

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

**Tuesday, July 2, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. – Conference Room, Department of Finance**

**Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Eric Owen, James H. Westbrook, Jr., David Bell, Colton Nanney, Greg Usery, Dennis Doster, Roger Donaldson, and Roger VanCleave

**Finance, Ways, and Means Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner Larry Taylor

The Weakley County Finance, Ways and Means Committee met on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Board of Education and Department of Finance in Dresden. Others present included County Mayor Jake Bynum, Finance Director John Liggett, Dispatch Director Christy Fulcher, Circuit Court Clerk Jenny Killebrew, Register of Deeds April Jones, County Clerk Kim Hughey, Property Assessor David Tuck, Ag Extension Agent Jeff Lannom, Health Department Director Tracy Byrd, Adult Learning Center Director Mark Maddox; County Commissioners Donnie Essary, David Hawks, and Gary Eddings; Cary Henson of Henson Construction, Jerry Hartsfield and another representative both of TLM Associates, Charlie Garrett of Garrett Construction, five (5) representatives of the PATH Group, and one representative of the media.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Bell made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, June 27, and July 1, 2019, committee meetings and with a second by Commissioner Usery, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION OF COURTHOUSE HVAC PROJECT – PATH PRESENTATION:**

Chairperson Owen recognized Mayor Bynum who provided a brief overview of the HVAC problems at the courthouse. He introduced the PATH Group representatives who presented potential solutions for the HVAC issues in conjunction with an energy efficiency plan which would offset the costs of the project. Charlie Garrett of Garrett Construction was introduced and provided an in depth explanation about current conditions and how the potential new system would work.

**DISCUSSION OF BUDGETS:**

**FUND 101 – GENERAL FUND BUDGETS**

Highlights and specific budgets that were discussed included:

Revenues:

Mayor Bynum explained that West Tennessee Healthcare has received tax exempt status but would still be providing the county \$50,000 for the 19-20 FY, but in future years the figure will drop to zero.

51100 – County Commission – Chairperson Owen mentioned that the amount expensed in 2018-19 FY had increased significantly. He stated that if a commissioner registers for an event at a cost to the county and does not attend the event, that commissioner is responsible for reimbursing the county the full amount of the registration.

51300 – County Mayor – Mayor Bynum stated that a county vehicle is in the budget.

51600 – Register of Deeds – Register April Jones mentioned an increase she had in receipting for the FY and a small increase in staff development for her staff to attend the COCTP program.

51800 – County Buildings – Mayor Bynum explained that figured into the County Buildings budget were 3 HVAC units for the Library. He also mentioned the need for a county maintenance individual and discussion commenced on the need, issues within the buildings, duties and responsibilities of such a position, potential salary and associated costs, as well as other courthouse repair and maintenance challenges.

52100 – Department of Finance – Finance Director Liggett commented on an increase in the data processing line for purchase of Nextgen Local Government Software and a new server.

52500 – County Clerk – County Clerk Kim Hughey relayed that she has a bookkeeper who plans to retire in June, so she plans to hire a new employee and designate one of her staff to train with the retiring bookkeeper. She also mentioned an increase in phone bill charges that was incorrectly figured by the Mobile PC Guys.

54410 – Emergency Management – Mayor Bynum informed the committee that current director Dustin Kemp is leaving the position and the communications line is increased for the purchase of a cell phone and service for the new director.

58400 – Dues and Memberships – Commissioner VanCleave made the motion to remove membership fees designated to the National Association of Counties [NACo], and with a second by Commissioner Bell, and a roll call vote, the motion passed with a vote of 6 yeas, 2 nays (James Westbrook, Eric Owen) and 1 absent.

99100-590 – Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Mayor Bynum explained that in the 18-19 FY, the county budgeted the TIF payment from the county, but they did not receive it due to the fact that they were not on the tax roll yet.

58190 – Other Economic and Community Development – There was some discussion about a \$40,000 budget allocation for a partnership with WK&T Telecommunications. Commissioner Bell stated that the partnership was absolutely necessary for an engineering study, and spoke to the many benefits and advantages that a partnership like this could create.

Commissioner Usery made the motion to approve and recommend all of the General Fund budgets presented to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Donaldson, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **FUND 151 – DEBT SERVICE FUND**

Commissioner Westbrook made the motion to approve and recommend the Debt Service Fund budget as presented to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Donaldson, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **FUND 359 – TAX INCREMENT FINANCING [TIF] FUND**

Commissioner Usery made the motion to approve and recommend the TIF Fund budget as presented to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Bell, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION**

Commissioner Usery made the motion to recommend a 2% per department pay increase for general fund departments, and with a second by Commissioner Bell, the motion to recommend to the full county commission passed unanimously. Chairperson Owen added that a pay increase of some sort has been given for the last 7 consecutive years and cited it as an 18.6% increase overall.

#### **DISCUSSION OF TAX RATE**

Commissioner Owen read the breakdown of the tax rate from the document providing the tax rate for FY 2019-20

and provided information about how it was calculated. He then made the motion to approve the tax rate and recommend it to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook, the motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUILDING PROJECT**

Commissioner Doster made the motion to approve and recommend a \$3.9 million project for the construction and renovation of the highway department building and grounds to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Donaldson, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Owen recommended combining the courthouse HVAC project with the highway department building project and for a total combined projects cost not to exceed \$7 million. Commissioner Westbrook made the motion to draft a resolution for the issuance of capital outlay notes not to exceed \$7 million for the purposes of repairing and/or reconstruction to the county maintenance garage and other county buildings. With a second by Chairperson Owen, the motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Having no other business, Chairperson Owen recessed the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Approved:



Eric Owen, Chairperson

Finance, Ways, and Means Committee

Date: 9-13-19

*Joint HSED + Full meeting*