

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE****Friday, September 1, 2017 - 12:00 p.m. - Conference Room, Weakley County Department of Finance****Public Safety Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Scott Fortner, James Bynum, Larry Hudson, Earl Wright, James Roy Pope, and David Hawks**Public Safety Committee Members Absent:** None

The Public Safety Committee met on Friday, September 1, 2017, at 12:00 in the conference room at the Department of Finance in Dresden. Others present included County Mayor Jake Bynum, Director of Finance John Liggett, Tennova Hospital Administrator Darrell Blaylock, Greenfield City Mayor Cindy McAdams, Martin City Mayor Randy Brundige, Dresden City Mayor and Ambulance Service CEO Jeff Washburn, Elections Administrator Alex Britt, Jamison Peevyhouse, Rick Workman from the Ambulance Service, Bob Dudley from the Greenfield Fire Department; Commissioners Gary Eddings, Roger Donaldson, Dale Overton, Larry Taylor, Roger VanCleave, James Westbrook, Eric Owen; and representatives of the media.

Chairperson Scott Fortner called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Hawks made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 20th and June 29th, 2017, meetings, and with a second by Commissioner Bynum, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTIONS**Resolution No. 2018-10**

This resolution established an updated Occupational Safety and Health Program Plan, devises rules and regulations, and provides for a Safety Director and the implementation of such a program plan. Jamison Peevyhouse explained that Weakley County has to update this plan every few years by law. Commissioner Hawks made the motion to approve Resolution No. 2018-10 and recommend it to the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, and with a second by Commissioner Pope the motion to approve passed unanimously.

Discussion of Issues, Challenges, and Solutions Concerning the Weakley County Ambulance Service

Chairperson Fortner began by explaining that there had been concerns regarding the Weakley County Ambulance Service voiced, and he recommended an open discussion by all who had an opinion. Martin Mayor Brundige began by stating that the response time in Martin had improved in the last few months, and recommended that in regards to retention issues, we should look at the structure and models elsewhere to see what works.

Commissioner Hawks asked if any of the other city mayors had experienced any issues. Greenfield City Mayor Cindy McAdams stated that there had not been any problems that had been brought to her attention. Dresden Mayor Washburn talked about availability of ambulances and issues in rural areas, and asked the committee how much the county is willing to pay for ambulance services. He cited examples from other counties and funding relative to Weakley County's funding, and he stated that better pay tend to help retention in terms of ambulance service employees. Mayor Washburn went on to talk about the staffing of the ambulance service, transferring of patients, the fact that hasn't requested a service increase in 18 years, Medicare and Medicaid relative to payment, and said he was open to suggestions.

Hospital Administrator Darrell Blaylock provided some figures about the amount of patients transferred to Jackson, Memphis, and Nashville on a regular basis. He continued about the importance of working together with EMS, new technologies that help EMS and the hospital work even more efficiently, and mentioned the fact that he would like to keep patients in Martin as opposed to sending them elsewhere. Ambulance Service Director Rick Workman talked about the turn-around time of out of town calls, the transporting of patients by preference, times lines, scenarios, transport vehicles, mutual aid, cited many examples, and providing the best care possible to the people of Weakley County. There was more talk about the percentage of calls that come from and go to different areas within the county.

Commissioner Hawks asked about the costs of training and pay for ambulance service personnel and Mayor Washburn gave some salary statistics. Discussion followed about helicopter transport.

Chairperson Fortner mentioned that the ambulance service contract with Weakley County was up for renewal in 2018 and asked about the process. Mayor Washburn said that he would provide a renewal contract for discussion and review.

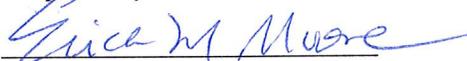
Commissioner Hawks made the suggestion that the ambulance service personnel retention issues be examined further and stated that there may be an incentive or program in which Weakley County could help attain and retain staff. There was more discussion about the number of vehicles, first responder equipment, ambulance service income and revenue, and mutual aid.

Chairperson Fortner stated that it was clear that there was an improvement and strives being made to improve, and said that the committee will continue to monitor the situation. Director Workman invited everyone to come by and see them at the Ambulance Service with questions anytime. Having no more discussion, the business was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

Having no other business, Commissioner Hawks made the motion to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Commissioner Bynum, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary
Public Safety Committee

Approved:



Scott Fortner, Chairperson
Public Safety Committee

Date: 11-13-17