

# Carter County Commission

## Minutes of:

### Health & Welfare Committee

October 05, 2021, 6:00 PM

#### Members:

Daniel McInturff - present

Thomas Proffitt - present

Robert Acuff - present

Layla Ward – present

Randall Jenkins - present

Isaiah Grindstaff - present

Charles Von Cannon – present

Mike Miller - present

#### I. Call to Order

The Building & Grounds Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff at 6:00 pm.

#### II. Roll Call

All members present

#### III. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff.

**All in favor, the motion carried.**

#### IV. Emily You, Broadband Grants Manager, Tennessee Economic and Community Development (via Zoom)

Emily You attended the meeting via Zoom to give the committee an update on the broadband initiative. Established in 2017 they have done \$60 million in state funds over the last 4 years and Cares Act Funding of \$60 million for about \$120 million, serving 140,000 Tennesseans in 64 Counties. She explained the system and how people can access what vendors are available. They are putting together their own map to help with funding decisions. Maps will also be able to be accessed by the public. The FCC has their own maps, but the data isn't always as accurate as they would like it to be. The maps should become available next summer. The Financial Stimulus Accountability Group was appointed by Governor Lee to oversee all federal stimulus funds and how they are used. They approved \$500million for broadband projects. They received \$100 million appropriated from the general assembly for the state grant programs. \$400 million is for infrastructure for underserved areas. \$100 million is for adoption programs. Federal funds will be spent before state funds are touched. They know that affordability is a big issue when it comes to adopting internet so they are putting in place programs that will help with this. The application process will go live after the new year and applicants will have about two (2) months to get their application together. Then hopefully announcing by late May early June.

Edward Hinson from Skybest attended the meeting to let the committee know that everything is still looking good. He gave everyone a flier to hand out to their constituents so they would have access to be able to reach out and let Skybest know the interest and contestability in the community. (Flier attached) He informed the committee that the delay times he gave a few months ago have increased from 52 weeks to 120 weeks now. Skybest is buying everything they can now to prepare for when the work can begin. He stated that there were things in the works to help people to be able to afford the internet.

Chairman Acuff stated that it was brought to his attention by Budget Chair Austin Jaynes that the \$600,000.00 that was approved last year and supposed to be rolled over did not get put into this year's budget by Brad Burke. To get that match back to the \$3.1 million there would need to be a motion to put that \$600,000.00 back into the budget.

**Motion was made by Isaiah Grindstaff, second by Randall Jenkins to put the \$600,000.00 from last year's budget for the broadband program back into the budget for this year.**

Voice Roll Call Vote as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff  
Robert Acuff  
Randall Jenkins  
Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt  
Layla Ward  
Isaiah Grindstaff  
Mike Miller

With eight (8) yes votes, **motion carried.**

**V. Tom Kincer II, MD, Associate Dean for Rural and Community Programs Professor-Department of Family Medicine Quillen College of Medicine East Tennessee State University**

Dr. Kincer spoke to the committee about bringing primary care and family medicine to the area. He introduced the EQUIP Program (flier attached). EQUIP (Extending Quillen to the Underserved through an Integrated Pipeline) is a program designed to identify and mentor students from rural and underserved areas who are interested in attending East Tennessee State University-Quillen College of Medicine. The program accepts students in their final two years of high school and throughout college enhancing the student's ability to successfully navigate the education, activities, testing, and application process necessary for medical school admission. His belief is that with the right mentor program local students will stay or return to the area. There is no cost to be a part of EQUIP, nor attend any Quillen College of Medicine EQUIP sponsored activities. Lodging is usually provided in the University dormitories at no cost. The students will be responsible for travel and food costs. Students can apply on the ETSU-Quillen College of Medicine EQUIP webpage.

**VI. Terry Arnold, Director Carter County EMS/Rescue Squad**

Terry Arnold, Director of the Carter County EMS/Rescue Squad attended the meeting to speak about the issues that the EMS is having. He stated that there are a lot of issues concerning the wait times at the hospitals. With only a couple of trucks on the road, when one has to stay at the Emergency Room for hours because they are so backed up that there are no beds to turn the patients over. He stated that he doesn't have the staff to man all the trucks he has. They come to Carter County and train then move on to another county to make more money. He stated that he usually has 62 people and right now he has 32. He has two trucks, three if he closes the office.

**VII. Election of Committee Chair, Vice Chair**

**Chair:**

Isaiah Grindstaff nominated Robert Acuff, second by Daniel McInturff

**Motion by Layla Ward, second by Randall Jenkins to cease nominations and elect Robert Acuff by acclamation.**

All in favor, **motion carried.**

**Vice Chair:**

Daniel McInturff nominated Mike Miller, second by Layla Ward

**Motion by Isaiah Grindstaff, second by Thomas Proffitt to cease nominations and elect Mike Miller by acclimation.**

All in favor, **motion carried.**

**VIII. Public Comments**

None

**IX. Old/New Business**

None

**X. Commissioner Comments**

Charles Von Cannon stated that he would like to see the Buffalo and Sinking Creeks tested for E Coli.

Robert Acuff stated that there were four (4) cases in the Stoney Creek area. He stated that he would put it on the agenda and contact the Health Department.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Daniel McInturff, second by Randall Jenkins. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Gwen Crowe