

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FINANCE, WAYS, AND MEANS COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 9:00 AM – Conference Room, Board of Education, Dresden, TN**

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Present: Commissioners Eric Owen, James Westbrook, Beth VanCleave, David Bell, Roger Donaldson, Larry Taylor, Dennis Doster, and Gary Eddings

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Greg Usery

The Weakley County Finance, Ways, and Means Committee met on Thursday, May 13, 2021, in the conference room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Others present included Mayor Jake Bynum, Road Supervisor Charles Ross, Trustee Marci Floyd, Director of Schools Randy Frazier, Sheriff Mike Wilson, Joshua Thompson and two representatives of the media.

I-II. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Owen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for the consideration of the minutes from the meeting that was held on March 11, 2021. Commissioner Doster made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Eddings, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Recording Secretary- Commissioner Owen called for a recommendation for Finance, Ways and Means Recording Secretary. Commissioner Bell made a motion for Kirsty-Rhe Janse to serve as the new recording secretary. With no other recommendations and a second from Commissioner Donaldson, Kirsty-Rhe Janse was unanimously appointed as recording secretary.

B. Resolutions

1. Resolution No. 2021-36: Passed unanimously through the HEED Committee, this resolution authorizes budget amendments to the general fund for the Weakley County Office of Aging who entered into a contract with the Northwest Tennessee Development District Guardianship Program for a local client. Mayor Bynum was recognized and explained that there is a client in Sharon who is in the guardianship program and is requiring more hours than what the development district is allowed to allot. The individual is now paying for them to come four extra house each week. Commissioner Bell made the motion to approve and recommend the resolution to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution No. 2021-37: This resolution is authorizing budget amendments to the general fund for the Weakley County Property Assessor to replace a retired full-time employee with an employee previously classified as part-time. Commissioner Doster made the motion to approve and recommend the resolution to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Eddings, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion of storm damage on buildings and equipment- Commissioner Owen recognized Road Supervisor, Charles Ross, who discussed briefly the damage that was done by the storm. He explained that roofs were torn off of two buildings, and that several windows of buildings and equipment were broken. Supervisor Ross informed the committee that the biggest issue is the roof. At the time it is unsure of what the insurance will cover. The loader shed also needs to be repaired but the cost of that is also unsure. If the repairs aren't done in a timely manner it could cause more damage for the office inside. Commissioner Owen inquired who the contact person would be for all of these repairs and recognized Mayor Bynum who explained that they are working with an adjuster. Becky Brock is the contact person with the insurance pool.

Director of Schools Randy Frazier was then recognized and discussed the major damage that was done to Dresden High School. He explained that an adjuster came out to look at the damage that was done and received approval for \$100,000 to fix the roof. Fortunately the roof is now fixed. Additional damages included two light poles that fell down damaging the press box, bleachers that were broken, and three doors that were ripped off the bus garage. Director Frazier explained that currently the big problem is the generator. The engine of the generator will run but it is not working and generating power. He recommended that a new generator be bought, one that is portable and that can be used anywhere in the county if needed. There has been several attempts to fix the problem but there has yet to be a solution. Several commissioners are in favor of investing in a new generator.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Donaldson made a motion for the Finance, Ways and Means Committee to return to budget meetings on multiple days as opposed to the one day workshop. He went on explaining how he would like for it to return to the way it was done pre-COVID, and that he was making the motion on advisement from the Executive Director of the Tennessee County Commission Association, CTAS and the county attorney. The motion only requires a simple majority to pass. Commissioner Donaldson explained that he was opposed to the chairman making all of the decisions and preceding a workshop style to the Finance, Ways and Means Committee. He discussed how he was advised by the executive director of the County Commission Association, lawyers at CTAS as well as the county attorney, that though this practice is not illegal it is not recommended. He went on explaining that the preference is for all Finance, Ways and Means committee members to be present for one on one meetings with the department heads for open discussions and reviews of their budgets.


Commissioner Larry Taylor voiced a second to the motion. Mayor Bynum was recognized and explained that the meeting was set for all day, until it was finished, however it is not in the same format as the workshop that was held during the COVID year. The intended interpretation of the schedule was that the committee would go through and start at the beginning and have the opportunity to walk through the budget as a whole. He mentioned that it would be done as it always had, the only difference would be that it would be in one sitting instead of over multiple days. Commissioner Owen mentioned that everything would still go through the required committees. Commissioner Donaldson expressed his concern of not having enough time to look over everything and make adjustments, to be voted on two or three days later. However, Mayor Bynum explained that the county commission meeting that is set for June would not be the meeting where the budget would be approved, that would occur in the July county commission meeting, really giving everyone a month to view the proposed budgets and make any adjustments. Commissioner Donaldson also expressed his concern saying that he did not think the chairman should be meeting with any of the department heads privately, and that it should go before the entire body. Mayor Bynum explained that part of the complaint has always been that the commissioners do not get the information in a timely manner since it is done over multiple days and there are constantly changes. He went on to explain that the one day meeting would not be a workshop but it would just allow for the committee to see all the information at the same time and try and eliminate any confusion when things get adjusted in other meetings. He explained that revenue is the most important part of the budget as it relates to expenditures and if the Finance Ways and Means Committee were meeting earlier in the months the numbers wouldn't be as accurate and available. Commissioner Larry Taylor asked when all of the other committees would be meeting and was informed that all of those meetings are scheduled for some time in the month of June. Mayor Bynum explained that the workshop previously done included the entire county commission whereas the one day that is being proposed for June would only be the Finance, Ways and Means Committee like it has been in the past. Commissioner Doster proposed that the committee split the meeting over two days. Commissioner Taylor called the question to the floor of moving the Finance Ways and Means meeting to multiple days and with nothing else the motion passed unanimously.

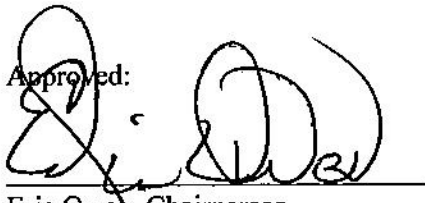
VI. ADJOURN

Having no other business, Commissioner Westbrook made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by

Commissioner Bell, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kirsty-Rhe Janse, Secretary
Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Approved: 
Eric Owen, Chairperson
Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Date: 6/21/21