Weakley County Legislative Body
Regular County Commission Meeting
Weakley County Courthouse, Dresden, TN
Tuesday, June 30, 2026 – 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body was called to order by the Chairman Dennis Doster at 5:00 P.M. at the Weakley County Courthouse.

The invocation was given by David Hawks.

All members present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

County Clerk Kim Hughey called the roll. Answering present were Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the May 14, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Freeman made a motion and Commissioner Pope placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the minutes were approved with none opposed.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he does not have any proclamations to present at this meeting, but they are forthcoming. It is the TSSAA dead period, and many athletes are out of town. There will be proclamations presented to Jack Mantooth, Hudson McDaniel, Vaughn Bounds, Ethan Sullivan, and Ty Simpson.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that when it comes to budgetary issues, it is not his responsibility to make decisions. It is the mayor's role to step in when there is a bigger issue that could negatively impact our county. The issue to be addressed is the talk of consolidation. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he will not stand by and allow the word consolidation to be thrown around recklessly. It should not be used as a pawn in a budgetary

game. It should not be used as a threat aimed towards our commission or our school board for the sake of reaching an agreement on how we move our dollars and cents around. Everybody receives quality education in this county. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he promised the people, when he ran for office, that he would not stand for consolidating. When that word is brought in a meeting, you may think that you are aiming your gun at our commission. In reality, that gun is aimed at two communities, Greenfield and Gleason. You may think that it is a pawn in a budgetary game, but it is much bigger than that. The impact and implications resonate with every citizen in this county. We have seen the negative impact of consolidation in the past. For our future, we should not be aiming to consolidate. It does not just threaten a budgetary matter, but it threatens the identity and character of every community that lies within our county. It threatens student outcomes. The Weakley County School System is the best at what it does, especially in a rural area.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that in his opinion words like consolidation have no place and it is nothing more than an empty threat that could negatively impact our entire county. We could and should be unified moving forward because the reality is the battle is much broader on a state scale. If we do not unify on this issue and agree to never bring this up again, we face a real risk for a charter school to enter a splintered system. We have provided positive student outcomes for decades. Weakley County and our public school system is loved, and we want to keep it intact. Unifying will send the message that we do not want any part of that taken away from this great education system that we have. You will do what you want with the proposed budget in the coming months. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson commends both sides for making their case, and there is logic behind every argument. Consolidation is something that could harm Weakley Countians and is being brought up for the sake of gaining leverage. To all the people in Weakley County, it is recommended that everyone come together on this issue. Whether you are for the funding or not, come together on that. If you are wondering where you stand, go visit and speak with the communities in Greenfield and in Gleason. Ask them about consolidating and see what they have to say. They care deeply about those schools, and if you asked them about consolidating, they would be vehemently against it. The very balance of their community would be at stake.

County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he was elected to defend and protect every community in this county, and that is what he will do. Go visit Palmersville if you would like to see the real, true impact and effect of what consolidation can do to a community. They will be the first to tell you that when they lost their school it created a cascade effect where businesses and people started leaving. That should not be the fate of any more of our communities. Logical facts are heavily considered when discussing the budget in the next few months but govern yourselves accordingly when discussing consolidation because there are several people

that will not stand for that. County Mayor Dale Hutcherson stated that he appreciated everyone for their consideration for that argument and thanked everyone for all they do.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to accept the Veteran's Service Report. Commissioner Hawks made a motion and Commissioner Hopper placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Veteran's Service Report was accepted with none opposed.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tabitha Sadler

Chairman Dennis Doster stated that there is one public comment regarding Resolution 2026-53 and the contract for the ambulance service. She will have five minutes to speak. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion for the meeting to go into recess. Commissioner Pope made a motion and Commissioner Washburn placed a second. The meeting went into recess for the public comment at 5:12 P.M. The meeting went back into session at 5:17 P.M.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS

Appointment of Five (5) Members to the Weakley County Library Board

Stephanie Kemp, Lesa Finch, Tommy Moore, Wanda Powell, and Joseph Atnip were recommended to the Weakley County Library Board. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Stephanie Kemp, Lesa Finch, Tommy Moore, Wanda Powell, and Joseph Atnip to the Weakley County Library Board. Commissioner Usery placed a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the appointment of Stephanie Kemp, Lesa Finch, Tommy Moore, Wanda Powell, and Joseph Atnip to the Weakley County Library Board was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of Two (2) Members to the Weakley County Board of Public Utilities
Johnny Vincent and Joy Adams were recommended for appointment to the Weakley County Board of Public Utilities. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Johnny Vincent and Joy Adams to the Weakley County Board of Public Utilities. Commissioner Dunlap placed a motion and Commissioner Hawks placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Johnny Vincent and Joy Adams to the Weakley County Board of Public Utilities was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of Three (3) Members to the Industrial Development Board
Chairman Dennis Doster stated that there are some applicants being considered, but they would like to further discuss the position before accepting. The appointment to the Industrial Development Board will be moved to the next meeting.

Appointment of One (1) Member to the Weakley County Health and Safety Board
Gary Eddings was recommended for appointment to the Weakley County Health and Safety Board. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Gary Eddings to the Weakley County Health and Safety Board. Commissioner Hopper placed a motion and Commissioner Freeman placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Gary Eddings to the Weakley County Health and Safety Board was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of Weakley County Commission Chaplain
Donald Ray Doster, Pastor at Oak Grove Baptist Church, was recommended for appointment as the Weakley County Commission Chaplain. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Pastor Donald Ray Doster as the Weakley County Commission Chaplain. Commissioner Donaldson placed a motion and Commissioner Mehlhorn placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the appointment of Pastor Donald Ray Doster as the Weakley County Commission Chaplain was approved with none opposed.

Appointment of District 6A Constable
Chairman Dennis Doster opened the floor for nominations for the District 6A Constable. There were no nominations for the District 6A Constable position.

Election of Notaries Public
Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Notaries Public. Commissioner Pope made a motion and Commissioner Washburn placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and the Notaries Public were approved with none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Strength and Efficient Government Fiscal Confirmation Letter 2026-2027 Three-Star Program Requirements

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the Fiscal Strength and Efficient Government Fiscal Confirmation Letter 2026-2027 Three-Star Program Requirements. Commissioner Donaldson made a motion and Commissioner Eddings placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that this must be approved for the county to receive certain grants or funding. A voice vote was taken, and the Fiscal Strength and Efficient Government Fiscal Confirmation Letter 2026-2027 Three-Star Program Requirements were approved with none opposed.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2026-45: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General-Purpose School Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-46: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County, TN School Nutrition Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-47: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-48: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Solid Waste Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-49: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-50: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Debt Service Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Resolution No. 2026-51: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Nursing Home Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026
Sponsored by Commissioners Billy Hazlewood and David Bell
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to combine Resolution No. 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48, 2026-49, 2026-50, and 2026-51. Commissioner Hazlewood made a motion and Commissioner Usery placed a second. A voice vote was taken, and combining Resolution No. 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48, 2026-49, 2026-50, and 2026-51 were approved with none opposed. Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48, 2026-49, 2026-50, and 2026-51. Commissioner Hawks made a motion and Commissioner Cook placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that these are all clean up resolutions. Commissioner Vincent asked if they passed through their respective committees. Chairman Dennis Doster stated yes. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, James Washburn, and James Westbrook answered yes. Resolution No. 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48, 2026-49, 2026-50, and 2026-51 passed with 18 commissioners answering "yes".

Resolution No. 2026-52: Resolution Amending the Weakley County Investment Policy
Sponsored by Commissioners Dennis Doster and David Moore
Passed unanimously through the Investment and FWM committees.

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-52. Commissioner Hopper made a motion and Commissioner Bell placed a second. Weakley County Trustee Marci Floyd stated that there were some CDs purchased that were considered illegal investments by

the Comptroller's Office, even though they were FDIC insured and under the $250,000 FDIC limit because the CDs are not from a bank in Tennessee. The county is adopting a new policy so we will not have trouble in the future. A voice vote was taken, and Resolution No. 2026-52 amending the Weakley County Investment Policy was approved with none opposed.

Resolution No. 2026-53: Resolution Granting an Exclusive Franchise for the Operation of Ambulance Service within the Boundaries of Weakley County, Tennessee
Sponsored by Commissioners Wade Cook and David Hawks
Passed unanimously through the Public Works and FWM committees.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Commissioner Jack Vincent stated that the Public Safety Committee has been discussing and reviewing the ambulance service contracts for weeks. The decision for which contract to choose was not unanimous, but it was close. The Public Safety Committee recommends AMR as the new ambulance service in Weakley County. Commissioner Vincent made a motion and Commissioner Bell placed a second.

