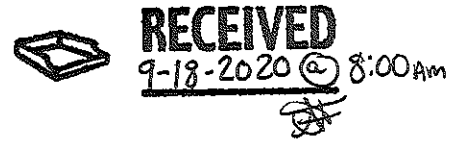


BUDGET COMMITTEE

September 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.



PRESENT: Willie Campbell, Patty Woodby, Mark Tester, Isaiah Grindstaff, Ross Garland, Travis Hill, Aaron Frazier and Kelly Collins
ABSENT: None
CALL TO ORDER: Ross Garland, Chairman
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held electronically for the health, safety and welfare of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Patty Woodby asked to add the Shepherd's Inn budget to the agenda and Austin Jaynes stated he had Building & Grounds requests to also add. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the agenda with these amendments. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Kelly Collins, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020, meeting. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS Regarding the Planning Department's budget, Chairman Garland said he had read through the minutes of the Planning Commission and the #1 problem raised was the \$2,500 addition in the director's salary. Jay Cook, an employee of the Planning Department, stated this money was taken from the Foreman Line item since he was no longer an employee and Chris Schuettler would be taking on some of his duties. He also stated the other employees would receive a \$2,500 salary increase from the Part Time line item that was removed from their budget. He said it had been discussed and approved by the Planning Committee. Financial Director, Brad Burke, stated he wanted to make sure he was communicating clearly regarding the remittance of funds generated by the issuance of permits in the Planning Department. He stated all of the funds were submitted to the State with the exception of a \$5.00 fee retained by Planning. He said these fees increased the Planning budget by approximately \$56,000 which was in there but spread out in different places in their budget making it hard to trace down. Isaiah Grindstaff stated this was the 2nd year the Planning Budget had not been approved properly and he felt the director should be held more accountable.

Patty Woodby addressed the committee concerning the \$2,000 cut from the Shepherd's Inn budget by the County. She stated there had been a noticeable increase in the number of domestic violence cases and Shepherd's Inn was responsible for a number of Order of Protection cases being filed in the clerk's office. Mike Hill stated their St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, one of their largest, had been cancelled and the Family Race Night silent auction was still on for this Thursday but as the attendance would be way down, so would their donations. He stated Board Chairman, Mike Hawkins, informed him contributions from the community had increased as they were recognizing the increase in crisis situations. Patty Woodby stated the only reason the \$2,000 was cut from Shepherd's Inn was because a special Victims Assistance Fund was set up in the Circuit Court Clerk's office and funds from certain fines were donated to Shepherd's Inn and the Children's Advocacy Center. She said that due to the fact so many people were not paying their fines during these hard times, the funds for these two non-profit organizations

were limited. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Patty Woodby to put \$2,000 back into the Shepherd's Inn's budget and \$2500 into the Children's Advocacy Center until it can be determined how much in fees will be generated by the Circuit Clerk's Office. This money to come from unassigned fund balance. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Robert Acuff addressed the committee at this time stating the Health and Welfare Committee has been working diligently to secure a plan, find a partner and move ahead on securing funds for fiber instillation to support broadband access for underserved areas of Carter County. He explained to the committee the details involved for this project and answered questions from the committee members. He stated the Health and Welfare Committee had voted unanimously to ask the Budget Committee to set aside \$600,000 for a potential match on ECD Broadband Grants that will be submitted by October 8, 2020, for consideration by the State of Tennessee. He stated it would be the intent that if unsuccessful, these funds (\$600k) would be returned to the County. Motion was made by Patty Woodby, seconded by Aaron Frazier to reserve the \$600,000 in the General Fund coming from unassigned fund balance for the possible grant match. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Aaron Frazier addressed the committee regarding Economic Development. He stated the last week of August he had taken a four (4) day class on economic development and it was packed with information that pertained to our County. He said they gave a background for a lot of things we could be doing as a County towards economic development and getting the County's name out there. He stated he would like to get the Economic Development Board back again. He asked if someone was interested in starting a business in Carter County, who would they contact. He said he new for sure of one company wanting to start a business here that would employ possibly 200 people but was unable to contact anyone or get any response and they located in another county. He stated NETREP promoted the recreational opportunities in Carter County. Mike Hill stated people would go elsewhere to spend their money and when they came to Carter County they were here to relax and spent their money here to do so. Aaron Frazier further stated there was very limited land in our county to be developed because TVA owned the land around the rivers and lake and the National Forest owned the mountains. All the committee members agreed this matter should be looked into and maybe come up with the qualifications/job description in an effort to hire a qualified person as Economic Development Director.

Brad Burke asked the discussion regarding the Electronic Monitoring Indigency Fund (EMIF) be removed from the agenda as he was unsure it had gone through the proper channels.

