

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MAY 14, 2012

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, May 14, 2012, at 5:00 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, absent, Esq. Kenneth Garland, "Yes", Esq. Mickey Hatcher "Yes", , Esq. Bill Hensley, "Yes", Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

8- Present

1- 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. James Howell, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson that the minutes of April 23, 2012 (Regular/Planning) and April 30, 2012 (Special Call/Planning) be approved.

8-Aye

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #5

Recognize Visitors and Citizens

None

Agenda Item #6

Recognize Reneau Dubberly Regarding Tri-Cities Road Club to consider giving permission to limit access on Temple Hill Rd on June 2nd for bicycle race time trials

Mr. Reneau Dubberly addressed the commission asking for approval to have a bicycle timed trial on Temple Hill Road on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 4:30- 7:30 p.m. The race would require restricting the section of Temple Hill Road from south of the Velro station to Exit 43 to residents only. Residents would be informed prior to the event. Mr. Dubberly is requesting one unit from the Sheriffs Department during the event. Mr. Craig Masters stated that the Sheriffs Department is requesting a total of four units.

Motion made by Esq. Gene Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve limiting access on Temple Hill Road on June 2nd for the bicycle race time trails. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked about restrictions to the businesses on the road. Mr. Dubberly stated that the road would be fully open in front of the Velro and the Holiday Inn. Esq. Bill Hensley asked if this type of event has been held before. Mr. Dubberly responded,

yes for twenty-five years. Esq. Bill Hensley asked if they have had any accidents. Mr. Dubberly stated no, not in a time trail. It is the safest event they do. Esq. Bill Hensley asked if Mr. Dubberly had liability insurance. Mr. Dubberly stated yes. Esq. Mickey Hatcher called for question.

7-Aye

1-No (Esq. Kenneth Garland)

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 7

Recognize Sheriff Mike Hensley regarding hiring deputies

Mr. Craig Masters addressed the commission stating there are vacancies in the department before Mr. Mike Hensley took over as Sheriff. Esq. Kenneth Garland asked if the \$10,000.00 would be coming out of the Sheriff Department budget. Mr. Masters stated it would not, it has been transferred.

Motion made by Esq. Bill Hensley, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve hiring deputies. Mr. Masters stated the court agreed to move \$10,000.00 over into the salary to hire the deputies next fiscal year. Esq. Bill Hensley stated the money was the Sheriff Departments originally; they turned it back over to the county and now they need it back to hire deputies. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that the money was transferred from the Sheriff Department back to into the commissions' budget to be used to help with the situation with 911. The situation has grown and the money is needed by the sheriff to hire two new deputies because he is running with two deputies on second and third shift and that is leaving the county in a scary situation. Mrs. Phyllis Bennett stated there would be a budget amendment for the \$10,000.00.

Aye-8

No-0

Absent-1

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #8

Appoint the Civil Service Board Members and Approve 1-3 year rotation

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to appoint Civil Service Board Members and approve 1-3 year rotation. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked how the appointment would be done. Esq. Kenneth Garland state that two have been in there since 1994. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked the mayor to see who been on the board the longest. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated Mr. Garland has been on the board the longest and Mr. Keasling has been on the second longest. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated that whoever is elected should go under a three year term. Mrs. Teresa Campbell addressed the commission with concerns regarding the Civil Service Board. Mrs. Campbell has looked over the handbook she received from Esq. Bill Hensley. Mrs. Campbell stated that if she has interpreted correctly there hasn't been a legal Civil Service Board in several years. Esq. Kenneth Garland stated he could explain the Civil Service Board; the commission passed it in 1994. A board member was appointed from each district. This went on for years and nothing was ever done. Mrs. Campbell stated in her opinion it is time to learn this and to do it exactly like the laws say. Mrs. Campbell stated that the officers deserve to have this and a copy of the handbook, and to know that they have rights. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked what exactly was being voted on, has the third member been named or will that be done separately. Esq. Loren Thomas stated that the agenda read to appoint members, so we can appoint all three.

8-Aye

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Esq. Bill Hensley asked if there was a name to consider for appointment. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated yes, Mr. Terry Higgins who lives in the second district. Mr. Higgins was out of town and unable to get into the Mayors office in time to fill out an application but he is extremely interested and Esq. Loren Thomas can speak to his credibility.

