

## WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING

JULY 28, 2008

The Weakley County Legislative Body met in Regular Session on July 28, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Commission room at the Weakley County Courthouse. Chairman Dick Phebus called the meeting to order.

County Mayor, Houston Patrick gave the invocation.

All members present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough, called the Roll with all 18 members present.

Chairman Phebus called for a motion to approve the June 26, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Owens made the Motion and Commissioner Rook placed a second to the Motion. Discussion was called and a voice vote was taken, the ayes carried with none opposed. The Minutes from the June 26, 2008 Meeting were approved.

### **RECOGNITION:**

Chairman Phebus recognized Kim Brown of Cottage Grove for her unselfish first aid assistance provided to the injured at the May 23, 2008 accident on Paris Highway 54 in Weakley County. The County Mayor, Houston Patrick, and the Sheriff, Mike Wilson signed the certificate of recognition and appreciation. Chairman Phebus requested that Commissioner Rich present the certificate to Ms. Brown at a later date, since she was unable to be present tonight.

### **ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS:**

The first item was re-appointments of members to the Weakley County Ethics Board. Commissioner Mac Buckley, Commissioner Julia Rich, Commissioner Larry Taylor, Commissioner John Salmon, and Property Assessor, David Tuck were nominated. Commissioner Wright made the Motion and Commissioner Farmer placed a second to the Motion. County Clerk Scarbrough took a Roll Call vote with 18 ayes and none opposed. The nominees were approved for the Weakley County Ethics Board.

The next item was for the Notaries Public List. Commissioner Owen made the Motion and Commissioner Overton placed a second to the Motion. Discussion was called and a voice vote was taken, the ayes carried with none opposed. The List of Notaries Public was approved.

## **REPORTS:**

The Financial Reports were included in the packets, along with the Veterans Report, and the Agricultural Extension Report. Chairman Phebus called for any committee Reports that needed to be made. Commissioner Buckley made the Motion to approve the Reports as presented and Commissioner Stewart placed a second to the Motion. Discussion and the Question were called and a voice vote was taken, the ayes carried with none opposed. The Reports was approved as presented.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-01:** Resolution Making Appropriations for Various Fund, Departments, Institutions, Offices & Agencies of Weakley County, TN for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008 and Ending June 30, 2009.

Chairman Phebus commented that this Resolution had some revisions to include \$35,000 for the Carroll Academy, this was not included in the school budget originally because at first the state had not provided any funding, the state finally did provide some funding and the school included \$35,000 in their budget. This was included in the revised budget that each member had before them. The other change was made in the Finance Ways and Means Meeting that was held at 5:00 p.m. prior to tonight's meeting to include funding for a part-time person for the Senior Citizen Center in Sharon and Dresden in the amount of \$18,231 that includes salary and benefits for this position. This would be added to the General Fund under Social, Cultural, and Recreations Services making that number \$348,903, makes a total General County Government total of \$7,719,481. Chairman Phebus made the Motion to place the Resolution on the Floor for discussion and Commissioner Jones placed a second to the Motion. Discussion was called and Commissioner McAlpin had questions concerning the increase in health insurance for employees. Finance Director, Shawn Francisco commented the employee would split the increase with the county paying 75 percent of the insurance and the employee paying 25 percent. Also there were comments concerning the Juvenile Judge's salary not having an increase when all others had. Chairman Phebus commented that Private Act sets his salary and that his Salary does not change during his term of office. There was also comments concerning the General Session Judge's increase in salary, his salary is not tied to that of other county officials.

Commissioner McAlpin asked for clarification on the tax rate, and compared property valued at \$100,000 last year, and property valued at \$100,000 in this year, and he commented that you would be paying less property tax than on last years assessment. Commissioner McAlpin went on to comment that he could not vote for a budget that did

not include a pay raise for employees, while simultaneously increasing insurance premiums for these workers, and at present gasoline is \$4.00 per gallon.

Commissioner Farmer questioned if any other departments were losing employees other than the Highway Department. Chairman Phebus commented that the original highway department budget showed a shortfall of \$500,000. The budget committee requested that the highway department come back with a budget in balance. Road Supervisor Hopper made the decision to cut 5 employees with an additional two more employees in August. Commissioner Farmer questioned the 4.9 percent raise that county officials are receiving. Commissioner Westbrook commented that it is state law that the county officials receive the raise that state employees received last year. Next year county officials will not receive a raise, since state employees did not receive one in this year's budget. Commissioner Salmon commented that a 2.8 percent raise in the personnel committee was passed and recommended. The Finance Ways and Means Committee were aware that this recommendation had been made, but the money was not in the General Fund and Highway Fund for this raise. Question was called and the County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough called the Roll with 17 ayes and one nay. The Motion carried and the Resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-02:** Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy for Weakley County, TN for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008 and Ending June 30, 2009.

Chairman Phebus commented that there was a change in the Finance Ways and Means Committee prior to this meeting. The certified tax rate is signed by the County Mayor and set at \$2.0616; the .0016 is approximately 8 or 9 thousand dollars. It was the recommendation in the Finance Ways and Means Meeting to set a total tax rate of \$2.0616, with the extra fraction of cents going to the Debt Service Fund. Chairman Phebus made the Motion to place the Resolution on the Floor, as amended, for discussion and Commissioner Stewart placed a second to the Motion. Discussion was called, and Commissioner Stewart commented on the total amount of taxes collected is the same as last year. There were further comments that some people will be paying more in taxes and others might be paying less. Question was called and the County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough, called the Roll with 17 ayes and one nay. The Resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-03:** Resolution Making Appropriations to Non-Profit Charitable Organizations for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2008 and Ending June 30, 2009.

Chairman Phebus called for a Motion to place the Resolution on the Floor. Commissioner Owen made the Motion and Commissioner Taylor placed the second. Discussion was called and the question. County Clerk Scarbrough called the Roll with 18 ayes and none opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

### **TRUSTEE'S RELIEF OF TAXES**

Chairman Phebus commented that an analysis had been sent out on the Trustee's Request for Relief. Commissioner Westbrook made a Motion to relieve the Trustee of collecting \$25,287.71 for errors and double assessments, Commissioner Sinclair placed a second to the Motion. Discussion was called and Commissioner Vincent requested clarification, and Property Assessor, David Tuck, commented that errors could be damages, burned out property, storm damages, anything that would cause property value to go down. He went on to comment that it is called errors, but not all are errors, some are double assessments. Question was called and a voice vote was taken and the ayes carried with none opposed. The Trustee was relieved of \$25,287.71 for errors and double assessments.

### **MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Commissioner Salmon was recognized and he thanked the Commission for the flowers sent when his mother-in-law passed away. Commissioner Farmer was also recognized and he also thanked the Commissioner for flowers sent when his father-in-law passed away recently.

Chairman Phebus announced the next regular meeting to be on September 15, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

County Mayor Patrick commented that the Governor's Conference is September 15 and 16 in Nashville.

Commissioner Westbrook made a Motion to adjourn and Commissioner Wright placed a second to the Motion. A voice vote was taken and the Weakley County Legislative Body stood adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

ATTTEST:

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Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk