

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Monday, May 10, 2021 – 9:00 AM – Conference Room, Board of Education, Dresden, TN

Public Safety Committee Members Present: Commissioners Jack Vincent, David Bell, Eric Owen, and Steven Totty

Public Safety Committee Members Absent: Commissioner David Hawks and James Roy Pope

The Weakley County Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Others present included County Mayor Jake Bynum, Emergency Management Director Ray Wiggington, Sheriff Mike Wilson, Finance Director John Liggett, General Sessions Judge Thomas Moore, Intern Joshua Thompson and two representatives of the media.

I.-II. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Vincent called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called for the consideration of the minutes from the meeting that was held January 8, 2021. Commissioner Bell made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Totty, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

none.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Recording Secretary- Commissioner Vincent called for a recommendation for Public Safety 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 Owen, Kirsty-Rhe Janse was unanimously appointed as recording secretary.

b. Storm Update- Ray Wiggington, Emergency Management Director, was recognized and informed the committee that as of that moment they were still in the assessment phase. So far a windshield survey, which is the initial survey, was done to assess the storm damaged. There are two separate categories of damage, individual assistance and public assistance. IA is damage to public buildings, private buildings and primarily lived in homes. They couldn't do anything with property damage, even though there is a lot of property damage around the county due to the storm. During the damage assessment process, each of the buildings get graded by a percentage scale, determining the percentage of damage they suffered. The windshield survey revealed that 10 homes were damaged and out of those four were a complete loss. The PA damage is the cost of the actual county. This includes the highway department and how much they actually spent, and how much the electric company spent. That damage goes on a federal labor rate, so in other words for the highway department it would be how much per hour does it cost to run a chainsaw, or if you run a truck it adds a different rate. The PA part of the assessment takes time to pull together. When those numbers come in there is a county per capita loss threshold that is dealt with. Weakley County's loss threshold per capita is over \$136,000, and if that is reached then it would go to the state which would then have to reach its own threshold which is just under \$10 million. If both of those thresholds are met then it goes to the federal government and possibly the county could get a presidential declaration of a disaster. Director Wiggington was unsure if that threshold would be met in this situation. There is a possibility to get reimbursed for a lot of the costs if it were to go through. He updated the committee that there was one tragic fatality during this storm. The responders that went out during and after to storm showed a lot of valor and had a very thorough and dignified extrication. The PA damage assessments will be received within the week and the process can keep moving forward.

Commissioner Vincent asked Director Wiggington if he would be able to classify whether the storm was straight line winds or if it was a tornado that came through. Director Wiggington has been in communication with the national weather services in Memphis, who sent personnel over to assess the damage and came to the conclusion that as of the moment it looks like it was straight line winds.

c. Discussion of Circuit Court Clerk Appointment- Jake Bynum, County Mayor, was recognized and relayed that the current Circuit Court Clerk Jennifer Killebrew has announced her resignation. He discussed what the process will look like moving forward. She has turned in her letter of resignation, which will be submitted for approval by the County Commission during the May 17th meeting. Once the commission has approved her resignation she can no longer rescind her resignation. If her resignation gets approved by the County Commission on May 17th the vacancy can start being publicized. On the June 29th County Commission meeting the appointment for a new Circuit Court Clerk will be made. Should Mrs. Killebrew not leave the office before the June County Commission meeting that would be her last day and the new person would start on June 30th. The new Circuit Court Clerk would then serve for the remainder of the term and if that person were to run they would qualify at the same time that everyone else does. The amount of individuals that will apply for this position is uncertain at the time. One official application has been received and several resumes have also been received. 15 people can apply for the vacancy however, to be considered for nomination they have to be nominated by a commissioner from the floor. All the documentation that is received will be submitted, but it will be the commission's appointment and nomination of the individual that will determine who the new Circuit Court Clerk will be. Essentially the commission could nominate one person and then elect that one person at the June meeting. There could also be multiple nominations. In the past if there were multiple applications, they would be excused from the room, and they would be brought in one at a time to be interviewed. A vote would then be taken. A vote requires ten people to confirm the nomination. The County Commission is required to set the rules for how they will handle the appointment prior to the meeting on June 29th. If Mrs. Killebrew were to vacate her office prior to the meeting, her first deputy would temporarily serve until the time of the appointment. There is no application deadline, the only requirement is that the person has to be nominated by a commissioner on the floor.

Mayor Bynum discussed a potential challenge for the new person. As of right now Mrs. Killebrew is still designing the budget for the next Fiscal Year and the new person could be saddled with the budget that is being set before they arrive. There is a short time span where the person would be able to make any changes should they deem necessary.

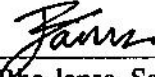
V. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Owen recognized Sheriff Mike Wilson to talk about the damage they are facing due to the storm. Sheriff Wilson explained that the roof will have to be replaced. The determination of cost is currently being made to decide whether or not the roof will be replaced on this year's budget or next.

VI. ADJOURN

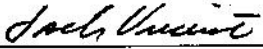
Having no other business, Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Bell, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kirsty-Rhe Janse, Secretary
Public Safety Committee

Approved:



Jack Vincent, Chairperson
Public Safety Committee

Date: 16 June 21