

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Friday, December 9, 2016; 1:00 p.m.

HEED Committee Members Present: Commissioners James Bynum, Roger VanCleave, Dale Overton, Jack Vincent, and Scott Fortner

HEED Committee Members Absent: Commissioners Donald Doster, Larry Hudson, and James Roy Pope

The Health, Education and Economic Development Committee met on Friday, December 9, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Weakley County Department of Finance in Dresden.

Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Bynum stated that both Chairperson Doster and Vice-Chairperson Larry Hudson would be unable to attend the meeting, so he would facilitate the meeting in their stead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Fortner made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2016, meeting and with a second by Commissioner Bynum, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2017-20

This resolution 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 updating the lighting in all of the schools, as well as the HVAC work at Westview School. Mayor Bynum recognized Director of Schools Randy Frazier, who explained 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. Brief discussion was had regarding interest rates. Commissioner VanCleave made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-20 and recommend it to the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and with a second by Commissioner Overton 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.

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, 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.

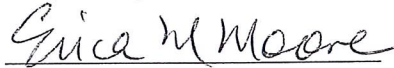
Discussion was had regarding WK&T being a co-op and not-for-profit company. More discussion was had regarding how the fiber project was not cost effective for the Weakley County Municipal Electric System to take on. Conversation continued on service area, rural customers, and the need that exists there. Talk meandered to installation stipulations on the poles, service requirements, features included, and average monthly costs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Bynum reminded everyone about the Christmas Party, December 12, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., reminded the body about the December 13th special called county commission meeting, and the January 31st Commission Meeting.

Having no other business Commissioner Overton made the motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Fortner, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

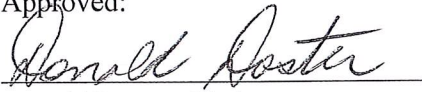
Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary

Health, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Approved:



Donald Doster, Chairperson

Health, Education, and Economic Development Committee

Date: 1-18-2017