

9-2-2015

MARY GOUGE
COUNTY CLERKD.C.
[Signature]

**Health & Welfare Committee Meeting
August 11, 2015**

Chairman Tim Holdren called the meeting to order.

Present: Willie Campbell, Isaiah Grindstaff, Ray Lyons, Cody McQueen, Randall Jenkins, Brad Johnson, Al Meehan, Timothy Holdren (8 Present)

Quorum Present

Motion by Randall Jenkins, 2nd by Cody McQueen to approve the Agenda for the meeting.

Vote by acclamation to approve the Agenda; all ayes, the Agenda Passed.

Motion by Cody McQueen, 2nd by Willie Campbell to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting.

Vote by acclamation to approve the previous meetings Minutes; all ayes, the Minutes are approved.

Seeing no Public Comments Chairman Tim Holdren continued the meeting.

Old Business –

Drug Repository at the Sheriff's Office: After the Adjournment of the Law Enforcement and before the Rules & By-Laws meeting as Sheriff Dexter Lunceford was leaving the meeting – Chairman Holdren asked Sheriff Lunceford about adding a Drug Dropbox at the Sheriff's Office as a part of the Drug Prevention Efforts of the Carter County Health Department. Sheriff Lunceford stated that he would have Chief Parrish do some research and get back with the committee at the next meeting (September 1st).

New Business –

Tour of Depreciated Properties: Chairman Holdren stated that as we had just taken the tour of these properties, he does not feel that we are at a point where we should take any action on this as of yet and that this will be kept on the Agenda under new business for next month's meeting (September 1st). Commissioner Johnson stated that he had a few questions about this item that he would like to ask. Commissioner Johnson continued by asking about the Full-Time employees in the Planning Department. Mayor Humphrey stated that there were 2 Full-Time employees (Chris Schuettler and Ms. Cannon) in the Planning Department and that the rest of the employees are Part-Time. Mayor Humphrey then went on to discuss that this is a concern due to the number of persons that have been unable to reach anyone in the Planning Department or return calls to messages left in the Planning Department and that this is a matter for the Planning Commission to address. Commissioner Johnson stated that what the committee saw during the tour was an issue that needs to be addressed and in order to do so we need to look at the regulations of the Planning Commission and the laws dealing with this. Commissioner Al Meehan then asked when the new Assessment period begins. Mayor Humphrey answered that the process will begin in spring of 2016. Commissioner Meehan then stated that there is time to work on

this project. Commissioner Meehan then stated that he would like to see the complaints of the Equalization Board, Assessor of Property, and others brought to the committee in writing. During the tour, they stated that they had received complaints from property owners in the county. So that this committee could look at specific complaints and address them as to why these complaints have not been met. Commissioner Meehan also suggested that along with any complaints, the committee needed to have a copy of the Zoning for the county as well as a list of responsibilities of the Planning Department. Chairman Holdren asked Mayor Humphrey if the county had a formal process of complaints available in the county. It was determined that there was no formal complaint system, other than those complaints being brought to that Office Head or to the Mayor. Mayor Humphrey then spoke on the number of individuals that are in the office and how the structure of the Planning Department needs to be restructured and how that is a job for the Planning Commission. Mayor Humphrey stated that in regards to the depreciated properties that we needed to look at the process of how we handle those noncompliant properties, such as those who are extremely depreciated. County Attorney Hardin then spoke on this process stating that the letter for our litter regulations had been rewritten last year. The resolution states that some items, that are superfluous that we do not have to do, but since it is in the resolution we are required to do so and doing these things slow down the process. The process requires only 1 certified letter to be sent to the property owners before it comes to the County Attorney. However, in past multiple letters have been sent over a long period of time before any action is taken. Once it reaches the County Attorney, with the 1 certified letter with valid service, a complaint is filed pursuant with the rules of Civil Procedure. This requires either hand delivering the paperwork to the property owners, mailing the paperwork to the property owners via Certified Mail with a signed receipt, or publishing the notification in two newspapers. Then this is taken in front of the court. Commissioner Brad Johnson then spoke on the possibilities of an Environmental Court which if authorized by a private act would allow for citation powers and would drastically reduce the amount of time it takes for action on these properties. Commissioner Ray Lyons stated that there is an issue with the Planning Meetings and leadership at the Planning Office with the fact that these same properties are being seen over and over during multiple meetings and some of which we saw during the tour earlier today. Mayor Humphrey spoke to a question by Commissioner McQueen to who comprises the Planning Committee – It is a 12 member board – the Chairperson of the County Commission, the rest are free-holders of whom are 1 from each of the 8 districts, and 4 members from the County Commission. Commissioner Meehan then spoke to how important it is to have written documentation of the issues that have been addressed today. Mayor Humphrey then stated that there are 2 issues being discussed here: the enforcement side, which would be the Environmental Court and getting it in place and being able to act upon these issues, and the issues with the inefficiencies with the Planning Department and it would be good to have Ronnie Taylor and Mr. Bowers to come to the next meeting with those complaints as a next step.

Motion by Al Meehan 2nd by Cody McQueen - Due to observable health and welfare issues observed by this committee at the tour today, and in addition to depreciated properties which affect the tax base of this counties revenue and due to enforcement issues I move that we contact Ronnie Taylor and Mr. Bowers (Equalization Board) to get reports of these issues and complaints to come to this committee in order to formally document this before taking this to the Full-Commission.

Vote by Acclamation to approve motion; All Ayes, Motion Passed.

New Business -

Rescue Squad Task Force: Commissioner Ray Lyons stated that Sonja Culler, Chairwoman of the Budget Committee, had contacted him asking if we, the committees, were meeting tonight. Chairwoman Culler asked that he convey to Chairman Holdren to select an individual to be on the Take Force for the Joint Meeting between the Rescue Squad, Elizabethton City, and County Commission. Commissioner Johnson then stated that due to the importance of this Task Force and due to his wealth of knowledge that he recommended the Commissioner Robert Acuff should chair or be over the Task Force. Mayor Humphrey then stated that since this has not been in front of the Full-Commission that the Chair may want to put this off until the next meeting.

Concern over if a Commissioner is unable to fulfil their duties due to health: Commissioner McQueen stated that he has had several concerned citizens ask about what plans we have in place if one of the commissioners become incapacitated during a meeting. Mayor Humphrey stated that we have several people that are normally in attendance that are First Responders and that we would also call 911. Commissioner McQueen then asked about what if a commissioner is incapable of performing their duties and taking part in meetings. Commissioner McQueen then spoke that this has also been brought to his attention by several citizens who wanted to know what, as a commission, we could do. Commissioner Meehan stated that the best option would be to talk to the individual on a one on one setting. Commissioner Holdren then stated that this would be best discussed between the members of the district, if they could discuss this with the individual to see if the individual still feels capable of fulfilling their duties. County Attorney Hardin was then asked by Commissioner Meehan about his opinion on this subject. County Attorney Hardin stated that this is not something that the commission could decide. That this would have to be covered under an Ouster Suit and that this would have to be presented to a Court for a Judge to decide. Commissioner Jenkins then read the items under which an Ouster Suit can be brought to the committee. County Attorney Hardin then stated that this would not fall under any of those categories being a medical issue and that it would be best handled if the members of the district spoke with the individual one on one to ask the individual if they still feel capable of maintaining office.

Not seeing any other New Business; Chairman Holdren then asked for a Motion to Adjourn.

Motion made by Randall Jenkins, 2nd by Al Meehan to Adjourn.

Vote by Acclamation; All Ayes, Motion Passes.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Isaiah S. Grindstaff

Isaiah Grindstaff

Tim Holdren _____ Date 9/1/15

Tim Holdren, Chair – Approved for File