

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

April 2, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

- Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Aaron Frazier, seconded by Mike Hill to approve the agenda as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Public Comments: None
- Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Mike Hill, seconded by Layla Ward to approve the minutes of the March meeting as presented. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Discussion of Sick Leave Bank for CC Employees: Gary Bailey was asked to address the matter of a sick leave bank and stated he was totally in favor of this option. He said it was already implemented in the school system and at a state level. He stated if the county could get enough participants, it was the cheapest short term disability you could get. After discussing some of the guidelines and advantages/disadvantages, motion was made by Mike Hill, seconded by Aaron Frazier to direct the County Attorney to take the ETSU staff policy and the one existing in the school and Sheriff's departments and couple together a preliminary outline of what this plan would look like, then survey the workforce. By voice roll call vote, motion carried.
- Follow up on VFDs, EMS, First Responders Regarding a Committee to Explore Partnerships and Working Together: Chairman Acuff informed the committee he had sent an e-mail to Chief Buckles requested that he put together a committee to address the partnership and working together of emergency responders. He said when the committee was formed, he felt a representative(s) from the Health and Welfare should sit on that committee. He stated if we are going to take responsibility as a commission to bring people together and something come out of it that is meaningful to the county, they needed to have representation as well. Randall Jenkins asked if Butler Fire Department had been contacted and was told by Dr. Acuff they were at the last meeting and had asked for \$25,000. He also said the Budget Committee had requested the department keep a count of all the 911 calls coming into Johnson County and dispatched from Carter County. During discussion it was mentioned no one really knew what goals or mission Mr. Buckles had for forming the committee but were encouraged to attend the meeting, when set, with an open mind and show their support.

Regarding equipment purchasing, Jerry Proffitt stated he had checked into getting surplus equipment from military bases. He said they had fire departments and all kinds of equipment and materials. He said if it was true the county Sheriff was the only one who could sign to receive the equipment, he felt it was worth talking to Sheriff Lunceford and looking into this matter.

- Health and Welfare Issues Facing our County: Chairman Acuff informed the committee they had narrowed the insurance brokers down to three (3) and these were Sequoyah, CBIZ and Mark III. He stated the Financial Management Committee were meeting with them on Friday, April 5, 2019, at 8:30 A.M. In the Mayor's Conference Room. He said each broker would be allowed ten (10) minutes or so to present a short synopsis yet again and the committee members would then ask specific questions.

Dr. Acuff stated he had recommended getting the drug court and some of the people that do treatment involved in the opioid epidemic. He said there was a number of suboxone clinics in Washington County and other localities but not in Carter County. One commissioner stated there was one (1) clinic in Elizabethton on Hudson Drive. Dr. Acuff stated he had attended a meeting in Washington, D.C. A couple of weeks ago and one of the topics was the opioid epidemic. He said they had published what medical schools around the country were doing about the epidemic by retraining doctors and what other legalities they were looking at. Dr. Acuff stated we needed to get a handle on this problem in our county.

Concerning the food accessibility for kids and families, Chairman Acuff said there were at least five (5) groups trying to take care of this problem that addressed the Budget Workshop. He stated the National Average showed one (1) in every six (6) children went to bed hungry. Chairman Acuff said he felt the drug problem in our county also contributed to children going hungry as, more times than not, an addict's money is spent on drugs and not food. He said the pilot project in the county schools last summer was a success and they needed to be encouraged to do it again this year.

- New Business: Discussed earlier in the meeting
- Old Business: Chairman Acuff passed out an autopsy report from Forensic Pathology for the committee to review.

By motion and second, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Wallace

Approved for entry:

Robert Acuff, Chairman