

THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSION
OF
UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2013

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Unicoi County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session at the Unicoi County Court House on Monday, February 25, 2013, 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, "Yes", Esq. Bill Hensley, absent, Esq. James Howell, absent, Esq. Loren Thomas, "Yes", Esq. Gene Wilson, "Yes", Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, "Yes".

7- Present

2- Absent

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

Agenda Item #4

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to approve the minutes of January 28, 2013 (Regular Session).

7-Aye

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #5

Recognize Visitors and Citizens

Mr. Gary Bailey addressed the commission concerning Love Chapel School. Mr. Bailey owns property in that area and attended school there. He understands that the school has been closed and the property is to be abandoned, but would like to bring a different viewpoint to the committee other than spending money to buy real estate and build a new school. Mr. Bailey stated there are companies that can fill the holes with concrete and believes it would be a more economical way to do it. Mr. Bailey also stated there have already been millions of dollars invested in Love Chapel and it is centrally located. In his opinion we need to take a hard look at something other than just going out and spending a large amount of money to create a new school and leave that one sitting, which will devalue every piece of property around it. Mr. Bailey also stated he feels someone should question the school board and the spending of reserve funds, which should be used for emergencies; it is not a blank check. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked where he heard they were looking for property. Mr. Bailey responded he heard within sixty to ninety days to get an engineer company to start looking for a location for a new school. Mr. Bailey also stated that the children's safety is the top priority for anyone in this county, but there are ways to make that property safe without abandoning it.

Agenda Item #6
Budget Amendments

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to accept budget amendments.

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Loren Thomas to approve the budget amendment for the Sheriff Department (\$4,956.87).

7-Yes
0-No
2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Motion made by Esq. Doug Bowman, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve the budget amendment for the Board of Education (\$57,160.00). Esq. Sue Jean Wilson stated someone should be here from the school board to answer any questions. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked that someone be present during the meeting or a letter of explanation be attached with budget amendments in the future.

7-Yes
0-No
2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item # 9

Recognize Reneau Bubberly: Approve Temple Hill Time Trial Bicycle Race on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 5:00pm

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to approve Temple Hill Time Trail Bicycle Race on Saturday June 8, 2013 at 5:00pm. Mr. Reneau Bubberly addressed the commission concerning the Temple Hill Time Trial Bicycle Race. Mr. Bubberly stated the result from the rider's standpoint was excellent. Mr. Bubberly stated he had asked permission last year to hold the race and the commission requested he come back in the future, therefore he is back asking to hold the race again this year. It will be held on Saturday June 8, 2013 at 5:00pm. This will be the same day as the road race that will come through Unicoi County. Mr. Bubberly stated the Sheriff Hensley and Chief Tilson said there were no issues with last year's event. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked how the event would be advertised to limit traffic. Mr. Bubberly stated they will put out a sign that says "Race Course on Saturday", that way everyone driving that section of road the previous week will be aware of it. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked if there would be anything in the newspaper announcing it. Mr. Bubberly stated he sends out news releases. Esq. Loren Thomas stated he heard good comments from last year. Esq. Gene Wilson said he has not had any complaints either.

6-Yes
1-No (Esq. Kenneth Garland)
2-Absent
Motion approved.

Agenda Item #7

Consider Resolution to Request Unclaimed Balance of Accounts under Unclaimed Property Acts 13-06

Motion made by Esq. Kenneth Garland, said motion seconded by Esq. Dwight Bennett to approve Resolution to Request Unclaimed Balance of Accounts under Unclaimed Property Acts. There was no one present to discuss the item.

Motion made by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to table this item.

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #8

Consider approval of County Base Personnel Policy 13-05

Tabled (During planning session)

Agenda Item #10

Consider Resolution for Unicoi County to Participate in the Tennessee Corrections Institute's County Corrections Partnership Initiative 13-07

Motion made by Esq. Loren Thomas, said motion seconded by Esq. Gene Wilson to approve the resolution for Unicoi County to participate in the Tennessee Corrections Institute's County Corrections Partnership Initiative. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated item #10 and item #11 are together, they are not a separate thing. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that the committee that is set out in the guideline goes along with the initiative.

6-Yes

1-No (Esq. Doug Bowman)

2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Agenda Item #12

Recognize Road Superintendent Terry Haynes-Consider Resolution of Support to Improve Arterial Traffic Access from I-26 to US 23 (Rocky Fork Road) 13-08

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to approve the Resolution of support to improve arterial traffic access from I-26 to US 23 (Rocky Fork Road). Road Superintendent, Terry Haynes addressed the commission stating this project had came up under Mr. Zane Whitson several years ago and this would be a big asset to the south end of the county. Mr. Haynes stated there are two pieces of property that would have to be purchased; this is at the Upper Higgins Creek area. It would be a valuable asset, if we can get this open maybe a store would come in up there. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked which two parcels would have to be purchased. Mr. Haynes stated they would have to talk to Mr. Carter and Mrs. Carver. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked if Senator Alexander's office had been contacted concerning this. Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated that he, the mayor, and several others have been in contact with them specifically concerning this matter, and although it hasn't been put in writing, his office said they are working with the transportation department. Mr. Haynes stated there is nothing there in writing at this time. Esq. Mickey Hatcher suggested that whatever action is taken should be forwarded to Senator Alexander's office; they have a project director that is suppose to be working on that not only at the state level but at the federal level on this same issue. In this agreement to put Rocky Fork up as a state park, part of that was assumed that arterial route would be improved. Esq. Mickey Hatcher continued by saying we need to get confirmation that the other side, the project manager, Brett Wiles, is still active in doing that. Esq. Mickey Hatcher asked that this suggestion be added to the agenda for the next meeting to extend that resolution to the contact in Lamar Alexander's office and go ahead and make a verbal commitment to do that in the mean time. Esq. Dwight Bennett asked if the agenda could be waived to go ahead and add this on to tonight's meeting. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if the two properties would be done by the county or the state. Mr. Haynes stated that if the State picks it up they can move on it. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if it would be three residences. Mr. Haynes stated it would be

two. Esq. Gene Wilson asked how many acres. Mr. Haynes responded a half acre off each. Esq. Loren Thomas asked how it would effect where Gary Carter lives. Mr. Haynes stated if they stay on the right hand side it wouldn't affect him other than an old rental trailer which Mr. Haynes believes is abandoned at this time, it's just three tenths of a mile. Esq. Loren Thomas asked if it would be taking the cabin at the bottom. Mr. Haynes stated it would be taking the cabin and the bridge. Esq. Sue Jean Wilson asked if the people were aware that the state wants to purchase. Mr. Haynes stated no, this is just the first stage. Mr. Haynes stated this is just a study.

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Mr. Haynes asked Esq. Loren Thomas if he had talked with Ms. Toney about the guard rail. Esq. Loren Thomas stated he had talked to her and she doesn't want a guard rail or a mound of dirt but a nice big rock would do.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to waive the agenda.

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Esq. Mickey Hatcher stated there is information that the item tabled was requested by Mr. Berry and is a necessity that we do that.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to forward the Resolution to Senator Lamar Alexander's office.

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #7

Consider Resolution to Request Unclaimed Balance of Accounts under Unclaimed Property Acts 13-06

Motion made by Esq. Sue Jean Wilson, said motion seconded by Esq. Kenneth Garland to bring agenda item #7 off the table.

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Doug Bowman to approve the resolution to Request Unclaimed Balance of Accounts under Unclaimed Property Acts.

7-Yes

0-No

2-Absent

Motion approved. (Copy in file)

Esq. Gene Wilson exits the meeting.

Agenda Item #13

Committee Reports

None

Agenda Item #14

Elect Notaries

Motion made by Esq., said motion seconded by Esq. to approve Chester Jr Buchanan (State Farm Insurance), Shannon J. Higginbotham (Calvary Baptist Church), Ted Hopson (H & H Auto Sales), Teresa Shelton Metcalf (Unicoi County Clerk Office), Regina Phillips (KNK Automotive) as Notary Publics.

6-Yes

0-No

3-Absent

Motion approved.

Agenda Item #15

Motion for adjournment

Motion made by Esq. Dwight Bennett, said motion seconded by Esq. Doug Bowman to adjourn the meeting of February 25, 2013.

GREG LYNCH, COUNTY MAYOR

MITZI BOWEN, COUNTY CLERK

DR. JAMES M. HATCHER, CHAIRMAN