

**HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**January 8, 2019**

**6:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT: Robert Acuff, Mike Hill, Brad Johnson, Austin Jaynes for Jerry Proffitt, Layla Ward, Randall Jenkins, Aaron Frazier and Rick Richardson  
ABSENT: Jerry Proffitt  
CALL TO ORDER: Robert Acuff, Chairman  
ROLL CALL: Quorum Present

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- Brad Johnson informed the committee Austin Jaynes, sitting in for Jerry Proffitt, by his presence became a voting member on all four (4) of the committees meeting at this time.
- Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Mike Hill, seconded by Randall Jenkins to approve the agenda as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Randall Jenkins, seconded by Mike Hill to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018, meeting as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Public Comments: None
- VFDs.EMS, First Responders Partnerships and Working Together: Chairman Acuff recognized Jack Buckles, Fire Chief for the Stoney Creek Volunteer Fire Department at this time. Mr. Buckles stated he was there to discuss the formation of a unified task force, linking fire departments, EMS and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders in an effort to more effectively serve our county. He stated he had been working on this concept for some time, trying to start a “conversation” between all the entities involved with little success. After discussion, including but not limited to the IOS (Insurance Service Office) rating and its affect on homeowners insurance, speedier response time, less mirroring of services, etc., motion was made by Randall Jenkins, seconded by Mike Hill to set a meeting in motion. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Mike Hill	aye
Brad Johnson	aye	Austin Jaynes	aye
Layla Ward	aye	Randall Jenkins	aye
Aaron Frazier	aye	Rick Richardson	aye
- Renewal Timeline for County Health Insurance:At this time Jon Manfull, Senior Account Executive for Mark III insurance, was recognized by the Chair and presented the committee members with a pamphlet on employee benefits. He stated the premium has averaged a 3.8% annual increase over a five (5) year period without having to make plan design adjustments. During discussion it was stated employees simply could not afford the family plan and due to the fact the county “ offers” insurance they were ineligible for Obamacare. Mr. Manfull said a renewal projection would be delivered to the county by January 31. A self-funded insurance program was discussed as a possible solution for the county, the committee decided to explore surrounding counties to see how the implemented their self-funded program.
- Resolution for Application for CDBG to Extend Water Lines to the Dry Hollow Community: Chairman Acuff presented a resolution authorizing the Mayor to make and sign an application for a Community Development Block Grant to extend the water lines to residents in the Dry Hollow community not to exceed \$500,000. No matching funds will be required from the

county. Ken Rea with the First Tennessee Development District stated twenty five (25) household would be serviced. He said the grant would pay the tap fee in the amount of \$700.00, for constructing service lines to the house and the final connection to the house. The only thing the residents would be committing to was a \$50 deposit and a monthly water bill. Motion was made by Mike Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to approve the resolution as presented and brought before the full commission. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Mike Hill	aye
Brad Johnson	aye	Austin Jaynes	aye
Layla Ward	aye	Randall Jenkins	aye
Aaron Frazier	aye	Rick Richardson	aye

- Health and Welfare Issues Facing our County: Dr. Acuff informed the committee he and Danny Ward had met with Caroline Hurt of the Health Department in December. He said she was putting together in a workshop format a presentation by the Carter County Health Department as to the services the department offered to qualifying individuals. He said all county employees would be invited to attend and felt so many people were unaware of services available.

Abby Frye presented information from the Tennessee Department of Health showing drug overdose deaths and prescription drug data for Carter County from 2013-2016. She also presented statistics for drug related deaths per county of seven (7) counties surrounding Carter County from ETSU's William L. Jenkins Forensic Center for 2014-2017. This information was presented in an effort to relate how extensive a drug problem exists in our area.

Dr. Acuff stated he and Layla Ward were trying to set a meeting with Vicky Clark, UT Extension Agent, to start talking about the problem of food accessibility to children and families. He said state data had already identified our county as one where children went to bed hungry. He said the Carter County School System had piloted a summer program last year to deliver meals to children in different districts and supplied as many as 83,000 meals. He stressed the importance of trying to tackle this problem and look at it in a different way. He stated there may be a lot of opportunity in involving elementary, middle and high schools in farm techniques and the growing of food for kids in their district, especially with partners like the UT Extension agency at the table.

- New Business: Chairman Acuff informed the committee EMA had been outfitted with a new vehicle. He said once they made the necessary alterations to the vehicle, Director Smith would like to donate the old vehicle to the Animal Shelter. Mayor Barnett stated the vehicle would be used to haul inmates to work and pick up large quantities of animal food. Motion was made by Randall Jenkins, seconded by Austin Jaynes to donate the old EMA vehicle to the Animal Shelter. By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Mike Hill	aye
Brad Johnson	aye	Austin Jaynes	aye
Layla Ward	aye	Randall Jenkins	aye
Aaron Frazier	aye	Rick Richardson	aye

Dr. Acuff informed the committee the Bristol Chamber of Commerce was having a Business Health Collaborative initiative meeting on January 24, 2019, at the Regional Medical Center Monarch Auditorium. The first meeting will be a kickoff to work towards developing long-term strategies to improve our communities' health and make our region even more attractive to business and industry. He stated we were invited but you had to sign up for the meeting and gave them information they needed to sign up.

- Old Business: Mayor Barnett addressed the committee at this time to discuss a project he has been working on. He stated three (3) years ago a gentleman donated approximately ¾ of an acre of land to the county near Mallard Cove on Hwy 321. The property had a house on it the Highway Department torn down and hauled off. He stated the gentleman who gifted the property asked it be used somehow for that community. Mayor Barnett stated we need a substation there and had been told the Rescue Squad and Fire Department would supply a truck for use on the site. He said the Sheriff agreed to have deputies come in and out allowing for police presence. He stated a food pantry located in Little Milligan in need of more space could also use the building for storage. He informed the committee the School Board had vacated a double-wide when Central School was added onto and it was no longer used. He said he was on the agenda at the next School Board meeting to asked if they would donate the building to the county to put on the property for a substation and provide more storage for the food pantry. He said the lot was level and, having had a house on it previously, had access to water, electric and most likely a septic system. Another advantage to locating a substation on that site is the five (5) mile radius would overlap with the closest substation and possibly decrease the cost of resident's insurance. Stating he did not want to have to wait to begin this project another month, motion was made by Mike Hill, seconded by Randall Jenkins to present the project to the full commission at their next meeting.

By roll call vote as follows, motion carried.

Robert Acuff	aye	Mike Hill	aye
Brad Johnson	aye	Austin Jaynes	aye
Layla Ward	aye	Randall Jenkins	aye
Aaron Frazier	aye	Rick Richardson	aye

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

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Dr. Robert Acuff, Chairman