

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*** AS AMENDED ***

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. – Conference Room, Weakley County Dept. of Finance

HEED Committee Members Present: Commissioners Gary Eddings, Jack Vincent, David Hawks, Dale Overton, Larry Hudson, Donnie Essary, and ~~Scott Fortner~~ Bobby Dunlap*

HEED Committee Members Absent: Commissioner James Roy Pope and Scott Fortner

The Health, Education, and Economic Development Committee met on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Also in attendance were Director of Schools Randy Frazier, Director of Finance John Liggett, School Board Representatives Steve Vantrease and John Hatler, Jerry Hartsfield and Lisa Deaton of TLM, Cary and Jimmy Henson from Henson Construction, County Commissioners Dennis Doster, Eric Owen, Roger Donaldson and Larry Hudson, and two representatives of the media.

Chairperson Hawks called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hudson made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019, committee meeting and with a second by Commissioner Essary, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS: DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL COUNTY BUILDING AND SAFE ROOM

Chairperson Doster recognized Commissioner Dennis Doster who began by explaining many problems with the building in which the Dresden Senior Citizens Center/Office on Aging was renting from the City of Dresden. He provided the committee with a list of issues and passed around pictures of problems inside the building. He then talked about the many benefits associated with a potential new building and proposed the idea of constructing a new building that would be owned by Weakley County Government that would serve multiple functions, including the housing of the Ag Extension Office, the Senior Center, and a safe room much like the multipurpose Senior Center building in Martin. He mentioned that FEMA could potentially provide grant funding for upwards of 75% of the cost of the building.

Ms. Deaton of TLM provided the committee with a document that contained a rough blueprint example of a building such as the one being proposed. Mr. Cary Henson spoke about several stipulations regarding the potential grant. Mr. Randy Frazier commented that the school system is in favor of safe rooms in every community in an effort to keep all children as safe as possible.

Chairperson Hawks had several questions, including who would have access to the building when school is out of session, who is responsible for opening it after hours, whether the City of Dresden should be a part of the contribution, and whether there are conflicts regarding multiple events in the same shared space.

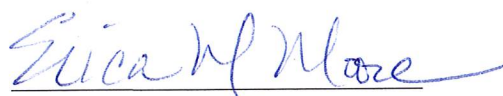
There was much discussion. Mayor Bynum stated that he believed in order to apply for funding, there are some necessary items that must be taken care of to proceed. Commissioner Overton said he believed the project to be a City of Dresden project. Commissioner Doster stated he believed the project was not a city project and that it is one that would benefit the entire county and therefore is the responsibility of the county. Commissioner Doster and Mr. Cary Henson went on to stress the importance of getting the application process initiated due to the competitive nature of the grant and the lengthy process of the grant writing process.

Commissioner Eddings made the motion to further investigate and research the issue for discussion at a future meeting, and with a second by Commissioner Essary, the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Having no other business, Commissioner Vincent made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Overton, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary
Health, Education, and Economic Development
Committee

Approved:



David Hawks, Chairperson
Health, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Date: 2/20/19