

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – 9:00 a.m., Conference Room, Board of Education – Dresden, TN

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

FWM Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Greg Usery

The Finance, Ways, and Means Committee met on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education in Dresden. Also in attendance was Director of Finance John Liggett, Mayor Jake Bynum, Office on Aging Director Gail Rodgers, Director of Schools Randy Frazier, Ag Extension Director Jeff Lannom, a representative of the election commission, Joshua Thompson and representatives of the media.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No new minutes to approve

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF BUDGETS:

FUND 101

51500- the committee first addressed the proposed raise of Administrator Alex Britt. Director Liggett explained that if this salary increase he would have to also adjust the benefits. As of right now Administrator Britt is making 90% of what the Assessor is making and the proposal was that it would be made equal.

The Finance, Ways and Means Committee went into recess at 11:01 to hear from the Election Commission. At 11:04 the Finance, Ways and Means Committee was back in session. Several commissioners did not agree that the raise should be given. Commissioner Doster made a motion that the salary remain tied to the 90% of the Assessor and with a second from Commissioner Westbrook a roll call vote was requested. With 8 votes for the motion and 1 against, the motion passed.

51800- Mayor Bynum was recognized and addressed line 335 (maintenance/repair, buildings) and line 336 (maintenance/repair, equipment) saying that with COVID last year the numbers in the budget had to decrease. However with things returning to normal the numbers in these lines have gone back to what they were prior to last year. The county buildings are older and need to be maintained. He also addressed the idea of cyber security and the need to be more aware about that. Commissioner Eddings asked about the elevator in the courthouse to which Mayor Bynum responded that if it does get repaired or worked on the money will come out of 171.

55150- 310- Carl Perkins Center- Mayor Bynum explained that over the past 5 years they have committed to giving a total of \$100,000 to the Carl Perkins Center and this will be the last year before that commitment is fulfilled.

55510- The county has to pay not only for the autopsies but also for the transport, thus the high costs.

56300- 105- director- The money in this line will remain. The hope is that a new director will be hired into this position and then the money will already be there. Currently there are only two part time employees working at the senior center.

57100- They are currently fully staffed. There were two longer term vacancies that have now been filled.

58190- There was a discussion about when the new economic development director would be added on and some discussion on the merger of the chamber and the economic development board.

58500- There may be some additional money allocated into these lines. There was also some discussion on whether or not to include the airport in this account as there is very little relief money available right now.

FUND 141- GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND

Director of Schools Randy Frazier was recognized and explained that there would be raises in his budget. It will include a 4% raise for all certified personnel and a 5 % raise for all non-certified personnel. He explained that there will also be a 1% increase in the medical insurance. He also mentioned the pay for bus drivers and how they are paid by the hour. There is also some additional training that will start becoming available for bus drivers although they are experiencing a shortage in drivers as of right now. The total of the teacher raises amount to \$600,000.

Director Frazier explained that the students did not do very well with virtual learning and it caused many to struggle immensely. There will however be no virtual school this next year.

76100- Federal money is being given and can be used for capital improvements. Both loss of student learning and infrastructure improvements qualify for this money.

FUND 143-CHILD NUTRITION

There was a discussion on the push to make breakfast and lunches free for students in the schools. There was also federal reimbursement opportunities for disposable items that was used in providing meals for the kids.

OTHER BUSINESS:

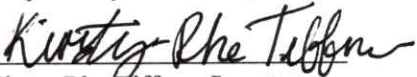
Funds 141, 142 and 143 were recommended to the full commission.

Commissioner Doster raised his concerns about the fact that the school budget includes such high raises and how since it was already advertised in the media they did not have much choice in whether to keep it or change it. Commissioner Doster made a motion to look at the raises and table the discussion until the next day, and with a second by Commissioner Donaldson a roll call vote was requested. With 4 votes for and 4 votes against, the motion failed. The discussion continued on how they could add more money into the highway department.

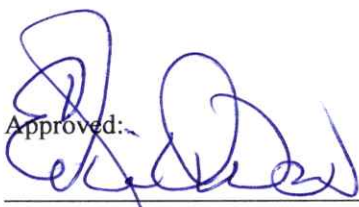
Commissioner Owen made a motion to recommend the discussed budgets to the full commission and to take fund 101 in its entirety at the next meeting.

Having no other business, Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Doster, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


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

Approved:


Eric Owen, Chairperson
Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Date: 7-27-21