

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

November 5, 2019 6:00 PM



Members:

Robert Acuff

Mike Hill

Brad Johnson

Austin Jaynes

Ginger Holdren

Randall Jenkins

Ray Lyons

Robin McKamey

I. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Dr. Robert Acuff at 9:20 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Hill, second by Austin Jaynes. Dr. Acuff asked to add time for discussion on section 5 after the students from NESCC came to speak. Also, he asked to add 7-d, incentives for employee participation in health care benefits. Add the quarantine properties under New Business and under 8-a Sequoyah update. The motion with the additions was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Approval of the Minutes from October

A motion was made to approve the October minutes by Mike Hill, second by Robin McKamey. Ray Lyons and Austin Jaynes abstained. The motion was approved.

V. Discussion and Presentation Regarding North East State Community College in Carter County

Students from Northeast State Community College with majors ranging from Nursing to History attended the meeting to express how important the Elizabethton Campus is to local students. They explained that the students that live in Mountain City and even in North Carolina already have about an hour drive to get to class and if the Elizabethton Campus closes it would make the commute two (2) or more hours to get to class every day. This would make the decision to attend higher education classes harder and more expensive. If they had to attend ETSU it would be more expensive, and several felt that they may not make it on a larger campus with larger classes. They asked the committee to please do anything they can to keep the Elizabethton Campus open.

Northeast State Community College closing the Elizabethton Campus would be devastating to the County. Mayor Barnett has talked to the current president at NESCC about having a round table discussion with the commissioners and representatives from NESCC to discuss what is needed to keep the campus open. Mr. Jaynes asked the mayor to please let commissioners know when this roundtable is scheduled so that anyone that wants to be involved can be part of the discussion. It is a great asset to the community and everything possible needs to be done to keep it. There are 300/400 students enrolled at any given time enrolled at that campus, they are not all carter county students. We must benefit the majority not the minority, we have to do what will benefit our county.

VI. Antibacterial Soap in the Courthouse

A complaint was made that the soap in the restrooms at the courthouse was not anti-bacterial. The committee agreed that the soap available was adequate for hand washing. Anti-bacterial jell is made available in dispensers through out the courthouse. Dr. Acuff informed the committee that the CDC has printed several studies advising not to use anti-bacterial products all the time. There are three issues here, 1) cost 2) the opinion from the CDC on the use and overuse of anti-bacterial products 3) individual choice. Each employee can use anti-bacterial products at their desk if they so desire. He recommended that the committee back the Mayors purchasing decisions. The committee agreed with no motion.

VII. Health and Welfare Issues / Topics for the 2019-20 Agenda Items

a. Opioid Epidemic Awareness

No discussion

b. Food Insecurity

No discussion

c. ETSU Elevates Grant – www.etsu.edu/etsuelevates

ETSU is offering 5 (five) grant opportunities, entries need to be made through Facebook. There will be 5 (five) \$5000 grants given to local charities. When all winners are chosen there will be an additional 2 (two) grants given in the amount of \$7500. The following recommendations were made for possible recipients of the grants: Isaiah House, Shepard's Inn, TLC, Wheelhouse Food Program, Rivers Edge, the Children's Advocacy Center, also homeless issues.

d. Incentives for Employees to participate in Health Care Visits

Dr. Acuff is going to ask the chair at full commission to put the meeting with the Sequoyah representative on the agenda. He would like to see the number of employees that are taking advantage of the health screenings. He would like to discuss incentives for employees to participate. Mr. Jaynes stated that he would like to see some de-incentives to employees that don't participate. If an employee does not participate, they must pay for a portion of their insurance. Dr. Acuff informed that there are counties that are doing that. He has asked Kelly from Sequoyah to give some information on the incentives and de-incentives. The response to the new insurance program has been great. We have gone from practically no families, to 28 families, 12 children, 13 additional spouses enrolled. We have increased numbers and about 40% take advantage of the high deductible HSA (Health Savings Account).

VIII. New Business

a. Registry of Quarantine Properties

Angie Odom came before the committee concerning the TDEC (Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation) registry of properties under Order of Quarantine in Carter County. She has heard from community members but no committee members since she brought the subject to the commission last month. While she has driven by the properties listed (attached) and while she has not physically knocked on the door to any of these houses, she can tell that they are being inhabited, some by families with children as indicated by toys in the yard. Ms. Odom informed the committee that out of the 26 (twenty-six) houses 3 (three) were boarded up and 23 (twenty-three) were occupied.

With the danger that inhabiting a home that has been quarantined, she believes there should be more urgency in trying to get the houses empty and sealed. With children living in the homes someone would have to be ready to help these families find new places to live. She believes that it is possible that some of the families don't know that the home is under quarantine. In that case the parents are putting their children at risk and don't even know it. Several members of the committee asked questions about what can be done. Aaron Frazier asked if the list could be sent to the schools and cross referenced with their records to find out if there are children in the home. Mr. Hill asked if the school SRO could get involved.

