Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by the Chairman Dennis Doster at 5:00 P.M. at the Weakley County Courthouse.

The invocation was given by Brian Gallimore.

All members present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

County Clerk Kim Hughey called the roll. Answering present were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook. Commissioners James Roy Pope and Larry Taylor were absent.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Cook made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Financial Reports. Commissioner Usery made a motion and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Financial Reports were accepted with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Ag Extension Report. Commissioner Dunlap made a motion and Commissioner Hopper placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Ag Extension Report was accepted with none opposed.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Veteran's Service Report. Commissioner Hawks made a motion and Commissioner Washburn placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Veteran's Service Report was accepted with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that for the first time in Weakley County sports history, there are 3 high school baseball teams that have qualified for the state tournament. The Martin Westview High School, Greenfield High School, and Dresden High School baseball teams will be

making the trip to Murfreesboro to compete for a gold ball at the TSSAA Baseball State Tournament. The Dresden High School softball team will also be traveling to Murfreesboro to compete at the TSSAA Softball State Tournament. There are 4 teams that will be representing Weakley County on a statewide level. There are multiple track athletes from Dresden, Martin, and Greenfield that will be competing at the TSSAA track & field meet. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson congratulated these athletes and encouraged everyone to support them as they represent Weakley County on a state level. There are graduations going on across the county at all our local high schools. Sharon Middle School had their 8th grade graduation today. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he had the pleasure of attending the Sharon graduation ceremony and it was special. Regarding national sports news, Ty Simpson was drafted 1st round 13th overall to the LA Rams. That is the highest ever draft pick in the history of Weakley County. There will be a proclamation presented to him soon. For trivia purposes, there was one other person drafted in the 1st round, and that was Justin Harrell. He was 1st round 16th overall to the Green Bay Packers. Chad Clifton was 2nd round 44th overall.

Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson congratulated Gail Rogers and Cathy Duffina with the Weakley County Office on Aging for being recognized as the Northwest Region Partner Agency of the Year by the Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program (TN SHIP). The office provides many programs for our seniors in Weakley County. This is a big recognition award for all their hard work. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson congratulated Melinda Parham, Shana Bradley, Megan King, and Patricia Capps for completing their Certified Public Administrator Certificate. They will be able to provide a higher quality of service than anywhere else in the state. Weakley County Mayor Dale Hutcherson highlighted the Weakley County Finance Department at this meeting. The Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett is available at all the meetings and provides clarity where necessary. His team includes Sara Neal, Heather Allen, Lou Ann Capps, Leanna Slusser, and Ann Marie Norrid. They are effective and efficient when it comes to managing our tax dollars and making sure our money is spent wisely. They manage payroll for over 1,200 employees, which is a massive undertaking.

Each commissioner was given a handout from the Tennessee Comptroller's Office that highlights the 2025 fiscal year. As you can see, our county is in great shape. The target for annual expenditures that can be paid with available cash is 16%, the average is 52%, and Weakley County is 97%. So, we are well above those necessary measures to the extent that we could fund county functions with cash reserves for nearly a full year. That is truly remarkable. This is because of the fine work our Finance Department and commissioners do. The sale of the nursing home has helped with our cash on hand. There is a 2% ratio of outstanding debt relative to assessed value. The target is below 8% and the average is 3%. We are above average in that category. We have several debts that will be paid off soon like the HVAC unit debt for the jail and Westview. The debt for the lighting at the schools will be gone by October 2026. The million-dollar Personal Development Center (PDC) renovation is interest free. Our debts are paid back diligently because of the demanding work the Finance Department does. Financially, our county is in great shape. The spikes seen on the graph are an influx of money from the nursing home sale. Our revenue went up, therefore our cash on hand balance went up. The spending stayed right on track.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Report

Chairman Dennis Doster recognized Chris Mathis, the Chairman of the Audit Committee, to give a brief update on the Audit Report. Chris Mathis stated that Commissioner Taylor and Jack Reese will be transitioning off the Audit Committee. They were full of knowledge and will be missed. The Audit Report is self-explanatory. There was a small finding at the Finance Department. There were some figures in the system that were duplicated in error, and the finding was noted as one of entry timing and not failure to record data. There was an audit finding at the Weakley County Circuit Clerk's Office that was highly publicized and no further discussion was needed. The Weakley County Sheriff's Office had a finding regarding the evidence room needing to be tidier. Evidence rooms can be a mess. The result given by the Audit Committee is a clean audit, but not perfect. Last year there was a great audit with no findings. This year we have a clean audit with a few findings. The Audit Committee's recommendation is to accept this audit. The Audit Committee speaks highly of our department heads. Chairman Dennis Doster thanked Chairman of the Audit Committee Chris Mathis for the summary of the Audit Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Appointment of Eight (8) Members to the Board of Health

