Weakley County Legislative Body
Special Called County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Monday, November 3, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by the Chairman Dennis Doster at 10:00 A.M. at the Weakley County Courthouse.

The invocation was given by Larry Kelly.

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, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Kelly, David Bell, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook. Commissioners Wade Cook, Larry Taylor, and Joey Mehlhorn were absent.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2026-17: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Larry Kelly and John Robert Freeman

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-17. Commissioner Kelly made a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson thanked everyone for being present and stated that this resolution is to complete the application process for a grant from the State of Tennessee through the Historic Development Grant Program. Northwest Tennessee Development District will be facilitating the grant. If approved, the money will go towards courthouse improvements. The courthouse is an older building with a plethora of issues that need attention. The elevator, alarm system, doors, and windows need repairs. The windows were damaged during the 2021 tornado. There are some windows that will need to be replaced, and others will need to be resealed. Weakley County Mayor's Executive Assistant Melinda Parham has gone through a lengthy list of things

that need attention. Contractors have given us quotes on the repairs needed to the building. Weakley County Mayor's Executive Assistant Melinda Parham has been working in conjunction with Northwest Tennessee Development District representative Jessica Baker, and she can help answer any questions. The quotes received were in the $500,000 range. The grant has an application cap up to $500,000. The elevator alone will be $350,000. The new alarm system will be expensive. The windows were quoted anywhere from $50,000 to $150,000. The damage to the windows has caused water damage, primarily to the second and third floor courtrooms. The grant requires a 10% match, which is $50,000. Northwest Tennessee Development District representative Jessica Baker stated that this is the first round of grants being offered to courthouses across the state. Thankfully, Weakley County was eligible to apply for the grant. If Weakley County is awarded this grant, it must be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Northwest Tennessee Development District's office helps with that registry. Weakley County Mayor's Executive Assistant Melinda Parham stated that some of the damage discovered from the water leak is the windowsills falling in, paint peeling, and drywall damage. The grant money would also be used for these repairs. Commissioner Kelly asked if there were some damages to the doors. Weakley County Mayor's Executive Assistant Melinda Parham stated that the doors are damaged and included in the grant. Security doors are being asked for. The doors on the first floor have big gaps. When we get heavy rain, the water gets inside the building and there will be large puddles that have to be mopped up. The security doors will keep the rain out and should decrease the electric bill. Commissioner Washburn asked if there were any limitations on future renovations with the courthouse being on the National Historic Registry. Northwest Tennessee Development District representative Jessica Baker stated that there really were not any restrictions unless you apply for preservation funds in the future. Anytime preservation funds are applied for, the state has some say on what those funds can be used for and try to keep the building original. This grant has some minor requests. The windows need to be repaired unless it is necessary to replace them. If they need to be replaced, they need to be as close to original as possible. Most of the windows need the glass replaced. Commissioner Washburn stated that the money for this resolution will be coming out of the unassigned fund balance with $10.8 million. Is that fund from the nursing home? Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett stated that a portion of the $10.8 million is nursing home money. The resolution only has our match in it. If the grant is approved, the money would go into Fund 171, which is the General Capital Projects Fund. A check would be written from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. This is just appropriating the money. The funds are not moved until the grant is approved. Commissioner Vincent asked what is the additional $3500? County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that it is part of the approved budget. We can complete $500,000 worth of renovations to the courthouse that needs to be done at some point in time for only $50,000. State Representative Tandy Darby informed us about this grant opportunity. The grant application process closes November 7th. That is why

we have had a special-called meeting and are in a crunch. We are trying to get the improvements done for as low of a cost as possible. Commissioner Hawks stated that he would like to request the commission to be made aware of using the funds from the sale of the nursing home. Everyone is hesitant about spending that money. Chairman Dennis Doster asked if the money is from the interest. Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett stated that the General Fund balance includes the nursing home money, but there is far and above what the nursing home money is in that fund balance. Commissioner Donaldson stated that the money is not actually from the nursing home. Commissioner Eddings asked if the interest earned was supposed to be around $400,000. Weakley County Finance Director John Liggett stated that we were hoping to earn around $500,000. Commissioner Eddings asked if the $50,000 was coming from the interest earned. Weakley County John Liggett stated that if the nursing home money were removed from the fund balance, there would still be $2 million. That is where this money comes from. Commissioner Westbrook stated that this is not nursing home money.

Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Kelly, David Bell, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-17 passed with 15 commissioners answering "yes". Commissioners Wade Cook, Larry Taylor, and Joey Mehlhorn were absent.

Chairman Dennis Doster announced that the next Regular Meeting would be Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk