

BUDGET COMMITTEE

July 12, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Mark Blevins for Willie Campbell, Julie Guinn, Charles VonCannon, Isaiah Grindstaff for Austin Jaynes, Ginger Holdren for Ross Garland, Travis Hill, Aaron Frazier and Kelly Collins for Robin McKamey

ABSENT: Willie Campbell (there for approximately half of the meeting), Austin Jaynes, Ross Garland and Robin McKamey

CALL TO ORDER: Travis Hill, Vice-Chairman

ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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AGENDA: Vice-Chairman Hill stated the Sheriff's Department had asked to have Items (c) and (d) removed from the agenda Old Business. He also added a request by Gary Bailey on behalf of the Landfill and a request by Ginger Holdren on behalf of the Financial Management Committee. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Charles VonCannon to approve the agenda with the additions/deletions. By a voice roll call vote, motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021, as presented. By a roll call vote of 5 ayes and 3 abstaining votes from Mark Blevins, Ginger Holdren and Kelly Collins.

OLD BUSINESS: TCRS representative Justin Ball addressed the committee requesting payment from the County for twenty-one (21) unpaid TCRS invoices for two (2) former employees of Carter County Tomorrow, LLC. The period of these payments ranged from 9-23-2019 thru 5-21-2021 in the amount of \$21,378. Carter County Tomorrow was a joint County/City venture and it was discovered during conversation neither the County nor the City had approved Carter County Tomorrow employees to join TCRS. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Aaron Frazier to not pay the amount requested or accept that liability. By a roll call vote of 7 ayes and 1 nay by Kelly Collins, motion passed.

The request from the Highway Department for two (2) new dump trucks in the amount of \$132,136.52 was once again put off until the next meeting pending the stipulations for use of the Governor's Grant fund.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the request From ARM in the amount of \$16,000 for the installation of a new freezer. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Mark Blevins to set aside an amount up to \$55,000 from unassigned fund balance for the purchase a tow motor with a clamp for the Landfill.

Mayor Woodby informed the committee of a situation she had been made aware of back in



March concerning an E-Coli outbreak resulting from tainted water in the Floyd Dugger Road and Dry Hollow section of the county. Ken Rhea and First Utility District Representative Keith Bowers requested \$121,250 for the matching funds for securing a Block Grant, plus the increase in cost to complete the project of \$162,000 for a total of \$283,250. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Julie Guinn to send the amount to the full commission for approval. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Wes Bradley with SORBA presented to the committee an outline of Phase I of a new bicycle trail at the Hampton Watershed trails. He gave a slide presentation and discussed the advantages of adding to the trail for families, tourists, residents, economy, etc. He stated the cost of Phase I was an amount of \$75,000 and the City had agreed to pay \$37,500. He requested \$37,500 also from the County. As the committee member were entirely in favor of the project, motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to fund the project in an amount up to \$40,000. After more discussion, Mr. Frazier stated the City was looking at upgrading the Covered Bridge Park area having to provide \$500,000 in matching funds and as a show of good faith between the City and County, he amended his motion to the amount of \$75,000. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Previously discussed in the Building & Grounds Committee, an appraisal by William A. Miller, Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, was submitted to the committee in the amount of \$295,000 for the Judge Lisa Rice property. Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Ginger Holdren to purchase the property in the amount of \$295,000 to come from the ARP funds. By a roll call vote of 7 ayes and 1 pass by Charles VonCannon, motion carried.

Captain Smith presented Carter County Communications Project 2021 which had previously been discussed several times. He stressed the importance of the project and gave an example of an incident that happened just that day and explained how the lack of communications between the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department could have turned that situation into something bad. The total amount of the project is \$3,428,687.40. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Mark Blevins to charge the Finance Director with exploring ways to finance the project and report back at a Special Called meeting to be set by Chairman Jaynes. Brad Burke stated there were several funding options including bonds, Capital Outlay Notes, Loans, General Fund unassigned fund balance. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Supt. Colbaugh presented a quote from Permatile in the amount of \$30,300 for materials to repair a hole in the deck of the bridge off Dennis Cove Road on Estep Road. He stated the Highway Department had approved up to \$34,000 at their last meeting as this repair could call for an emergency purchase if the situation should become more hazardous quickly. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Mark Blevins to approve the \$34,000 to repair the rusted out hole. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Ginger Holdren, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the contract with Shaw & Shanks Architects, P.C. in the amount of \$232,965 for upgrading the Courthouse bathrooms. Funds to come from Capital Outlay in next years' budget. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Finance Director, Brad Burke, presented the Appropriation of Unassigned Fund Balance for Fiscal



year ending June 30, 2021. The balance as of July 1, 2021, was an amount of \$9,783,000. He stated the Unclaimed Funds from the State of Tennessee had been received in the amount of \$131,036.21. He said it was customary to hold 20% of those funds in the event anyone should claim them. This amount is \$26,209.24.

