

**THE SPECIAL CALL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION**  
**OF**  
**UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**JUNE 11, 2012**

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Special Call Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, June 11 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Present and Presiding, the Honorable Sue Jean Wilson, Chairman, 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, "Yes", Esq. Bill Hensley, "Yes", Esq. James Howell, "Yes", Esq. Loran Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

9- Present

0- Absent

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #4

Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Mrs. Donna Kelly addressed the commission concerning property on Rock Creek Road owned by the State of Tennessee. Mrs. Kelly stated there is a problem with littering and abandoned vehicles on the property adjoining her property and asked the commission to address the issue. Road Superintendent, Terry Haynes and Esq. Kenneth Garland, stated they would go look at the property on Tuesday then report back to the commission.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #5

Choose an insurance carrier for Unicoi County Employees

Mr. Jon Manful addressed the commission stating they can choose to do either the low, mid, or high option or just do a stand alone single option. If renewed with a single option, which is the closest benefits to the current plan with a 6.7% increase, it can be renewed, set it up effective July 1, 2012 and continue to work on options and see if this is the best option moving forward. A new plan date could be set if a better alternative is on the table.

Motion made by Esq. James Howell, said motion seconded by Esq. Mickey Hatcher to accept the one that is highlighted and keep everything the same. Esq. Doug Bowman asked if the commission shouldn't discuss the funding issue before choosing the carrier, if we choose a carrier the money is already spent. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated the only way he would vote on accepting any package tonight is with the stipulation we can change administering, if we find something better we need to go with something better because that's what is best for employees and taxpayers together then that's what we should be about.

9- Aye

0- No

Motion approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #6

Discuss and choose funding options for insurance premiums

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to put a cap on what we paid last year on insurance. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that the premium currently will be this year \$541.51, last year we paid \$507.70. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if commission should look at capping at a certain percentage verses a certain dollar amount. Esq. Doug Bowman stated that capping a dollar amount the commission would pay the same regardless of any increase. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated the reason he is for a dollar amount is for budgeting purposes, the cap can be changed and moved up or down if necessary. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated that with as little salary increase as these people have received in the past six years, they got one bonus and one 2% raise in that time, that current employees should be grandfathered in and new employees added to a percentage. Esq. Bill Hensley and Esq. Gene Wilson stated they agreed with this. Esq. Bill Hensley stated that when the employees were hired, as part of the benefits package they were told we pay your health insurance. Now it seems we are backing up on that a little bit, I have a problem in that regard. Esq. Dwight Bennett stated no matter what decision is made it will be rough on the taxpayers and the employees. Mrs. Tammy Padgett stated that it looks like the commission has pitted the employees of the courthouse against the town. The insurance is not the only reason taxes go up. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated it is always assumed that we go ahead and absorb this percentage of increase on the insurance, which would you rather have a raise or insurance paid. I also agree with the idea that some of these people came in with the inclination that the insurance is paid, so when we set the cap before what we did was the people coming in would be the ones that would start paying a percentage and the others were grandfathered in. And then all of a sudden that just disappeared. Esq. Mickey Hatcher said to him that is the only fair way to do it. Esq. Gene Wilson asked Esq. Mickey Hatcher if the school systems insurance is capped. Esq. Mickey Hatcher responded it is not.

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

4-Yes

5-No

Motion fails.

Motion made by Esq. Mickey Hatcher, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to cap insurance for employees going on the plan after this day at 90% and grandfather in the current employees at the current rate. Esq. Loren Thomas stated \$48,000.00 is a lot to come up with. Esq. Loren Thomas stated he is in favor of increasing the cap. Esq. Mickey Hatcher and Esq. Gene Wilson withdraw the motion.

Motion made by Esq. Mickey Hatcher, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to cap insurance this year toward employees at \$520.00, with anybody that goes on the plan after tonight will pay 90% of the \$520.00 figure.

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

6-Yes

3-No

Motion approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #7

Consider posting the 10 Commandments at the Unicoi County Courthouse

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. James Howell to approved posting the 10 Commandments in the Unicoi County Courthouse. Esq. Bill Hensley asked that the motion be amended to include the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the U.S. Constitution.

Motion amended by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion second amended by Esq. James Howell to approve posting the 10 Commandments, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution in the Unicoi County Courthouse. Mrs. Margaret Seward asked if it would be paid with tax dollars. County Mayor Greg Lynch stated yes, it would come out of general fund. Mr. Lynch stated the cost wouldn't be very much at all, in fact I would say someone would take it out of their pocket to pay for it. Mrs. Seward stated that would be fair. Mr. Lynch and several other commissioners agreed to help pay for the cost of posting the government documents.

9-Aye

0-No

Motion approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #8

Budget Amendments

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Bill Hensley to approve all budget amendments: County Mayor (\$811.89), Election Commission (\$123.42), Register of Deeds (\$358.92), County Buildings (\$103.09), Property Assessor (\$803.28), Trustee (\$346.86), County Clerk (\$15,482.20), Circuit Court Clerk (\$1,484.23), Chancery Court (\$123.42), Sheriff's Department (\$11,773.00) and (\$255.22), Civil Defense (\$677.80), Local Health Center (\$3,077.79), Rabies and Animal Control (\$666.22), and Sheriff Department (\$1,471.00). Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked Mr. Masters on the Sheriffs Department, how they managed to come out \$10,000.00 over in retirement to be moved. Mr. Craig Masters responded that after checking with the Mayors Office there was money there, due to people leaving or being dismissed.

9-Aye

0-No

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

\*\*\*\*\*

Agenda Item #9

Motion for Adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Mickey Hatcher, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to adjourn the Special Call meeting of June 11, 2012.

---

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

---

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

---

SUE JEAN WILSON, CHAIRMAN