Tina Davis, Beth Kempton, Dr. John Howard, Dr. Amy Duncan DDS, Dr. Susan Lowry, Dr. Bob Page, Director of Schools Jeff Cupples, and County Mayor Dale Hutcherson were recommended for appointment to the Weakley County Board of Health. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Tina Davis, Beth Kempton, Dr. John Howard, Dr. Amy Duncan DDS, Dr. Susan Lowry, Dr. Bob Page, Director of Schools Jeff Cupples, and County Mayor Dale Hutcherson to the Weakley County Board of Health. Commissioner Hazlewood placed a motion and Commissioner Donaldson placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Tina Davis, Beth Kempton, Dr. John Howard, Dr. Amy Duncan DDS, Dr. Susan Lowry, Dr. Bob Page, Director of Schools Jeff Cupples, and County Mayor Dale Hutcherson to the Weakley County Board of Health was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of Five (5) Members to the Board of Equalization

Brian Gallimore, Zack Lunsford, Tommy Seratt, Misti Edwards, and Spencer Stewart were recommended for appointment to the Weakley County Board of Equalization. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Brian Gallimore, Zack Lunsford, Tommy Seratt, Misti Edwards, and Spencer Stewart to the Weakley County Board of Equalization. Commissioner Mehlhorn placed a motion and Commissioner Usery placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Brian Gallimore, Zack Lunsford, Tommy Seratt, Misti Edwards, and Spencer Stewart to the Weakley County Board of Equalization was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of Nine (9) Members to the Opioid Settlement Committee
James Washburn, David Bell, Gary Eddings, Marcus Hopper, Joyce Washington, Keith Jones, Donna Newsom, Alan Hughey, and Ashley Donaldson were recommended for appointment to the Opioid Settlement Committee. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve James Washburn, David Bell, Gary Eddings, Marcus Hopper, Joyce Washington, Keith Jones, Donna Newsom, Alan Hughey, and Ashley Donaldson to the Opioid Settlement Committee. Commissioner Hawks placed a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of James Washburn, David Bell, Gary Eddings, Marcus Hopper, Joyce Washington, Keith Jones, Donna Newsom, Alan Hughey, and Ashley Donalson to the Opioid Settlement Committee was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of District 6A Constable
Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the District 6A Constable. There were no nominations for the District 6A Constable position.

Election of Notaries Public
Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Notaries Public. Commissioner Washburn made a motion and Commissioner Usery placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Notaries Public were approved with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS
Resolution No. 2026-43: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Marcus Hopper and Gary Eddings
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-43. Commissioner Eddings made a motion and Commissioner Moore placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that this money is to purchase a system to burn used oil at the county shop. Weakley County Road Supervisor Jeff Cosby stated that this is a grant. Commissioner Vincent asked if it was a matching grant. Weakley County Road Supervisor Jeff Cosby stated that the equipment is $25,100 and the grant is $23,500. It is a 500,000 BTU oil heater for the shop. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-43 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioners James Roy Pope and Larry Taylor were absent.

NON-FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-44: Resolution of the Weakley County Legislative Body Approving House Bill 2627/Senate Bill 2689, a Private Act Relating to the Weakley County Highway Department and the Election of the County Highway Supervisor
Sponsored by Commissioners John Robert Freeman and Gary Eddings
Passed unanimously through the Public Works committee

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-44. Commissioner Hopper made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that this resolution will need a 2/3rds vote to pass. Commissioner Vincent asked if this has already been voted on. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that we voted to petition Nashville to approve this Private Act change. Once Nashville approves it, the Governor signs it, and it is sent back before the commission. To ratify a Private Act, a resolution must be formed, and it needs a 2/3rds vote to pass. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-43 passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioners James Roy Pope and Larry Taylor were absent.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None

Chairman Dennis Doster announced that the next Regular Meeting would be Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

D.C.

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk