

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
JULY 23, 2012

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, July 23, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Present and Presiding, the Honorable Greg Lynch, County Mayor, 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, absent, Esq. Mickey Hatcher, absent, Esq. Bill Hensley, "Yes", Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

7- Present

2- Absent

Esq. Loren Thomas opened the meeting with Prayer and the Pledge to the Flag was led by Esq. Dwight Bennett.

Agenda Item #4
Approve Minutes

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. Bill Hensley to approve the minutes of June 25, 2012 (Regular Session) and July 10, 2012 (Special Call).

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to waive the agenda to add item #5 from the July 10, 2012 meeting (to file a official claim against the bonding company), to tonight's agenda.

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked to vote on approving the minutes.

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #5
Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Mr. John Day addressed the commission regarding raising County Court Clerk, Darren Shelton salary by 10%. Mr. Day stated that there is a statue that would allow the County Commissioners on a Resolution to provide a 10% raise to the County Court Clerks salary if clerk handles more than one court, which Mr. Shelton does. In addition to that Mr. Shelton also acts as the county magistrate and has collected a large sum of money for the county. Mr. Day asked that the commission give serious consideration to raise Mr. Shelton's pay by the 10% as allowed by the T.C.A. Mr. Day stated that he believes employees should be reward when they go above and beyond their required duties. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked Mr. Day if he thought the commission should do that for every

office holder that goes above and beyond. Mr. Day responded that if it is statutory and is allowed, then yes. Esq. Dwight Bennett then asked what would happen if Mr. Shelton did not win in the next election, what should be done in that situation. Mr. Day stated that if Mr. Shelton's successor did not follow up on the programs, and then reduce the pay during the next evaluation. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked if Mr. Day thought it was the commissioner's responsibility to evaluate the office holders. Mr. Day stated in this case the commission is given that responsibility by state statute. Esq. Loren Thomas stated he didn't disagree with Mr. Day, but it is up to the taxpayers to vote and make the decision on if they are put into office.

Waive the Agenda

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Bill Hensley to have an official written claim be filed on behalf of the taxpayers to the bonding company.

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Esq. Doug Bowman then stated that a matter of information he had received a letter from Mr. Kent Harris stating he would sue Esq. Doug Bowman if this matter was pursued, and ask that it be made a matter of public record. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #6

Assign Terms to Unicoi County Board Members

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to table this item.

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 7

Recognize Dustin Street-Big Small Town Studios

Mr. Dustin Street addressed the commission and gave commissioners a handout on his new web television series titled "The Stranger" being filmed in Unicoi County, which will premiere next spring. Mr. Street stated that he did not plan to ask the commission for money for the project, but wanted to make everyone aware of the production in the event they to make a donation. The crew is made up of individuals from all over East Tennessee and the production has already caused an influx of traffic in the county, with actors and crew members lodging, dining and making purchases related to the production. Mr. Street state that his crew is covered by a licensed and bonded entertainment insurance agency out of Los Angeles. He also stated that production on the first six episodes of the new series will be completed by October and people can watch the series online next April.

Agenda Item #8
Trustee's 2010 Property Tax Release-Recognize Mr. Paul Berry

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve Trustee's 2010 Property Tax Release.

7-Aye
0-No
2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item # 9
Quarterly Reports

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve Quarterly Reports.

7-Aye
0-No
2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #10
Committee Reports

Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that she will ask Dr. Hatcher for a meeting date for the policy committee and get back to the rest of the commission on this.

Esq. Loren Thomas stated the rafting committee will be having a meeting on August 13, 2012 at 5:30 in the conference room, and he has sent an e-mail to Heather and asked her to send out an e-mail to everyone and let them know there are some issues that need to be taken care of.

Agenda Item # 11
Budget Amendments

None

Agenda Item #12
Elect Notaries

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to approve Ashley Banner (Erwin Utilities), Deborah Sharon Blankenship (First TN Bank), Lee Brown (Erwin Utilities), Marsha Crain (Erwin Utilities), Heather Dawn Leach (County Mayor Office), Betty Ledford (Robert Ledford Funeral Home), Diane D. Leonard (Titlemax of Tennessee, Inc.), Janice C. Metcalf (Town of Erwin), and Lindsey Campbell Walker (Cash Express) as Notary Publics.

7-Aye
0-No
2-Absent

Motion approved.

Addendum to the Agenda

Agenda Item #1

Approve appointment of 911 Board Members Firefighters Association Chief Robert Adams at Large, Reagan Tilson

Motion made by Esq. Bill Hensley, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve appointment of 911 Board Members Firefighters Association President Robert Adams and Regan Tilson. Esq. Doug Bowman stated he thought that these positions were filled by the job titles and do not require county commission approval. County Mayor, Greg Lynch stated it is his understanding that the old bi laws, which we are still under, one member is appointed by the Fire Association and one member is appointed by the Mayor, the at Large. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked why they would be under the old bi laws when the fiscal year is July 1. It was stated that the new bi laws have not been adopted as of yet. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that the County Mayor is appointing Reagan Tilson as member at Large and Mr. Adams as Association President.

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #13

Motion for adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to adjourn the meeting of July 23, 2012.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

SUE JEAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN