

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

September 2, 2015

8:30 am

PRESENT: Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, Mayor Leon Humphrey, Ray Lyons, Charles VonCannon, Danny Ward.

The meeting was called to order by Ray Lyons.

Quorum present.

Motion was made by Bobbie Gouge-Dietz, second by Danny Ward to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mayor Humphrey with a second by Danny Ward to approve the August 5, 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

Public Comments: John Lewis said he thinks the County should go back to advertising in the Elizabethton Star.

Old Business

- **Elizabethton Star:** Chairman Lyons said through the help of Mrs. Byrd he collected the circulation rate of the Johnson City Press. A Johnson City Press representative said its circulation within Carter County is 10,047. Mr. Lyons said the Committee is trying to look at the number of citizens that each newspaper reaches as well as the rate charged for advertising. Mayor Humphrey said the numbers that he got were approximately 10,000 for the Elizabethton Star and only 3,000 for the Johnson City Press. He asked where the increase came from. Interim Director Christa Byrd said the number quoted for the Johnson City Press is what their representative quoted. If there are questions about how the circulation rate was calculated, those questions need to be addressed to the Johnson City Press. Mrs. Richardson from the Elizabethton Star was going to bring back circulation rates, however, she had illness in her family and was not able to attend the meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Humphrey, second by Danny Ward to defer action until the next meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

- **Recent Bids:** Christa Byrd reviewed a list of recent bids. John Lewis asked about the bid for printing and mailing of tax statements. Mrs. Byrd explained that previously the State was paid for printing tax statements and the Trustee's Office paid for postage to mail out the notices. Bids were requested for this service as the State is no longer printing tax statements for counties. Charles VonCannon discussed the need for biodiesel. Mrs. Byrd also stated the lagging of County payroll will be complete on Friday September 4, 2015.
- **County General Update:** Mayor Humphrey said the courthouse window project is finally coming to term. The window maintenance project includes the windows on the third floor as well as several second story windows on the original portion of the courthouse. Weather permitting, he hopes to have the project completed within a month. Mayor Humphrey said the new Election Commission space is almost complete with the sealing of the parking lot left to be done. John Lewis asked if the new windows will be like the old windows. Mayor Humphrey explained that the windows will be maintained, not replaced. He stated at first the project was to restore the windows, however, no bids were received. This resulted in the scope of the project being changed from a restoration project to a maintenance project.
- **County Highway Department Update:** No report, Mr. Colbaugh was attending another meeting.
- **County Schools Department Update:** No report.

- **Bobbie Gouge-Dietz:** Chairman Lyons thanked Mrs. Dietz for her help in the application process. Mrs. Dietz said she has contacted all applicants to schedule interviews for the Finance Director's position.
- **Ray Lyons:** Ray Lyons said the Buildings and Grounds Committee did a tour of the old jail. The committee requested to have someone come in to look at the old jail space to see what needs to be done. Mr. Lyons said the new Election Commission office is a project to be proud of. He encouraged anyone who has not visited to go see the Election office.
- **Charles VonCannon:** Charles VonCannon stated the old jail was in horrible shape before former Sheriff Mathes took office. Mr. VonCannon said Cross Fit, located in Bemberg, will have a grand opening September 5, 2015. He stated there was a great turn out at the Commissioners meeting Monday night in Jonesborough. Charles VonCannon said he was confronted about the County not being a member. Mayor Humphrey said he had incorrect information previously and the fees for the Association of County Commissioners have been paid. Ray Lyons noted CTAS will host a planning and zoning training in Johnson City on September 10, 2015.
- **Danny Ward:** Danny Ward said they have gotten a lot accomplished working as a team. Mr. Ward thinks something needs to be done with the old jail so it does not deteriorate.

Chairman Ray Lyons said interviews for the Director's position are scheduled for September 14 and 17. Mr. Lyons said after consultation with the County Attorney it was found that the interviews must be advertised and open to the public just as a regular Financial Management Committee meeting. Charles VonCannon said he will not be able to attend the meeting on September 14. He asked if someone should attend the interviews in his place. Ray Lyons said he would recommend Mr. VonCannon attend the interviews he can and use the information available to make a well informed decision. Christa Byrd said Mr. VonCannon is welcome to have another committee member take the Finance Department's recorder to the interviews and give the recording to him to listen to later. Mayor Humphrey noted the opening for Veteran's Service Officer will go before full Commission for appointment.

John Lewis said the Sheriff should not be allowed to decide what happens to the old jail. Ray Lyons said the Sheriff is simply going to reach out to have someone come in to give a recommendation or design to bring back to Building and Grounds Committee. Mayor Humphrey said he will contact with Reedy and Sykes to look at drawings and a certain level of demo. He noted the committee is currently in the information gathering phase.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Leon Humphrey, second by Danny Ward. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Byrd

Ray Lyons, Approved for File