Mr. Lyons suggested getting DCS involved if children are in these houses. He said to call the toll-free number and file a report and they would investigate. The house can only be cleared by the agency that quarantined it after the inspections and testing has been done. Ms. Odom feels that the issue is being passed from one agency to the next and no one wants to take responsibility for it. The Sheriff's Department has the authority to remove anyone living in these homes and yet they have made no move to do so. Understandably, this is a large task that will involve a lot of agencies to help remove and re-house these families, but children are at risk. People are breaking the law by renting or selling these properties to people who rent them without knowledge of the quarantine. Something needs to be done about it.

Dr. Acuff wants a motion and a vote to ask Captain Smith to come back to the committee with status on the quarantine houses. Mr. Jenkins made the motion to ask Captain Smith to bring an update on the quarantine houses back to committee, second by Mike Hill. All in favor, motion unanimously approved.

IX. Old Business

None

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Brad Johnson, second by Mike Hill. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

H+W



TDEC Registry of Properties under Order of Quarantine

Pursuant to T.C.A. 68-212-509 (b) - The Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) shall maintain a registry of all properties reported by a law enforcement agency that have been under order of quarantine for at least sixty (60) days. The registry shall be available for public inspection at the department and shall be posted on its website. Listed properties shall be removed from the registry when a law enforcement agency reports that the quarantine has been lifted in accordance with this part.

Clandestine Methamphetamine Lab (CML) Quarantine Statistics

- 2424 CML Quarantines issued by law enforcement
- 1255 CML Properties cleaned, certified fit for human use, and released from quarantine
- 1169 CML Properties currently quarantined

The listed properties have been under Order of Quarantine more than 60-days as of 09/01/2019.

County	Address	City, State, Zip	Quarantine Date
CARTER	188 OLD STONEY CREEK R1	ELIZABETH TN 37643	4/24/2014
CARTER	122 ANDERSON LOOP	ELIZABETH TN 37643	4/26/2014
CARTER	539 HWY 91	ELIZABETH TN 37643	5/7/2014
CARTER	1253 BLUEFIELD AVE D6	ELIZABETH TN 37643	1/2/2015
CARTER	908 JOHNSON AVE	ELIZABETH TN 37643	1/6/2015
CARTER	119 STINES RD,	ELIZABETH TN 37643	4/3/2015
CARTER	171 JADE DR 1	ELIZABETH TN 37643	04/23/2010
CARTER	1017 ARNEY ST	ELIZABETH TN 37643	08/13/2010
CARTER	152 RUFUS TAYLOR RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	3/23/2011
CARTER	712 E H ST	ELIZABETH TN 37643	6/1/2011
CARTER	1113/1115 BLUEFIELD AVE	ELIZABETH TN 37643	3/8/2012
CARTER	400 S SYCAMORE ST B-10	ELIZABETH TN 37643	3/27/2012
CARTER	211 SCIOTA RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	5/12/2012
CARTER	195 HART RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	9/13/2012
CARTER	798 HWY 91	ELIZABETH TN 37643	12/28/2012
CARTER	121 RIVER BOTTOM	ELIZABETH TN 37643	1/20/2013
CARTER	412 LEE ST	ELIZABETH TN 37643	2/4/2013
CARTER	602 S LYNN AVE	ELIZABETH TN 37643	3/15/2013
CARTER	188 OLD STONEY CREEK R 1 / ROA	ELIZABETH TN 37643	6/20/2013
CARTER	836 BLUESPRINGS RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	2/7/2014
CARTER	223 OLLIE COLLINS RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	7/21/2014
CARTER	1248 BLUEFIELD AVEK-6	ELIZABETH TN 37643	4/12/2015
CARTER	191 CASH HOLLOW RD	ELIZABETH TN 37643	4/17/2015
CARTER	311 THIRD AVE	HAMPTON TN 37658	4/1/2011
CARTER	598 BROWNS BRANCH RD	HAMPTON TN 37658	7/14/2012
CARTER	102 BERTIE LN 33	HAMPTON TN 37658	11/22/2013
CARTER	401 DENNIS COVE RD	HAMPTON TN 37658	3/27/2015
CARTER	1153 HWY 321	HAMPTON TN 37658	8/30/2015
CARTER	203 LAURELS RD	JOHNSON CITY TN 37601	3/10/2014
CARTER	122 ALLEN ODOM LN	JOHNSON CITY TN 37601	3/15/2014
CARTER	154 SPRING DR	JOHNSON CITY TN 37601	10/18/2015
CARTER	527 LAURELS RD	JOHNSON CITY TN 37601	7/7/2016
CARTER	160 DOLAN HOLLOW RD	ROAN MTN TN 37658	10/8/2013
CARTER	132 HUBERT SHELL RD	ROAN MTN TN 37687	6/8/2011
CARTER	8377 HWY 19E	ROAN MTN TN 37687	11/26/2013
CARTER	391 CRIPPLE CREEK LOOP	WATAUGA TN 37694	3/8/2017
DEATHAM	4803 BOND CREEK RD	PEGRAM TN 37143	9/27/2012