

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. • County Commission Courtroom, Courthouse, Dresden

**Rules Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Dennis Doster, Carmen Chandler, David Hawks, Scott Fortner, Roger Donaldson, Donald Doster, Dale Overton, Eric Owen, and Greg Usery

**Rules Committee Members Absent:** None

The Rules Committee met on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the County Commission Courtroom at the Courthouse in Dresden. Others present were Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, Director of Finance John Liggett, and Commissioner Roger VanCleave.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Donald Doster made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2016 meeting and with a second by Commissioner Usery, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of Rules Committee Chairperson:**

Chairperson Hawks turned the election of the Rules Committee Chairperson over to Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum, who asked for nominations for the chairperson seat. Commissioner Owen made the motion to elect David Hawks as the Rules Committee Chairperson, and with a second by Commissioner Dale Overton, the motion to elect David Hawks as Rules Committee Chairperson passed unanimously.

**Election of Rules Committee Recording Secretary:**

Mayor Bynum turned the meeting back over to newly elected Rules Committee Chairperson Hawks, who asked for nominations for the Rules Committee Recording Secretary. Commissioner Dale Overton made the motion to nominate Erica Moore as recording secretary, and with a second by Commissioner Roger Donaldson, the motion to accept Erica Moore as Rules Committee Recording Secretary passed unanimously.

**Consideration of Two Rules Committee Rule Changes:**

**Consideration of First Rule Change:**

Chairperson Hawks said that two changes were brought forth to the committee as recommended changes to the Weakley County Rules of the Commission.

Chairperson Hawks said the first suggested change was submitted by Commissioner Roger VanCleave and fell under Rule 8, regarding the Appointment of Board Members, Offices and Directors. Commissioner VanCleave was recognized and stated that his reasoning for the rule change was to be all inclusive on four year terms, and that his desire was to strike the word committee and the slash so that the new rule would read:

**SUGGESTED RULE CHANGE:** *Rule 8, Section D, Term Limits:*

*Any person appointed/confirmed to a four year term on any board by the Weakley County Commission shall be limited to serving two consecutive terms on said board. Any person currently serving or higher number consecutive terms shall be ineligible to be reappointed to that board for a period of four years.*

Commissioner VanCleave stated that the rule would be included but not limited to all of the boards he found which includes the Weakley County Economic Development Board, Industrial Board, Emergency Communications Board, Board of Public Utilities Board [Electric Board], Board of Health, and the Health and Safety Standards Board. There was some conversation

about which persons and boards would be affected by the rule. Commissioner Owen asked what the logic behind the rule was, due to the fact that rules and board members could be changed at any time. Commissioner Owen also stated that he believed that highly qualified and knowledgeable individuals should remain on boards where their knowledge could be best utilized for the greater good of the county. Commissioner Overton stated that no matter the changes recommended by the Rules Committee, the entire County Commission would be required to vote on the suggested change for it to be approved. Commissioner VanCleave said that there were a number of individuals who are highly qualified and would like to have the opportunity to serve on some of the boards, and a term limits rule such as the one he was proposing would allow the opportunity for these individuals to bring fresh ideas to the boards. There was conversation about term limits and the large turnover this rule could create. Chairperson Hawks said that he had a problem with instituting term limits on members of these boards when there are no term limits restrictions on himself, or his fellow commissioners. Several commissioners agreed. Commissioner Usery stated that new ideas are necessary, but knowledge and experience are essential.

Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to place the rule on the floor for consideration and approval, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Doster. Discussion continued on the benefits and disadvantages of the rule.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, there were 4 yeas and 4 nays, so the motion failed for lack of a majority.

#### **Consideration of Second Rule Change:**

Chairperson Hawks stated that the second rule change was submitted by himself, and fell under Rule 9, Committee Structure of the Board. He suggested that the rule revision would read:

#### **SUGGESTED RULE CHANGE:** *Rule 9, Section A, Part 1, Committee Structure of the Board:*

*1. At its July meeting, the Board of County Commissioners shall elect nine (9) members of the Board of Commissioners to serve as a Rules Committee. No more than one member can be selected from any commission district.*

*The Rules Committee shall consist of nine (9) members of the Board of Commissioners, with no more than one member from any commission district. This committee shall be selected by the voters of the county in the August County General Election, with the commissioner receiving the most votes per district on the committee. This rule will be effective starting with the 2018 County General Election and every four years following in August, unless a special election is called due to a vacancy, at which time the commissioner receiving the most votes would fill the spot.*

Commissioner Owen made the motion to place the suggested rule change on the floor for consideration and Commissioner Donald Doster made seconded the motion.

There was discussion about how the rule change would affect the other boards, the good points and bad points of the rule, and the concerns that the suggested changes creates. Chairperson Hawks stated that he was suggesting the rule change due to the fact that the commission cannot reach a consensus on who should be placed on certain boards, in this case the Rules Committee Board specifically, and he does not desire to continue looking foolish in the eyes of the voters and the media. Commissioner Usery said that would not like to see the committee tie their hands.

Upon being put to a voice vote, there were yeas and nays. Chairperson Hawks said that in lieu of having a voice vote, he would rather withdraw the rule suggestion altogether. He said he believed that if the suggestion went before the full commission, it might prove to be counterproductive to this reasoning behind the rule in the first place. With no objection from any of the other committee members, the rule suggestion was withdrawn.

#### **Election of Weakley County Commissioner Chairperson**

Chairperson Hawks asked for nominations for the Weakley County Commission Chairperson. Commissioner Owen nominated Mayor Jake Bynum to serve as the Commission Chairperson, and with a second by Commissioner Dennis Doster the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Election of Commissioner Pro-Tempe**

Commissioner Owen nominated Commissioner David Hawks to serve as the Commissioner Pro-Tempe, and with a second by Commissioner Overton, the motion passed unanimously.

**Commission Committee Recommendations**

Commissioner Owen made the motion to leave the commission committees as they are set currently, and with a second by Commissioner Donald Doster, the motion passed unanimously.

**Everett-Stewart Airport Board Recommendation**

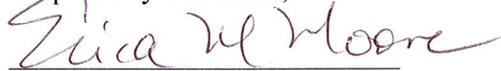
Commissioner Overton made the motion to nominate Commissioner Roger Donaldson to serve on the Everett-Stewart Airport Board, and with a second by Commission Usery, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Owen asked what items were on the top of the list of projects at the Everett-Stewart Airport. Commissioner Donaldson said that the board was currently working on paving and obtaining new hangars.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Having no other discussion or business, Commissioner Owen made the motion to adjourn and with a second by Commissioner Donald Doster, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary, Rules Committee

Approved:



David Hawks, Chairperson  
Rules Committee

Date: 7-25-18