

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
NOVEMBER 26, 2012

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, November 26, 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, "Yes", 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".

9- 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. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to approve the minutes of October 22, 2012 (Regular Session) with corrections noted.

8-Aye

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #5
Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Mr. J.M. Harris addressed the commission concerning the hospital. Mr. Harris stated that he would like to see competition, such as Wellmont, taking control of the hospital. He also urged everyone to attend the public meeting and talk to the hospital board members, stating competition makes good business.

Agenda Item #6
Budget Amendments

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to take budget amendments one at a time.

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Motion made by Esq. James Howell, said motion seconded by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson to approve the budget amendment for Assessor of Property (\$1,738.40). Esq. Doug Bowman stated this budget amendment appeared to be a raise from one person to

another. Mrs. Patsy Bennett responded yes. Esq. Doug Bowman asked if Mrs. Bennett hired a new person making less than the previous person. Mrs. Bennett responded yes. Esq. Doug Bowman asked where the extra money is going to. Mrs. Bennett stated to Wayne Cox. Esq. Doug Bowman stated that it isn't fair to give one county employee a raise and nobody else. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated this is where these types of issues need to be worked out in the policy meetings. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated there isn't a salary schedule to go by depending on experience, training, or years of service. Esq. Loren Thomas stated raises were not given to any county employees and he does not feel comfortable giving a raise until meeting with all the officeholders and coming up with some kind of system.

0-Yes

8-No

1-Absent

Motion fails.

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to approve the budget amendment for Trustee (\$3,815.00). Mr. Paul Berry addressed the commission concerning discussions during the budget meeting in regards to an employee that would be taking maternity leave. The commission asked Mr. Berry to come back when the part time position was needed. Mr. Berry stated the \$3,500.00 includes everything. Since that time Mr. Berry has had another employee that will have to be out and he will need the part time employee then as well and is asking to extend the part time position for another three weeks (\$1,312.50). This would bring the total to \$4,812.50 for the part time position to help through the tax season.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Doug Bowman to amend the motion to add \$1,312.50 to budget amendment to total \$4,812.50.

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to approve the budget amendment for Circuit Court Clerk (\$3,000.00). Esq. Doug Bowman stated that this was discussed during the budget for a software program for the Circuit Court Clerk office.

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Doug Bowman to approve the budget amendment for Chancery Court (\$2,615.00). Mrs. Teresa Simerly addressed the commission stating during the budget workshop the commission had agreed for her part time employee. The money budgeted was for half a year and Mrs. Simerly is requesting the funds for the full year.

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Motion made by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve the budget amendment for Health Department (\$311.75).

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson to approve the budget amendment for Rabies and Animal Control (\$3,200.00). Esq. Dwight Bennett stated this is for the bookkeeper who gave up her pay to hire part time

employees to clean the kennels. This is to give her wages back to her after she has worked six months without pay.

8-Yes
0-No
1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Mr. Paul Berry addressed the commission concerning checking accounts overseen by the Trustee. Mr. Berry has been told by the auditor that when the accounts start decreasing the commission needs to be notified that an investment will be cashed to cover checks. Mr. Berry stated the Highway Department checking fund is down to \$157,000.00 and usually has \$450,000.00 to \$500,000.00 in it. There is an investment that will be coming in that will be cashed to cover the check.

Esq. Doug Bowman stated we have passed several budget amendments that seem to have surpassed our expected fund balance and need the Sheriff's Department to give us an amendment for more revenues to correct by next months meeting. Sheriff Hensley stated he would have that by next month.

Agenda Item # 7

Quarterly Reports- County Mayor, Highway Department

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve quarterly reports for the County Mayor Office and Highway Department. Esq. Doug Bowman asked if this was the average revenue every year. Mrs. Phyllis Bennett replied yes. Esq. Doug Bowman asked Road Superintendent Terry Haynes if he gave his employees a raise this year. Mr. Terry Haynes stated he did give them a small raise.

8-Yes
0-No
1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #8

Consider Resolution Recognizing Zane Whitson Welcome Center

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve the Resolution recognizing Zane Whitson Welcome Center as The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development's 2012 Welcome Center of the year.

8-Yes
0-No
1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item # 9

Consider cancellation of the December monthly session of the County Commission subject to called session if needed

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to cancel the December monthly session of the County Commission.

5-Yes
3-No
1-Absent

Motion approved.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson to have a planning/work session on December 18, 2012 from 12 pm until 5pm in the conference room.

ROLL CALL: Esq. Doug Bowman, "Yes", Esq. Mickey Hatcher, absent, Esq. Bill Hensley, "Yes", Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Dwight Bennett, "Yes", Esq. Kenneth Garland, "No", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

7-Yes

1-No

1-Absent

Motion approved.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson to approve the budget amendment for the Highway Department (\$97,987.71). Mr. Haynes stated this is for the three roads affected by the floods back in the spring.

8-Yes

0-No

1-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Mr. Terry Haynes addressed Esq. Dwight Bennett concerning the raises, stating he should have come to the commission before doing so.

Addendum to the Agenda

Consider approval of soliciting through RFQ an architectural firm to evaluate options concerning existing 911 dispatch area and Unicoi County Sheriff's Department-Recognize Esq. Doug Bowman

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to approve soliciting through RFQ an architectural firm to evaluate options concerning existing 911 dispatch area and Unicoi county Sheriff's Department with options #4, #5, #6, #7, and #8 being deleted forever. Esq. Gene Wilson exited meeting during discussion.

7-Yes

0-No

2-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 to approve Deana Marie Clawson (DPKY Management), Matthew J. Gilbert (Self Employed), and Teresa Mitchell (Ninth Street Baptist Church).

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Sheriff Mike Hensley addressed the commission before adjournment concerning Mr. Terry Haynes giving his employees a small raise. Sheriff Hensley stated that he would have to answer to his employees as to why they did not get a raise and urged the commission to put in step raises before next year for the county employees. Esq. Bill Hensley responded that since he was elected this was a problem that needs to be addressed.

Agenda Item #12
Motion for adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to adjourn the meeting of November 26, 2012.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

MICKEY HATCHER, CHAIRMAN