

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-66

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER RESIDUAL FUND BALANCE IN
DETENTION CENTER CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND

WHEREAS, Weakley County, Tennessee has recently completed a facility to house the Sheriff's office, the County Jail, and the Emergency Communication Center; and

WHEREAS, this project was projected to cost \$7.4 million for the building only; and

WHEREAS, the project was completed and equipped including the communications tower for less than the projected budget; and

WHEREAS, there remains a balance in the Detention Center Capital Project Fund of \$94,372.67; and

WHEREAS, the project has been completed and all invoices and contracts have been paid.

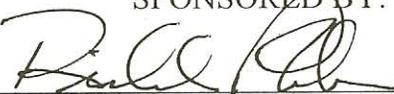
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the county legislative body of Weakley County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 25th day of June 2001 in Dresden, Tennessee that the residual fund balance in the Detention Center Capital Projects Fund of \$94,372.67 be transferred to the Debt Service Fund for the retirement of debt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions of the Board of County Commissioners of Weakley County, Tennessee, which are in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

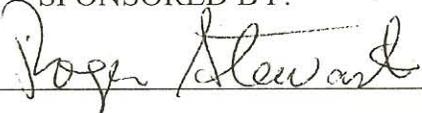
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it. This resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Pursuant To The Rules Of The Commission, This Resolution Is Sponsored By The Following Members Of The Weakley County Board Of County Commissioners:

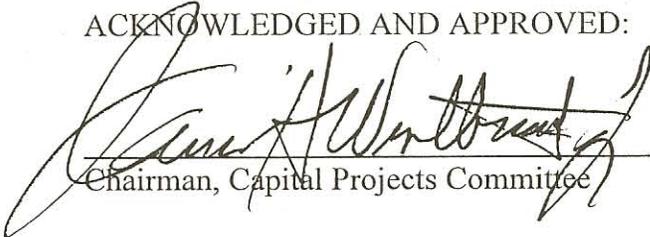
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ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:


Chairman, Capital Projects Committee

ACKNOWLEDGED AND APPROVED:


Chairman, Finance, Ways, & Means Committee

Motion made by Commissioner Westbrook that the foregoing resolution be adopted:

Motion seconded by Commissioner Phebus.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, Motion carried by a vote of 19 Yeas, 0 Nays,
0 Passed and 1 Absent.

Attested:


Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk

Approved:


Ron Gifford, County Executive

THIS THE 25th DAY OF JUNE, 2001.

COUNTY WIDE FIRE PROTECTION

TO: Weakley County Commissioners

I am here to voice an opinion that many Weakley Countians who reside outside the corporate limits of the towns in this County feel is an injustice that we must pay fire subscription and also pay taxes that support the fire departments.

The information placed in the local papers about the cities not being liable to pass city limits lines to put out fires. That's correct, because, they shouldn't leave their respective areas of coverage. However some information has for whatever reason been left out of discussions and comments and needs to be addressed, not just by the cities in this county but also by the County Commissioners that have been elected to represent the residents. Fire Subscription by the Volunteer squads is illegal due to the charters that state these are nonprofit Volunteer units. Any nonprofit organization that is also subsidized by this County is using taxpayer monies. Paying subscriptions to the subsidized volunteer units REVOKES their non-profit status because the subscriptions constitute Revenue.

The subsidy paid to these volunteer squads by the County i.e.: our tax money, small as it maybe, shows that these volunteer units place liability back on the county should death or accident happen. Weakley County Commissioners work for all the people of Weakley Co. By letting taxpayers houses burn down because of this PAID, NOT PAID subscription status creates a loss in taxes to the county budget; the property no longer has a taxable structure.

This will open the door to numerous lawsuits that can and probably will arise. We know that cities can contract to an individual homeowner outside the city limits of their town and can charge a fee of their wish. Remember law does not require this and it is paid voluntarily by that homeowner. But not the local volunteer squads, who we the taxpayers subsidize, even if it's only \$3,500.00 each.

We as taxpayers have in the past 3 years sat back and watched our commissioners spend approximately 20 million dollars to house prisoners. Dress up the courthouse and spend over 1 million for approximately 35 county employees to have lavious offices at the board of education building. Some of those millions could have gone a long way in providing countywide fire protection.

How can our Emergency Management Director justify making \$45,000.0 and a new SUV vehicle at our expense and blatantly ignore the voices of the citizens by supporting this subscription program. It is also our understanding that Commissioner Kevin McAlpin is either on or Committee Chairman of the Public Safety Committee over seeing Emergency Management Director David McAlpins department. This could constitute conflict of interest as we have seen in other County Departments. Maybe its time for the Emergency Management Director to step down and allow someone who is willing to work for a solution preventing the County from future lawsuits with this subscription program.

It is also our understanding the last documented ISO rating was 15 years ago. This effects the insurance premiums for all Weakley Countians.

Carroll County has in place no subscription charge because they subsidize all their volunteer squads and have a County Fire Dept who owns all equipment and handles maintenance. Henry County also has a similar program in place even with a part time Emergency Management Director. Neither County has a fire subscription charge to County taxpayers. Maybe because its illegal?

Last month a Weakley County resident lost his home. Neighbors called 911. The local fire chief from Gleason fire department went to the scene with no equipment and watched the house burn. Only later to ask Orr Spring/Como Volunteers to come to the scene preventing the farmer from losing other structures. These volunteers should have been called out first if the Gleason Fire Department wasn't going to do their job. Getting the fire put out should have been one of their

priorities, not worrying if a subscription is paid or not. What happens if a glitch in the system shows this as not paid, and it later comes to light that it was? Another lawsuit against Weakley County and who pays? We the COUNTY taxpayers.

We need to get our priorities in order before we start spending more in other directions. Keeping taxes down has its perks in bringing people to Weakley Co. However, if you move here build a \$100,000.00 home and the county doesn't provide that family with fire protection why move here? Four years ago I lost my home to a fire in Carroll Co. There were several volunteer squads and city fire departments at my home that night and I appreciated every one of them and the danger they faced. Losing your home and everything you own is very traumatic and no one should ever have to go through that. But to see this County not care enough to try to prevent anyone from going through that is inexcusable. Remember fire knows no social or economic background it can happen to anyone even you.

The cities are using the subscription charge as a revenue boost to their coffers at the expense of county taxpayers. Forcing those who live in the county to pay. Is this protection or extortion?

What are we asking for? Fair and equal fire protection countywide.

Please remember that you are an elected official of this county and that you represent all of Weakley County, not just those that live in the towns. Thank you for listening to us.


Mike McCadams

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