insurance/Employee Benefits/Policy Committee regarding funding Employee Health Insurance

Esq. Marie Rice asked Esq. Bridget Peters if the policy committee had a recommendation at this time.

Esq. Bridget Peters stated that the recommendation from the policy committee was to go with option #4-\$200.00 supplement. This is a savings to the county of \$116,094.24.

Esq. Marie Rice stated are you making that recommendation as a motion or is there a motion for that recommendation.

Motion made by Esq. Jason Harris, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland on option #4.

Esq. Loren Thomas said he would say again, there is no employee we have which can afford either \$873 a month (low deductible) or \$510 a month (high deductible) for insurance. I have statistics from the U.S Bureau of Labor: it says the average employee share is 71 percent (family insurance). The Average employee share is 29 percent. What you are proposing is nowhere close to that or close to being affordable. We are going to hurt 18 families. It is obvious to me you don't care about these families or you would not be doing this.

Esq. Glen White stated, I didn't understand the burden family insurance had on the county. Five of us voted last month to giving them insurance, I believe us five should vote to keep their insurance this year because we have already done that. The employees already have made plans. We cannot cut any more from this budget and come up with \$116,000.00 for this budget. When I ran for this office and answered the Erwin Record's questions about taxation. They asked are you in favor of raising taxes? No one is, but I said if we have cut all that we can cut, and then yes I would be in favor for it. So it would take \$.04 cents to save their insurance. That is about \$18 a year, with what my house is worth \$120,000.00 property. We should not alter its previous vote with the stipulations that county employees taking family insurance understand that in the 2016-2017 fiscal year the county may not be able to fund the coverage. At least we give them a year to plan. No one can go from paying \$281 a month to \$873, it's impossible.

Esq. Walter Garland stated, make a motion to raise the taxes and see if it passes.

Esq. Marie Rice reminded the commission that Sheriff Harris brought in 2 more position that he needed to bring into the budget and Terry Hayes needs another half cent to stay in compliance.

Esq. Loren Thomas stated that this will not just impact 18 people that have family insurance; if this cut passes every employee that has county insurance next year will pay more. The coverage will go up next year. Blue Cross is in the business to make money. If

we take 18 families out of this plan that is a lot of profit they will be losing. They will raise our rates next year, that's a fact.

Esq. John Mosley stated by making the motion to rescind the last month vote we basically said this commission's word is no good to the people who work for this county.

County Mayor Greg Lynch stated he had family coverage and his son comes off of it in December. I have discussed this in prior meetings. I wish there was some way we could meet half way, if we couldn't fully fund it. I wish we could come up with 300 or so dollars to help them step up and if they wouldn't have this insurance next year to where they could make arrangements.

Esq. Gene Wilson stated he would rather take the \$116,000.00 and divide between 150 employees, instead of setting it aside for 18 employees. I have tried twice for a tax raise and if we are going this route we should restore the schools money we took from them. I thought we were going to get something done tonight, but it's not going to happen.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "No", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "No", Esq. Loren Thomas, "No", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "No".

5-Yes
4-No
Motion Approved

Agenda Item #11

Discuss and Vote on Resolution for Unicoi County (Through the Joint Economic Development Board) To Participate in the Retire Tennessee Program-Tish Oldham

Motion made by Esq. Glen White said motion seconded by Esq. John Mosley to approve Resolution for Unicoi County (Through the Joint Economic Development Board) To Participate in the Retire Tennessee Program-Tish Oldham

Motion unanimously approved
Copy in file

Agenda Item #12

Discuss to Allow Unicoi County Mayor to Proceed with Rural Development Grant to Purchase Sheriff's Vehicles. Total \$100,683.00, with Match at \$30,000.00, Net Cost \$70,683.00

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to allow Unicoi County Mayor to proceed with Rural Development Grant to purchase Sheriff's Vehicles. Total \$100,683.00, with Match at \$30,000.00, Net Cost \$70,683.00.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "Yes", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

9- Yes
0- No
Motion approved.

Agenda Item #13

Vote to Allow Unicoi County Mayor to Acquire Capital Outlay Note up to \$134,244.00 Plus Additional Finance Costs to be paid in Three Years with Half (1/2) of Payment from Unicoi County Sheriff's Department Drug Fund and Half (1/2) from Unicoi County Debt Service to purchase police vehicles. \$30,000.00 grant will be paid toward note when received

Motion made by Esq. Glen White, said motion seconded by Esq. John Mosley to allow Unicoi County Mayor to Acquire Capital Outlay Note up to \$134,244.00, Plus additional Finance Costs to be paid in Three Years with Half (1/2) of Payment from Unicoi County Sheriff's Department Drug Fund and Half (1/2) from Unicoi County Debt Service to Purchase police vehicles. \$30,000.00 grant will be paid toward note when received. Plus additional \$33,561.00 to be paid from the Unicoi County Sheriff's Drug Fund to purchase a police vehicle. County would be obligated for \$35,341.50.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "Yes", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "No", Esq. Walter Garland, "Yes", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

8- Yes
1- No
Motion approved.

Agenda Item #14

Consider Procedures for Replacing Civil Service Board Member Todd Wilcox (Resigned)

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Glen White to table agenda item 14 to consider replacing civil service board member Todd Wilcox.

