

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 18, 2016; 9:00 a.m.

Public Works Committee Members Present: Commissioners James H. Westbrook, Jr., Jack Vincent, Dale Overton, Dennis Doster, Eric Owen, and Tommy Jones

Public Works Committee Members Absent: None

The Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Department of Finance in Dresden. Others present included: Jake Bynum - County Mayor, John Liggett - Director of Finance, Charles Ross - Road Supervisor, Commissioner Earl Wright, and Representatives of the Media.

Mayor Jake Bynum called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2016, meeting and with a second by Commissioner Overton, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Bynum accepted nominations for Chairperson of the Public Works Committee. Commissioner Overton nominated James H. Westbrook, Jr. Having no other nominations, the motion to elect James H. Westbrook, Jr. as Chairperson passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mayor Bynum accepted nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Public Works Committee. Commissioner Vincent nominated Tommy Jones. Having no other nominations, the motion to elect Tommy Jones as Vice Chairperson passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Mayor Bynum accepted nominations for Secretary the Public Works Committee. Commissioner Vincent nominated Dennis Doster. Having no other nominations, the motion to elect Dennis Doster as Secretary passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF RECORDING SECRETARY

Mayor Bynum turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairperson Westbrook. Chairperson Westbrook accepted nominations for Recording Secretary. Commissioner Overton nominated Erica Moore. Having no other nominations, the motion to elect Erica Moore as Recording Secretary passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR WEAKLEY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Chairperson Westbrook and Mayor Bynum explained that there are new federal regulations requiring the adoption of a procurement policy by all cities and counties in order to qualify to receive federal funding and TDOT funding. The county can either use the 16 page general procurement policy used by the state, or create a custom policy specific to Weakley County Highway Department – as long as it doesn't contradict any of the stipulations outlined in state's policy.

Mayor Bynum went on to say that any BRZ engineering fee below \$150,000, the County is not required to bid and advertise the project formally, but can rather get three quotes for the project. For any amount exceeding \$150,000, the engineering of the project must be formally bid and advertised.

Road Supervisor Ross asked whether the county could still enter into contracts and Mayor Bynum stated he would ask his contact at TDOT. Chairperson Westbrook said that, from his understanding, no other counties in the state of Tennessee has done yet, and that it only applies to the federal BRZ projects.

Discussion was had regarding the origin of the new requirements and regulations regarding a procurement policy for Weakley County. Chairperson Westbrook made a motion to create a procurement policy specific to Weakley County that does not contradict any requirements outlined in the state's procurement policy, and with a second by Commissioner Vincent the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF FUNDING FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

Chairperson Westbrook passed out a document created by him using figures from road and highway information from all across the state. He stated that Weakley County has the 6th largest number of roads in the state, the 11th largest number of bridges, while funding the second highest wheel tax and property tax in the state of Tennessee. He said that he was adamantly against raising any kind of taxes or property tax. Commissioner Westbrook said that the repair of roads, highway and bridges is a statewide problem and not just a challenge facing Weakley County.

He went on to say that he believed that Governor Haslam may make an announcement proposal regarding a gas tax in the near future, and that a gas tax would let the people who are using the roads pay for the roads and that Weakley County should support such a proposal. He said an increase in gas tax had not been implemented since 1989.

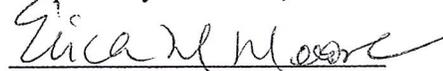
OTHER BUSINESS

Road Supervisor Ross gave a brief update regarding the Highway Department budget. He mentioned the asphalt distributor bid opening soon, and how he is monitoring his budget closely.

Chairperson Westbrook suggested that Finance Director Liggett, Mayor Bynum, and Road Supervisor Ross head up the team who will create procurement policy, and stated that the county attorney can review the finished product.

Having no other business Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary
Public Works Committee

Approved:



James H. Westbrook, Jr., Chairperson
Public Works Committee

Date: 11/18/16