On behalf of the Financial Management Committee, Ginger Holdren informed the committee they were at a loss when it came to hiring a 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Finance Director for the Finance Department and replacing the present Director, Brad Burke, when he resigns. She stated it was hard to find anyone with the proper qualifications to fit the job at the salary offered by the County. She stated an increase in the Financial Director's salary would result in an increase for other department heads which was much too expensive. She asked the committee to approve a salary of \$64,483.36 which included benefits to hire another Deputy Finance Director. Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the requested amount. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried. She stated any input from any of the commissioners/committees would be appreciated.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve General Fund #101, Budget Amendment #1, Items #1 thru #3 in the amount of \$19,296.55. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Kelly Collins, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve Highway/Public Works Fund #131, Budget Amendment #1, Item #1 in the amount of \$120,704.68. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Mark Blevins to approve General Purpose School Fund #141, Budget Amendment #1, Item #1 in the amount of \$50,000. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Mark Blevins, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the monetary Donation Listing for the Animal Shelter for June 2021, in the amount of \$1,605. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Mark Blevins to approve the non-monetary donations from Walmart for the month of June 2021, in the amount of \$522.66. By a roll call vote of all ayes, motion carried.

On motion by Isaiah Grindstaff, seconded by Kelly Collins and by voice roll call vote, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzi Wallace

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Travis Hill, Vice-Chairman



## Carter County Communications Project 2021

The Carter County Communications Project is a county-wide endeavor designed to encompass all county agencies to include:

1. Carter County EMA
2. Carter County Schools
3. Carter County Rescue Squad
4. Carter County Highway Department
5. Elizabethton Police & Fire Departments & Possibly Elizabethton Electric System
6. Elizabethton Public Works
7. All Carter County Volunteer Fire Departments
8. Carter County Constables
9. Carter County Sheriff's Office

In ~~connections~~ <sup>construction</sup> with the above agencies, a gateway will be constructed to increase the interoperability with the surrounding states, to include North Carolina (Viper), Virginia (Starr) and Tennessee (TACN) systems. This will improve interagency and jurisdictional issues during time of emergency situations.

When Communications International designed our system, the RFP required a state-of-the-art wide-area voice/data network that utilizes Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Tier 3 technology. The network was required to be a standards-based solution designed for operational reliability ensuring optimum operational performance and sufficient system capacity for any future growth requirements.

The system proposed by Ci is a four site, four channel, multicast design using DMR Tier 3 trunked radio network utilizing Tait equipment that adheres fully to the DMR suite of standards and meets and exceeds our RFP requirements in the areas of coverage, interoperability, network reliability and future growth capacity. With this design, users will not need to think about changing channels based on their geographic location when they roam throughout the County – they will be able to communicate seamlessly anywhere in the county and stay focused on the mission, to protect those they serve. Radio communications are the lifeline for our first responders and this is especially true during times of a natural or man-made disaster.

Additionally, an analog simulcast paging system is proposed to improve pager coverage and to leverage Carter County's Fire Fighters to use their existing pagers. Also included in this system design is OTAP (Over-the-air-Programming) feature in both the network management system and within each portable and mobile radio. OTAP allows for software upgrades and operational features to be sent to the mobile and portable radios over the air without the need to physically connect a radio programming device to the radio. The ability to program radios over-the-air provides us significant cost-savings in the man-hours it would traditionally take to reprogram, update and upgrade radios in the field.





As stated above, this design is a 4 site, 4 channel multicast system using DMR Tier 3 trunked technology. There will be 2 nodes (primary/secondary), 616 radios (273 portables, 309 mobiles, 34 control stations), 8 dispatch consoles (7 consoles @ 911 & 1 console @ Detention Center) with Fleet/Network Management (Fleet Management with OTAP & Network Management for System Reports).

Infrastructure Equipment: \$1,029,500.00 – Mountain top repeaters/microwave/detention console

Equipment: \$1,469,083.00 – Radios and associated equipment

DMR, Analog Fire Paging & Microwave Infrastructure - \$475,671.00

Subscriber Radio Programming and Installation - \$378,952.00

Training & Support - \$101,855.00

Total Project Outlay - **\$3,428,687.40**