Highway Superintendent Roger Colbaugh once again addressed the committee requesting funds from the Governor's Local Government Support Grant to purchase asphalt for the resurfacing of county roads. The amount of the grant for Carter County is \$1,174,998. He stated using the complete funds he could pave 33.5 miles of roadways, with half of the funds in the amount of \$587,499 he could pave 16.75 miles of roadways and with one-third of the funds in the amount of \$391,666 he could pave 11.2 miles of roadways in the county. He stated the commissioners in each district could decide which roads they wanted paved. He said the money would be used directly for the Citizens of Carter County and not for the Highway Department. He stated all the money would be used for material because the Highway Department is already funded for the equipment and personnel. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Mark Tester to set aside \$500,000 from the Governor's grant for the Highway Department's request. Patty Woodby asked if Commissioner Hill would amend his motion to set aside half the funds requested in the amount of \$587,499 to which he agreed. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Representing the Sheriff's Department, Captain Tom Smith requested \$20,000 from the Governor's Grant money to hire a Federal Communications Commission Frequency Coordinator for the County Communication Project. He stated Frequency Coordinators had the authority to assist in developing and managing the private land mobile radio spectrum. He said they were private organizations that have been certified by the FCC to recommend the most appropriate frequencies for applicants in the designated Part 90 radio service. In general, application for new frequency assignments, changes in existing facilities or operation at temporary locations must include a showing of frequency coordination. He stated that the Frequency Coordinator was an integral part of the major communication project to ensure that Carter County meets all the FCC requirements for the County Communications Project. Motion was made by Kelly Collins, seconded by Aaron Frazier set aside \$20,000 from the Governor's Grant to be put in a restricted account to only be used for hiring the Frequency Coordinator. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Austin Jaynes, representing the Building & Grounds Committee, requested funds in the amount of \$20,228 to pave the parking lots at the Planning Office and the Probation Office. The Mayor stated the paving would be all around the Planning Office and Probation Office and also in between the two (2) buildings. Supt. Colbaugh stated there may be excavation necessary and rock put down to address the drainage issue and the paving would help solve the parking situation. Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Aaron Frazier to set aside the funds for the paving project from the Capital Improvements line item. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Next Commissioner Jaynes stated he had e-mailed a quote from Keller Glass to install glass enclosures in the County Clerk's Office in the amount of \$8,705. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Mark Tester to approve the funds to be taken from the CARES ACT money, if available. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Next Commissioner Jaynes stated that while the renovation of the courthouse security project was ongoing, there were several issues that needed to be addressed and if taken care of at this time it would deplete their Contingency Fund. He stated the replacement of tile in the foyers and area in the hallways was the main issue and would cost between \$15,000 to \$18,000. As the tile replacement was a much needed issue to be addressed and had been put off in the past, motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Mark Tester to transfer \$18,500 from Capital Improvements to the Courthouse Security Project line item. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Commissioner Jaynes informed the committee of the need for a new vehicle for the Tax Assessor's Office. He stated the transmission had gone out on one of his vehicles. Motion was made by Travis Hill, seconded by Patty Woodby to set aside up to \$50,000 from the Governor's grant for the purchase of two (2) vehicles. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: As the Financial Director Brad Burke had left the meeting due to a family emergency, Michael Kennedy signed onto Zoom to present the budget amendments. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Patty Woodby to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #3, Items #1 thru #10 in the amount of \$905,861.77. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Mark Tester to approve General Purpose School Fund #141, Budget Amendment #2, Items #1 thru #8 in the amount of \$302,514.98. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve School Federal Projects Fund #142, Budget Amendment 2, Items #1 thru #2 in the amount of \$123,000. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Travis Hill to approve Central Cafeteria Fund #143, Budget Amendment #1, Item #1 in the amount of \$2,000. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the donations to the Animal Shelter in the amount \$595 and Carter County Schools in the amount of \$2,500, a total of \$3,095. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Mark Tester, seconded by Kelly Collins to approve the non-monetary donations from WalMart for the month of August 2020, in the amount of \$675.88. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

COMMENTS: The Mayor was asked if he sat in on the bond sale today and told the committee he had and that 1st Horizon got the bid. He said over 15 years the county would save 2.1 million and the interest rate was set at 1.32.

The Mayor informed the committee he needed a new copier for his office. He said he had been looking into it and the company he leased his present copier from waived \$1,099.73 due on the lease. He said the new copier would be a purchase and not a lease. He stated he could purchase a Sharp Model MX3071 for \$5,005 with a maintenance agreement less than \$50 per month. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Mark Tester to set aside \$5,005 from the Governor's Local Government Support Grant for the purchase of the copier for the Mayor's Office. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Kelly Collins stated she was coming off the Budget Committee and that Robin McKamey had shown an interest in being on the Budget Committee.

Chairman Garland stated it had been a pleasure working with this committee this last year and thanked them for all of their hard work.

On motion by Kelly Collins, seconded by Patty Woodby and by voice roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

Ross Garland, Chairman