County Mayor Greg Lynch addressed Sheriff Mike Hensley with concerns if working with a two man civil service board would hurt him if he had to fill a position. Sheriff Hensley stated that an officer could file a grievance against me or the county. This would need to be heard by a civil service board and it needs to be an odd member board. We do operate under civil service.

Esq. Gene Wilson and Esq. Glen White rescinded their motion to table.

Motion made by Esq. Glen White, said motion seconded by Esq. Bridget Peters to allow the Unicoi County Mayor to advertize replacing Civil Service Board member and to be on next month agenda.

Esq. Marie Rice addressed Esq. Bridget Peters that in a policy meeting in the future to set up a policy procedures for appointment of board members.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley "No", Esq. Marie Rice, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "No", Esq. Walter Garland, "No", Esq. Jason Harris, "Yes", Esq. Bridget Peters, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Glen White, "Yes".

6-Yes
3-No
Motion approved

Agenda Item #15

Vote to Pass Resolution for Grant Funding of Regional Drug Task Force

Motion made by Esq. John Mosley, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to table Resolution for Grant Funding of Regional Drug Task Force

Motion unanimously approved

Agenda Item #16

Consider Resolution to Adopt Operating Budget for Unicoi County Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. John Mosley to table authorizing publication of the proposed operating budget for Unicoi County Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “Yes”, Esq. Marie Rice, “No”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “No”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “No”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “Yes”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “No”, Esq. Glen White, “No”.

4-Yes

5-No

Motion Failed

Motion made by Esq. Glen White, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to consider authorizing publication of the proposed operating budget for Unicoi County Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Esq. Marie Rice informed the commission that Terry Haynes; Road Superintendent came in tonight asking for ½ cent to be in compliance with his 5 year average, with a total of \$11,000.00.

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson said seconded by Esq. Glen White to take \$11,000.00 from the fund balance.

County Bookkeeper Phyllis Bennett asked for clarification on the ½ cent to the highway department. She stated you just can’t write a check. Esq. Marie Rice stated to take ½ cent from the general fund and put into the highway fund.

Esq. Marie Rice stated the Sheriff came before us earlier tonight and still needs a mechanic at \$47,337.00, additional deputy \$39,550.00 with a total of \$87,887.00. That would be a \$.04 cent tax increase.

Esq. Gene Wilson stated that on Thursday night, we left here with what we were going on and that’s what we need to stick to.

Sheriff Mike Hensley stated to the commission that he would like the county attorney to address them with the law. The State Attorney General has stated that it’s required to have certified deputies in the court room when court is in session. I’m trying to do this in a way to utilize this court officer when court is not in session he will be serving papers. Esq. Walter Garland stated that you have 26 deputies you can use one of them in the court house.

County Clerk Mitzi Bowen asked for clarification of the floor before it went to vote.

Esq. Glen White and Esq. Gene Wilson rescinded their motion on Road Superintendent Terry Haynes ½ Cent.

Esq. Sheriff Mike Hensley stated that before it goes to vote the county attorney needs to address this tonight. It is state law what all sheriffs are required to do. There are repercussions if something was to happen in this court room if I don't have sufficient people to cover it.

Esq. Glen White and Esq. Gene Wilson rescinded their motion.

Esq. Marie Rice stated at this time the commission would take a 5 minute break.

Esq. Marie Rice called the commission back into session

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson said seconded by Kenneth Garland to authorize for publication the operating budget for Unicoi County fiscal year 2015-2016

Esq. Gene Wilson and Kenneth Garland rescinded their motion

Motion made by Esq. Glen White said seconded by Jason Harris to authorize for publication the operating budget for Unicoi County fiscal year 2015-2016 and ½ cent from the general fund to the highway department a total of \$15,000.00.

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “No”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “No”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes”, Esq. Glen White, “Yes”.

7-Yes
2-No
Motion approved

Agenda #17
Consider Resolution Fixing the Tax Rate for Unicoi County For Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Jason Harris to table the resolution fixing the rate for Unicoi County for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “Yes”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “Yes”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes”, Esq. Glen White, “Yes”.

9-Yes
0-No
Motion approved

Agenda #18
Present Inter-Fund Loan Documents, Including, Notes and Reports on Debt Obligations (no vote needed)

Motion made by Esq. Jason Harris, said motion seconded by Esq. Bridget Peters to approve Inter-Fund Loan Documents, Including, Notes and Reports on Debt Obligations (No Vote needed)

So Noted
Copy in file

Agenda #19
Consider Register of Deeds Personnel Policy

Motion made by Esq. Jason Harris, said motion seconded by Esq. Walter Garland to approve Register of Deeds Personnel Policy.

Motion unanimously approved
Copy in File

Agenda Item #20
Elect Notaries

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Walter Garland to approve the following notaries: Rega d Perry, Carolyn Sue Clouse, Lisa Hughes, Verna K. Bailey and Roberta Muhn

ROLL CALL: Esq. John Mosley “Yes”, Esq. Marie Rice, “Yes”, Esq. Kenneth Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Walter Garland, “Yes”, Esq. Jason Harris, “Yes”, Esq. Bridget Peters, “Yes”, Esq. Loren Thomas, “Yes”, Esq. Gene Wilson, “Yes” , Esq. Glen White, “Yes”.

9-Yes
0-No
Motion Approved (Copy in File)

Agenda Item #21
Motion for Adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Glen White to adjourn the July 27, 2015 County Commission Meeting.

(Motion unanimously approved)

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

MARIE RICE, CHAIRMAN