

**ORIGINAL**

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 – 9:00 A.M. – Weakley County Highway Department, Dresden, TN**

**Public Works Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Jimmy Westbrook, Billy Hazlewood, Dennis Doster, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, and Marcus Hopper

**Public Works Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner Larry Taylor

Also present were Commissioners David Hawks, Greg Usery, Roger Donaldson, Larry Kelly, Road Supervisor Jeff Cosby, Sheriff Terry McDade, and Mayor Jake Bynum

**I. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Westbrook 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 January 9, 2024. Commissioner Doster made the motion to approve, and with a second by Commissioner Freeman, the motion passed unanimously.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion of Trackhoe Surplus:** Chairperson Westbrook recognized supervisor Cosby. Supervisor Cosby stated that the equipment in question can no longer be repaired and should be sold on govdeals. He feels like selling the trackhoe individually on the site will do better than selling at the county surplus auction coming up. Commissioner Eddings made a motion to approve the surplus of the track hoe on govdeals. Commissioner Hazlewood seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion of Hutchens Road:** Commissioner Hawks was recognized and explained that he had requested this be placed on the agenda for discussion. A citizen recently had a tree that seemed as though it would fall into the road. According to the county map, the tree was in the city limits. He referenced other maps such as 911 and the City of Martin map which showed the location as being in the city. He contacted Lisa Odle who informed him that no one is paying city taxes in the referenced area which is approximately a mile. The citizens who are complaining are County citizens who cross the area and were fearful of the tree. The city ended up cutting the tree because it was 27 feet from the center of the road meaning it fell onto city property as that is the old city dump property, however he is proposing adding this short section of Hutchens and Frontage be added to the County Road List. Commissioner Doster stated that it was his understanding that citizens must make formal request to add a road. Commissioner Hawks stated that he would like to request this as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Eddings made a motion to add this section to the road list. Commissioner Freeman seconded. Mayor Bynum informed the committee that we can't add this road without going through the proper procedure of accepting an application and passing through the committee and full commission via resolution. Commissioner Westbrook agreed with the Mayor's statement. A vote was taken, and the motion failed with a vote of four to two with one absent. Commissioner Doster stated that he voted no because the proper procedure had not been followed with this recommendation. Commissioner Hazlewood also pointed out that the problematic tree had been taken care of, so there was no longer an immediate danger.

**Discussion of State Aid Progress:** Road Supervisor Cosby informed the committee that the eight miles that had been contracted and discussed in the previous meetings has been completed. He stated that \$1.9M is left and he is hopeful to spend that as quickly as possible in order to request more money from the State.

**Discussion of State-Proposed Property Tax Increase Cap:** Chairperson Westbrook stated that he supposed everyone was not in favor of this because Weakley County has not increased property taxes in years and so we are not the problem that the state is attempting to address. They went on to discuss the proposed voucher program and discussed what a disaster this would be. Commissioner Kelly pointed out that our area's State Senator was a sponsor of both pieces of legislation. Commissioner Westbrook encouraged everyone to reach out to their representatives.

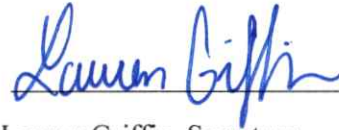
#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **V. ADJOURN**

Seeing no other business, Chairperson Westbrook adjourned the meeting at 9:19.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lauren Griffin, Secretary

Public Works Committee

Approved:



Jimmy Westbrook, Chairperson

Public Works Committee

Date: 5.6.24