

# Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

May 5, 2020 6:00 PM



**RECEIVED**  
05-13-2020  
@ 1:55 pm

## Members:

Chairman Dr. 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 6:05 pm. Chairman Acuff stated a disclaimer that the meeting was being held by video conference because of Covid – 19. Guidelines for the Coronavirus were being followed and there were no members in the same room during the meeting.

### II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Hill, second by Randall Jenkins. Motion unanimously approved.

### III. Public Comments

None

### IV. Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 2020 meeting was made by Mike Hill, second by Robin McKamey. The motion was unanimously approved.

### V. Discussion of the Resolution regarding the purchase of Health Insurance from the County by Commissioners.

A resolution has been submitted to the committee to allow the current sitting County Commissioners and their dependents to access the insurance plan the county offers to the county employees and their dependents at no cost to the county. This would include any commissioner who isn't re-elected, either by defeat or if said commissioner does not seek re-election, also, the widow/widower and dependents of a deceased commissioner, also at no cost to the county. Attorney Hardin stated that a commissioner can only access the insurance if they purchased it while commissioner. Cannot acquire after they no longer hold the position.

A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mike Hill, second by Austin Jaynes

During discussion Brad Johnson asked if the insurance company had been contacted and was this something that would be able to offer. Kelley Greer with the insurance company had been contacted and it is available to the commissioners.

Roll Call:

Austin Jaynes – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Randall Jenkins – Yes

Robin McKamey – Yes

Ginger Holdren - Yes

Robert Acuff – Yes

Ray Lyons – Yes

The resolution to offer health insurance to current county commissioners and their dependents at no cost to the county passed Yes – 8, No – 0.

VI. **Resolution for the Litter Grant**

Motion to accept as written by Mike Hill, second by Ginger Holdren.

Roll Call:

Austin Jaynes – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Randall Jenkins – Yes

Robin McKamey - Yes

Ginger Holdren – Yes

Robert Acuff – Yes

Ray Lyons – Yes

Motion passed Yes – 8, No – 0.

VII. **Resolution for the approval of the Health Department Contract**

Resolution to approve the state grant to fund the health department

Motion to approve by Mike Hill, second by Ray Lyons

Roll Call:

Austin Jaynes – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Randall Jenkins – Yes

Robin McKamey – Yes

Ginger Holdren – Yes

Robert Acuff – Yes

Ray Lyons – Yes

Motion passed, Yes – 8, No – 0.

Governmental Grant Contract in the amount of \$590,588.00

Motion to approve by Ray Lyons, second by Randall Jenkins.

Roll Call:

Austin Jaynes – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Randall Jenkins – Yes

Robin McKamey – Yes

Ginger Holdren – Yes

Robert Acuff – Yes

Ray Lyons – Yes

Motion passed, Yes – 8, No – 0.

**VIII. Use of Smokeless Tobacco products in county buildings and vehicles to include the general public.**

Ronnie Taylor was approached by several citizens about employees using smokeless tobacco in the office. He has implemented a rule that no employee will be allowed to use smokeless tobacco products in his office or any county vehicles. While the commission cannot tell the elected official how to run their office, they can help set boundaries for the courthouse and the public that comes into the building. Attorney Hardin informed the committee that a policy to add smokeless tobacco to the no smoking campaign, making it a tobacco free campus. Mr. Johnson reminded that committee that policies are only as good as the enforcement of that policy. Who would enforce it?

Motion was made by Mike Hill to turn the courthouse into a tobacco free campus, second by Ginger Holdren. Discussion determined that the office holders have control of their offices but as for the public it will be tobacco free. Ms. Holdren asked if the policy would be just the building or the surrounding property. Attorney Hardin informed that it would be the property but no real way to keep people from using smokeless tobacco in the parking lot.

Roll Call:

Austin Jaynes – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Randall Jenkins – No

Robin McKamey – Yes

Ginger Holdren – Yes

Robert Acuff – Yes

Ray Lyons - Yes

Motion passes, Yes – 7, No – 1.

**IX. On-Going Health and Welfare Issues Facing our County – Updates**

**a. Homeless Zoom event for Thursday, May 21, 2020 with Burt Rosen President and CEO of KARM.**

This should only be about an hour and a half event. Asked Abby Frye if there were any limitations to the Zoom program. Time limit or number of people that could join the meeting. She informed the committee that with the paid subscription purchased, there were no limitations.

**b. Opioid Epidemic**

The CDC and some of the other drug entities determined that every 1% loss in job there is a 3.6% increase in opioid overdose. People in the area are losing jobs and this is a concern.

**c. Food Accessibility for Kids and Families – update on the potential partnership between B&G Club of Elizabethton Carter County with Harmony Church, Hampton**

The B&G Club is looking at re-opening and in the terms of food accessibility, the county schools will be distributing meals through the end of June. Abby Frye brought some statistics to the committee concerning the and food accessibility. The current poverty rate for Carter County is 24.5% live at or below poverty level. Another statistic is called ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) these are families that are working and are above poverty level. Their income is such that they don't qualify for assistance, but their income is below the cost of living for our area. Our ALICE number is 25% so if you add that to our poverty percentage, we are at 49.5% of our county residents are living at or below the cost of living for the area. Dr. Acuff asked Ms. Frye if she could provide that research so that he could pass it to Mr. Rosen before the meeting on May 21. She informed him that she had the statewide data and would send him a copy of that information.

**X. New Business**

None

**XI. Old Business**

None

**XII. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Austin Jaynes, second by Mike Hill. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.