

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 14, 2021 – 9:00 AM – Conference Room, Board of Education, Dresden, TN

Public Works Committee Members Present: Commissioners Dennis Doster, James H. Westbrook, Jr., Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Larry Taylor

Public Works Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Colton Nanney

The Weakley County Public Works Committee met on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Others present included County Mayor Jake Bynum, Finance Director John Liggett, Road Supervisor Charles Ross, Commissioner Donnie Essary, Commissioner David Hawks, Commissioner Eric Owen, Larry Levister, and representatives of the media

I-II. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Doster called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for the consideration of the minutes from the meeting that was held on May 6, 2021. Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner VanCleave, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF BUDGETS

FUND 116: Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund-

Commissioner Doster recognized Road Supervisor, Charles Ross, to go over the Solid Waste and Sanitation fund.

Highlights included:

FUND 116: Solid Waste/Sanitation

55751-399- Other Contracted Services, Tire Disposal- Last year the numbers were reversed for the 399 lines but that has been fixed according to Supervisor Ross and Director Liggett.

Mayor Bynum was recognized and mentioned that the lack of segregation of duties audit finding came from this department. He discussed that there is essentially no way to get rid of this audit finding unless an additional employee is hired. A few solutions were mentioned during the discussion, but no final solution has been decided. The two suggestions that Mayor Bynum mentioned were that they either stop charging for the use of the convenience center, which would eliminate the revenue stream, or instead of collecting the money when the trash is brought to the center, the people would get billed for what they owe. The problem with that is there is no way to make sure that people pay their bills. Commissioner Westbrook mentioned the idea of people having to pre-pay for the service. Commissioner Doster asked about the day that was planned last year where people would be able to come dispose of their trash at no cost. Supervisor Ross mentioned that the plan was to do that along with hazardous waste day in the fall.

FUND 131: Highway Department-

Commissioner Doster noted that it looked like the money that was left-over would roll over into the new budget. Supervisor Ross explained that although that is true to an extent, they are still spending money and not much will roll over. Director Liggett was recognized and mentioned that the Highway Department's maintenance effort will be based on the revenue side.

Other highlights included:

40240- Wheel Tax- Commissioner Westbrook noted that the wheel tax estimate was lower than what was spent this past year and wondered why. Mayor Bynum explained that it was because wheel tax was not collected in March, April or May but that it was actually being collected in June and July. When the pandemic started the state waved the penalty for paying, so part of that average would've been the previous year's revenue and that why the number looks elevated this year opposed to the previous years.

46410- Bridge Program- Currently a process in the works

46420- State Aid Program- Supervisor Ross informed the committee that none of that money was used. Some of it is under contract and so work will be done. The scrub seal was taken over to the state aid program to take advantage of that, since there were problems with the prices on hot mix.

46920- Gasoline Tax- Supervisor Ross hopes that the estimate is a conservative number and that they will not face any issues with the amount.

Any labor line in the budget includes a significant increase. This includes everyone in the department. Supervisor Ross mentioned that he had been struggling to obtain and retain hard working employees but hopefully with the pay increase it will help.

62000-187- Overtime Pay- Supervisor Ross proposed they work on some Fridays in order to catch up on work that needs to get done for the winter. In the past when employees worked overtime they have been offered comp time, however now they get the option between comp time and overtime pay.

62000-405- Asphalt, Liquid- There is a pretty significant increase budgeted for this line due to prices rising. Supervisor Ross is hopeful that they can convert to other products that will be better, however they could be more expensive.

62000-443- Road Signs, Name Signs- Commissioner Westbrook mentioned that hopefully the private act will be ratified and the money can go straight towards the highway department. Director Liggett mentioned if you look at the revenue line 41520 he went ahead and budgeted it in there. \$2,500 was budgeted in, meaning that is the amount the department should be receiving and using. Line 62000-443 had to be updated to reflect this number.

63100-336- Repair and Maintenance, Equipment- prices are going up but the equipment still needs to be maintained and replaced so there is a slight increase in the amount budgeted.

63100-418- Equipment and Machinery Parts- the proposed budget has increased due to the prices of equipment and machinery parts increasing.

63100-717- Maintenance Equipment- the amount budgeted here is to purchase a lift for the new shop at the highway department.

65000-434- Natural Gas- Supervisor Ross mentioned that they were unexpectedly running short on natural gas and thus the increase in the line.

65000-454- Water and Sewer- there was a significant increase due to the fact that the department now has a new meter and has sewer with the new building addition. Sewer is one and a half times the water bill. Commissioner Doster mentioned building a well and inquired how much it would cost.

68000-714- Highway Equipment- this line is what is needed to maintain everything at the department and for 1 or 2 new trucks. Equipment needs to stay up to date and be well maintained.

68000-590- Transfers to Other Funds- Director Liggett informed the committee that the missing number is \$9161.

Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to recommend Funds 116 and 131 to the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and with a second by Commissioner Doster, the motion to recommend passed.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Donaldson recognized Larry Levister and Commissioner Donnie Essary to talk about issues they have been facing with waste tires.


Commissioner Donaldson made a motion to go into recess and a second was placed by Commissioner VanCleave moving the meeting into recess at 9:34 a.m. A motion to go back into session was placed by Commissioner Doster. The Weakley County Public Works Committee was called back into session at 9:42 a.m.

Commissioner Doster discussed how he has personally spoken to and looked into the subject matter of tire disposal, and it is something that he wants to help take care of. Unfortunately, it continues to be a problem. The county is using the money for the disposal of tires. Commissioner Doster requested that someone create a plan for moving forward so that the county can address the issue. Larry Levister and Commissioner Essary informed the committee that other counties give the dollar back, and Commissioner Essary wanted to know why Weakley County cannot do the same thing. The request is that the county assists business owners with the expenses for disposing of tires. Larry Levister and Commissioner Essary also voiced their concern about paying again after already paying the state. Commissioner Hawks expressed his concern about the money in the fund and stated that the county should use all of the funds for tire disposal. Commissioner Donaldson recommends that a legal opinion be brought into the discussion.

VI. ADJOURN


Having no other business, Commissioner Doster made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kirsty Rhe Janse, Secretary
Public Works Committee

Approved:



Dennis Foster, Chairperson
Public Works Committee

Date: 7-15-21