

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FINANCE, WAYS, AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

Friday, September 17, 2021 – 9:00 a.m., Conference Room, Weakley County Board of Education – Dresden, TN

FWM Committee Members Present: Commissioners Eric Owen, James Westbrook, David Bell, Roger Donaldson, Dennis Doster, Larry Taylor, Gary Eddings, Greg Usery and Beth VanCleave

FWM Committee Members Absent:

The Finance, Ways, and Means Committee met on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, Weakley County Board of Education in Dresden. Also in attendance was Director of Finance John Liggett, Mayor Jake Bynum, Commissioner David Hawks, Election Administrator Alex Britt, Road Supervisor Charles Ross, Director of Schools Randy Frazier, Register of Deeds April Jones, Commissioner Larry Taylor, Commissioner Larry Kelly, Office on Aging Director Gail Rogers, and representatives of the media.

Chairperson Owen called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Owen called for the consideration of the minutes from the meetings that was held on July 29, 2021. Commissioner Eddings made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Usery, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolutions

Resolution No. 2022-07: Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Purpose School Fund-

Commissioner Westbrook made a motion to place the first resolution on the floor, and with a second from Commissioner Doster, the resolution was open to discuss. Director of Schools Randy Frazier was recognized and explained that there were two parts to this resolution. Last year money was lost due to low attendance at the games because of COVID19. There was a \$92,000 reduction in revenue for schools. The school board decided they wanted to divide up the money to make up the difference in the amount lost, which was included in the contributions line. Second, the building improvements include Westview's fieldhouse HVAC unit. Parts have been ordered, but the hope is that the project will be completed sometime this fall. Commissioner Westbrook called a question, and the resolution passed.

Commissioner Owen called to combine resolutions No. 2022-09, 2022-10, and 2022-11. With a motion by Commissioner Donaldson and a second by Commissioner VanCleave, the resolutions were combined. Finance Director John Liggett was recognized and explained resolution no. 2022-09. Last year the Sharon Senior Center received a COVID grant for the food pantry. The total grant amount was \$2,900. What is shown is the rest of that funding. They can still spend \$2,400. Resolution No. 2022-10 is the same as the previous resolution for the Office on Aging in Dresden. Their total amount rewarded was \$8,100. The amount coming out of the restricted line was what they withdrew but did not spend yet, and the \$5,340 is the amount that is still available to withdraw. Everything has to be spent by the end of September 2021. Mayor Bynum addressed resolution No. 2021-11. He explained that the Weakley County Prevention Coalition received a grant, and they believe some of that grant needs to go towards prevention efforts and enforcement efforts. They reached out to the Sheriff's Department and inquired if they would want to do some enforcement pieces related to the prevention coalition. Essentially that would include additional policing of after-hour events such as after ball games at the university and in the county. They are granting \$2,000, and it will be used to pay for overtime. It is just a pass-through.

A question was called for resolutions no. 2022-09 and 2022-10, and it passed unanimously. Resolution no. 2022-11 was called to question and passed with Commissioner Eddings abstaining from voting.

OTHER BUSINESS:


Director Frazier was recognized and explained some items that the School Board is trying to get done. The Tennessee Comptroller released an education mapping statewide ranking the school systems funding. Attached to the packet he handed out was the listing of just the northwest districts. The data included the teacher salaries, and Weakley County ranked 17th out of 19. The data is lagging and is based on the end of the 2019-20 school year. Weakley County's ranking for teacher salaries is better than this; however, it just has not been updated. Forty-eight teachers were hired this year. The next sheet displayed the per-pupil expenditure, so how much districts are spending overall. These numbers included state, local, and federal money. Weakley County is 14th in spending. The next sheet included school bond debts. They have four outstanding loans. The energy efficiency is loan one, and there is \$151,060 remaining on that. The adult learning center is the next item. There was a \$1 million USDA grant, and there is \$633,333 remaining on that loan. It expires 10/27. The lighting project that was done in every school is the next item. There is still \$1,183,692 remaining on that balance. It expires 10/29. The last item is the school building project, and it has \$5,739,930 remaining in the balance. It expires 5/25. The next page included what the school system has paid. Several projects have been taken over and paid for. There are still several projects that have to be finished. The total preliminary budget comes out to \$7,921,987. There is about \$6 million in the school's fund balance. The board believes they can help pay for half of the amount, but they won't be able to cover all of it. These projects are long-term projects to help keep everything up to date in the schools. Commissioner Owen inquired if any CARES money could be set aside for any project. Director Frazier responded they have asked for \$1.4 million, but it has not been approved yet. There are also some delays in getting different equipment. Having no other business, Commissioner Westbrook made a motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Doster the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

Approved: _____



Eric Owen, Chairperson
Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Date: _____