Motion made by Esq. Bill Hensley, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas that Mr. Higgins be appointed for a one year term, Mr. Jerry Keasling be appointed for a two year term, and Mr. Walter Garland be appointed for a three year term. Esq. Kenneth Garland asked if the gentleman who turned in an application is just going to be forgotten about. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that he does not live in the second district. Esq. Kenneth Garland the law says he has to live in the county, not a district. Esq. James Howell asked how soon this had to be done, if it could be tabled. County Mayor Greg Lynch stated there was an ad put in the paper that one member would be appointed and preference would be given to someone in the second district. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked if Mr. Garland has been on the board the longest why should he be appointed to the three year term. Esq. Bill Hensley stated that he thought that he would be the senior person and would be able to guide people in. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked Esq. Loren Thomas if Mr. Higgins would need more than a year. Esq. Kenneth Garland asked if Mr. Higgins has had any law enforcement anything. Esq. Loren Thomas stated that Mr. Higgins is on the board for the South Side Fire Department. Esq. Loren Thomas also stated he could speak for him stating he has known Mr. Higgins for seventeen years and has worked with him. Esq. Gene Wilson called for question. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked if Mr. Higgins was able to get his resume in. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated he was out of town and the courthouse was closed. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated that if the commission doesn't go by what the paper says, by the deadline, then the commission is not doing what it is obliged to do, no matter who it is. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that it also said one would be appointed and there are three being appointed, he feels it should be advertised again. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated the motion and the second would have to be withdrawn in order to table. Esq. Bill Hensley and Esq. Loren Thomas both decline to withdrawn their motion. Esq. Loren Thomas stated that anyone in the county could have applied and it has been in the paper. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated that Mr. Higgins did not meet the deadline. Esq. Loren Thomas stated that Mr. Higgins did meet the deadline as far as contacting commissioners. Mr. Greg Lynch stated that he would like for the appointment to be passed through until other board appointments in September 2013.

Aye-5

No-3 (Esq. Kenneth Garland, Esq. James Howell, Esq. Dwight Bennett)

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 9

Recognize Jon Manfull Medical Insurance Update

Mr. Jon Manfull addressed the commission regarding the insurance renewal stating there would be a 39.8% increase with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The increase is due to five large claims all over \$25,000.00. Mr. Manfull wants justification from BCBS and should have the information for the commission by the 28th of the month. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that the size of the group is affecting this considerably. Mr. Manfull stated that it is based on the claims, with 105 employees on the plan now. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked what plan the state carries now. Mr. Manfull responded the state plan with local government is BCBS and Cigna. The thing with Cigna right now is Mountain States pulled out of the Cigna Network, so it is not really an option right now. Esq. Mickey Hatcher and Esq. Gene Wilson leave the meeting.

Agenda Item #10

Approve Equalization Board Appointments for 2012-2013

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Bill Hensley to approve Charles N. Harris, Eugene Harris, Ted Hopson, James A. Long, and Ronny Kent

Elliott to the Equalization Board for 2012-2013. Esq. Kenneth Garland asked why it has to be approved. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated it is civil service and is state mandated. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if there are by-laws and who can find out. Esq. Kenneth Garland asked why this wasn't advertised. County Mayor Greg Lynch stated that it is very important that this board be appointed and if changes need to be made that can be done later. Esq. Loren Thomas asked who is responsible. Mr. Lynch stated it would be the Tax Assessor who would bring it to the commission. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked if Ms. Patsy Bennett could bring the information by the next meeting.

Aye-6
No-0
Absent-3
Motion approved.

Agenda Item # 11- #15
Consider Resolutions

Motion made by Esq. Bill Hensley, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to approve all resolutions at once.

Resolution: Regarding Litter Grant
Resolution: Local Governments Assessment Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Resolution: to Adopt a Continuing Budget and Tax Rate for the Fiscal year 2012-2013
Resolution: to transfer money from Debt Service to the County General Fund
Resolution: to transfer money from Debt Service to the Waste Management Fund
6-Aye
0-No
3-Absent
Motion approved.

Agenda Item #16
Committee Reports

None

Agenda Item #17
Budget Amendments

Motion made by Esq. Bill Hensley, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve Budget Amendments all together: County Clerk (\$9,990.00), Circuit Court Clerk (\$12,891.25), Sheriff Department (\$12,276.96), Civil Defense (\$2,000.00), Health Department (\$38,300.00), Sheriff Department (\$18,152.00), Debt Service (\$36,254.00), Unicoi County Board of Education (\$199,797.00), County Buildings (\$900.00), and Planning (\$380.00).

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

6-Yes
0-No
3-Absent
Motion approved. (Copies in file)

Agenda Item #18

Elect Notaries

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to approve Nancy Fender (Unicoi County Insurance Agency), Kristen Jeffcoat (Studvik), Jackie Rogers (Unicoi County Insurance Agency) as Notary Publics.

6-Aye

0-No

3-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #19

Motion for adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to adjourn the meeting of May 14, 2012.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

SUE JEAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN