

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FINANCE, WAYS, AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Friday, December 9, 2016; 2:30 p.m.

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Present: Commissioners Eric Owen, David Hawks, Larry Taylor, Tommy Jones, James H. Westbrook, Jr., and Roger Donaldson

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Absent: Commissioners Dennis Doster, Greg Usery, and Earl Wright

The Finance, Ways and Means Committee met on Friday, December 9, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Weakley County Department of Finance in Dresden.

Chairperson Owen called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2016, meeting and with a second by Commissioner Hawks, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2017-20

Chairperson Owen recognized Director of Schools Randy Frazier, who explained that this resolution, previously passed unanimously through the HEED Committee, moves \$5,083,242 from 141-39000 (General Purpose School - Undesignated Fund Balance) to 141-76100-707 (General Purpose School - Regular Capital Outlay - Building Improvements), using the planned \$1.6 million from the EESI Loan for replacing the lighting in all of the schools, with the exception of Martin Middle School who did not qualify for the savings. Mr. Frazier added that it would also include safety and security lighting at Westview School and energy misers on vending machines, as well as the HVAC work at Westview School. Mr. Frazier stated that he found out after the last meeting that we could pay everything up front in December and the county would save \$131,000. He said that the county would be reimbursed the \$1.6 million when the loan comes in, and then repay the loan over 10 years. Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-20 and recommend it to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Hawks the motion unanimously passed.

Transfer No. 1617-09

Chairperson Owen recognized Road Supervisor Charles Ross, who explained that the legal fees due the county attorney were more than anticipated. Having no questions, Commissioner Westbrook made the motion to approve Transfer No. 1617-09 and tentatively approve pending the approval of the Public Works Committee, with a second by Commissioner Taylor the motion unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION OF BROADBAND PROJECT

Mayor Bynum introduced Mr. Trevor Bonstetter, CEO of West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative [WK&T], for discussion regarding Weakley County and the broadband project. Mr. Bonstetter began by explaining the needs of the community involving the future of education, economic development, and more in Weakley County. He said that the City of Martin would be having a meeting regarding fiber expansion for their municipality the following week, as well as going to the Dresden Board Meeting.

Mr. Bonstetter supplied a document outlining estimates of the finances of the project for Weakley County. He explained that the estimates were based on drive-arounds and examining maps, with the assistance of Palmetto Engineering &

Consulting Firm out of South Carolina. Mr. Bonstetter said the estimates show that the total cost is anticipated to be around \$42 million for the project.

Mr. Bonstetter discussed other figures and estimates on the document that he provided. Included in the cost would be 1,080 miles of fiber going down every road throughout the county, passing 6,000 homes and businesses with installation on the electric poles, and the estimated cost at around \$30,000 per mile. Some of features of the services with WK&T fiber package are phone, video, internet, and security systems. He said the internet speed would have one gigabyte down and one gigabyte up for every customer, which he said was as good as inner-city speed and compared to Chattanooga's internet speed.

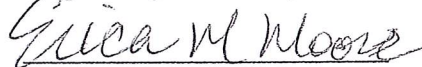
There was much discussion about competition, features that are included with a bundle package, WK&T being a co-op and not-for-profit company, internet speed for businesses, the pros and cons of the fiber project, and how the fiber project was not cost effective for the Weakley County Municipal Electric System to take on. Conversation continued on service area, rural customers, and the need that exists there.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Bynum reminded the body about the December 13th special called county commission meeting and the January 31st Commission Meeting.

Having no other business, Commissioner Jones made the motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Approved:



Eric Owen, Chairperson

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Date:

Jan 30/17