Commissioner Washburn stated that he does not have anything against AMR. They are one of the biggest providers in the nation. Their parent company, GMR, is the largest medical transport company in the world. They promise to hire Weakley County EMS employees with better pay and benefits. There should not be any changes in response times or anything of that nature. Weakley County will get the same quality of care, if not better, due to their abundance of resources and assets that AMR has since they are one of the largest medical corporations in the world. Commissioner Washburn stated that what bothers him is that we are going from a local non-profit company to a publicly traded corporation over $15,000. Weakley County EMS served this county for 40 years diligently and faithfully. They have been providing services for considerably less than any other bids that have been made by competitors. Now that they request to be paid a comparable rate, we go and sell our local company for $15,000. Commissioner Washburn stated that it just does not sit right with him.

Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll to approve AMR as the new ambulance service provider. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, and Jack Vincent answered yes. Commissioners James Washburn and James Westbrook answered no. AMR as the new ambulance service provider passed with 16 commissioners answering "yes" and 2 commissioners answering "no".

Chairman Dennis Doster called for a motion to approve the new contract with AMR as the new ambulance service in Weakley County. Commissioner Vincent made a motion and Commissioner Hawks placed a second. Chairman Dennis Doster asked County Clerk Kim Hughey to call the roll. Commissioners Dennis Doster, Bobby Dunlap, Marcus Hopper, Wade Cook, James Roy Pope, Greg Usery, Gary Eddings, John Robert Freeman, Larry Taylor, David Moore, David Bell, Joey Mehlhorn, David Hawks, Billy Hazlewood, Roger Donaldson, Jack Vincent, and James Westbrook answered yes. Commissioner James Washburn answered no. The contract with AMR as the new ambulance service passed with 17 commissioners answering "yes" and 1 commissioner answering "no".

Commissioner Vincent stated that this has been a very difficult choice. The contracts have been looked at thoroughly by all the committee members. It is believed that the right choice was made for the county. Thank you to the Weakley County Ambulance Service for their 40 plus years of serving our county. Commissioner Vincent stated that when his youngest child was born, she had a swallowing problem. This was before 911. They were told to call the ambulance service, let them know her problem, and give them the home address in case we had any problems. The ambulance service employees would call us about once a month to check on her. That just touches you. These people are our people. Commissioner Vincent stated that he needed to personally thank each and every one of them.

Commissioner Westbrook stated that he was here when the first contract was created. Not many remember what our county went through 2 to 5 years before Weakley County Ambulance Service took over. That was before Martin had an ambulance. It was bad. Commissioner Westbrook stated that he voted differently today because citizens have been contacting him with stories like Commissioner Vincent's regarding the Weakley County Ambulance Service. If you have a good thing, then you ought to keep it.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hawks stated that Weakley County will be hosting the Regional Tennessee County Commission Association meeting this year. The meeting is on Thursday September 17th at the Gateway Center in Martin at 6:00 PM. It is encouraged that all commissioners come by. It is customary that the county hosting the event give away door prizes. It is encouraged to try and collect any door prizes from stores or restaurants in the community.

Commissioner Vincent stated that he recently received a statement in the mail from a business in Martin. It was received on the 9th day of the month, and it was due on the 10th day of the month. That business mailed that statement out on the 1st day of the month. The mail is out of whack. A place of business must mail a statement with a due date, the payment must be mailed back, and then the mail never gets there on time. There are folks who use credit cards and computers, but many still mail checks. Chairman Dennis Doster stated that we had passed a resolution that was sent to our representatives about this. County Clerk Kim Hughey stated that the resolution was forwarded to the state representatives and Postmaster. A letter was quickly returned stating that they were keeping it just like it is.

Chairman Dennis Doster announced that the next Regular Meeting would be Tuesday, July 20, 2026, at 5:00 P.M.

The Weakley County Legislative Body Regular Meeting adjourned at 5:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christina Oliver, Deputy Clerk

ATTEST:

Kim Hughey, Weakley County Clerk