

**Weakley County Legislative Body
Special Called County Commission Meeting
Earl Wright County Commission Courtroom, Court House
Thursday, February 27, 2020**

The Weakley County Legislative Body Special Called Meeting was called to order by County Mayor Bynum at 10:00 a.m on February 27, 2020, in the Earl Wright County Commission Courtroom. A moment of silence was held in memory of the late Commissioner Scott Fortner.

ROLL CALL

County Clerk Hughey called the roll. Answering present were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Eric Owen, Larry Hudson, James Roy Pope, Gary Eddings, Colton Nanney, Larry Taylor, David Bell, Dale Overton, David Hawks, Beth VanCleave, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, Donnie Essary and James Westbrook. Absent was Commissioner Greg Usery.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2020-41 Resolution To Authorize An Application For A Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] For The Fire Departments Of Weakley County, TN.
Sponsored by: Commissioners Gary Eddings and Dennis Doster

The motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Pope and a second was made by Commissioner Doster. County Mayor Bynum called for discussion.

Commissioner Westbrook questioned the total project cost. Commissioner Eddings answered that the total cost is \$322,150. The Weakley County Fire Departments have agreed to pay the matching \$48,323, which leaves \$273,827. Mayor Bynum said that he is assuming that the figures on the total project cost written in this resolution, that was drafted by the Development District, is the state's total cost of \$273,827 and that they are not including the \$48,323 that is being matched by the county's Fire Departments in that figure.

Commissioner Eddings commented that the project would add a bigger tower on the Palmersville Fire Department and would have repeaters throughout the county to boost the signal power from the dispatcher's office to offer a better signal throughout the emergency departments, especially in Palmersville and the northern part of the county.

Commissioner Donaldson commented that it was his understanding that the Fire Chiefs Association would be responsible for the matching funds that the State doesn't cover and the county would not be funding any of this project. He would like to ensure that the wording is correct, so that the county has no liability.

There was some brief discussion amongst the Commissioners about the opportunities that the new tower in Palmersville could bring to the residents in that part of the county, which could include cellular service and fiber. If a cellular company were to lease the use of the tower from the Palmersville Fire Department, it could also bring in a significant amount of revenue for their department.

Commissioner Vincent asked if this resolution has been through any committee. Mayor Bynum answered, no, that because of time restraints it had not been through any committees and that it would need to pass today in order to make the grant application's deadline.

Commissioner Hudson questioned if the fire departments currently have the funding on hand to be able to pay the matching \$48,323. Commissioner Eddings answered by saying that he thought that they did have the funding to pay the amount due once divided between the departments. Commissioner Westbrook asked if all of the fire departments were in agreement to pay and if the county could hold back the funding to the fire departments if they did not pay their part. Commissioner Eddings stated that they had each agreed. Mayor Bynum stated that there could be a stipulation made of the appropriation of the funding. He later went on to say that once the grant application is approved, the matching funds would be paid by the fire departments to the county and the county would pay out. He made the recommendation that the funding to the volunteer fire departments be held until the \$48,323 has been paid.

Sheriff Wilson stated that communication has always been an issue in the northern part of the county. He said that he is not opposed in kicking in to help on the matching funds, because the Sheriff's Department would benefit as much as anyone from better communications.

Commissioner Westbrook called for question. Mayor Bynum asked County Clerk Hughey to call the roll. Resolution 2020-41 passed with sixteen (16) answering yes and one (1) absent.

The next Regular Meeting will be held Monday, March 16, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

ATTEST:



Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk