

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – Conference Room, Weakley County Department of Finance

*** AS AMENDED ***

Public Safety Committee Members Present: Commissioners Scott Fortner, James Roy Pope, David Bell, David Hawks, Jack Vincent, and Eric Owen

Public Safety Committee Members Absent: None

The Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Department of Finance in Dresden. Others present included Mayor Jake Bynum, Director of Finance John Liggett, Medical Center EMS Director Joyce Noles, Baptist Priority Ambulance General Manager Greg Schowen, Weakley County Ambulance Service CEO Jeff Washburn, West Tennessee Healthcare Martin Hospital Administrator Darrell Blaylock, county commissioners, healthcare representatives, many Weakley County citizens and residents, and representatives of the media.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Pope made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2018, committee meeting, and with a second by Commissioner Bell, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson ~~Doster~~ *Vincent* recognized Sheriff Mike Wilson who provided an update on the process of obtaining School Resource Officers, stating that four were slated to be placed but not prior to the first of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2019-13: This resolution authorizes budget amendments in the Weakley County Sheriff's Department account to realign expenditures for the purposes of purchasing a new printer in the office that oversees the sex offenders registry, to move an employee's salary to the correct line, and to add funding in the budget for the county contribution to a new employee's Health Savings Account. Commissioner Fortner made the motion to approve and recommend the resolution to the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee and with a second by Commissioner Bell, the motion passed unanimously.

A. Discussion of Weakley County Ambulance Service RFPs

Chairperson Vincent explained that the committee would be asking more questions to the submitters of the RFPs for county ambulance services. He then recognized Commissioner Hawks who mentioned concerns about the amount of time between the moment a call comes in and the time an ambulance is dispatched, and asked how the entities planned on handling that issue. Medical Center EMS [MCEMS] Director Joyce Noles stated that there was a way to work out a system interface to make dispatching as seamless as possible. She said that the process is custom created according to the needs of each particular county and that the process is performed differently in each county. She went on to mention some example methods of how it could be done and how other counties are doing it at present. Commissioner Bell asked that in the event that MCEMS was awarded the franchise, would there be enough time to establish such an interface before the transition takes place, and Mrs. Noles confirmed that there would be. Martin West TN Healthcare Hospital Administrator Darrell Blaylock said that the hospital had already started the process of coordinating with 911 and that the investment had already been made.

Baptist Priority Ambulance General Manager Greg Schowen said that if awarded his organization could go one of two ways: keep the process the same as it is currently, or if the county would rather, Baptist would dispatch the calls. He stated that it was 100% up to the county, as it should be, and that there would be no delays and ready for implementation on January 1, 2019.

Weakley County Dispatch Director Christy Fulcher commented that she believed it would not be the right method to transfer a local call to someone outside of the county. She stated current call time figures and how the process is performed currently. Mrs. Joyce Noles of MCEMS said that her organization would do whatever it takes to make sure that

the transition is seamless including but not limited to building a new system interface. There was some additional discussion about how the process is performed in other counties.

Commissioner Hawks asked if the current 911 system knows where the closest ambulance is at all times. Mrs. Fulcher said that an "all call" is performed and the closest ambulance responds, and after 11:00 p.m. the closest town is paged. There was some discussion about newer technology, the inefficacy of the current process, and the importance of response times and how seconds matter.

Chairperson Vincent asked how radio communications are performed at the north end of the county, and Mrs. Joyce Noles said that communication checks are performed countywide. Hospital Administrator Blaylock addressed some communication issues that had taken place in the Dyer County location.

Chairperson Vincent asked how many repeaters were in the county, and Weakley County Ambulance Service CEO Jeff Washburn said that there was one in Martin and one in Dresden. Chairperson Vincent asked about the communications between ambulances and dispatch, and Mr. Washburn said that at present they carry maps, communicate by radio, use "way points," and said that Verizon offers a tracking program with apps that could be utilized. Commissioner Bell said radio technology is different and goes much further than cellular technology. There was some talk about how this communication is performed in other counties. Mrs. Christy Fulcher explained a dropped caller issue that the Sheriff's Department has been experiencing since 2017.

There was some discussion amongst the committee about how constituents from their respective districts had contacted them with concerns. Commissioner Hawks stated his support for MCEMS citing reasons of dissatisfied constituents, lack of manpower for WCAS, proper certifications that MCEMS holds, economic growth, support for the hospital, and a larger pool of ambulances.

Commissioner Pope stated his support for WCAS, citing reasons of satisfaction among his constituents and positive response times.

Commissioner Bell stated that as a business man, financially he believed that he must vote nay for WCAS.

Commissioner Pope made the motion to recommend the Weakley County Ambulance Service to the full commission, and with a second by Commissioner Owen and upon a roll call vote, the motion failed due to lack of majority.

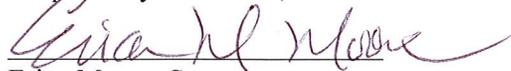
Commissioner Hawks made the motion to recommend Medical Center EMS to the full commission, and with a second by Commissioner Bell and upon a roll call vote, the motion failed due to lack of majority.

Commissioner Bell made the motion to move the recommendation to be considered by the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Fortner, the motion was passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Having no other business, Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Chairperson Pope, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary
Public Safety Committee

Approved:



Jack Vincent, Chairperson
Public Safety Committee

Date: 7 Nov 19