

# Carter County Commission

## Minutes of:

### Health & Welfare Committee

June 07, 2022, 6:00 PM

#### Members:

Daniel McInturff - Present

Thomas Proffitt – Present

Robert Acuff - Present

Layla Ward - Present

Randall Jenkins - Present

Jerry Proffitt (in for Isaiah Grindstaff)

Charles Von Cannon - Present

Mike Miller - Present

#### 1. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff 6:02 PM.

#### 2. Roll Call

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

##### Present:

Daniel McInturff

Charles Von Cannon

Jerry Proffitt

Robert Acuff

Thomas Proffitt

Mike Miller

Randall Jenkins

Layla Ward

##### Absent:

Isaiah Grindstaff

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Acuff asked to add the approval of the May minutes after Public comments.

**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Layla Ward to approve agenda with the amendment. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### 4. Public Comments

Gary Bailey Chairman of the Landfill Committee came before the committee to ask for consideration of funding from the ARP funds for up to \$3 million for a new transfer station. He presented a letter from CTAS stating that the transfer station needs replacement. The station is 40 + years old and has needed replacement for a long time. He stated that he would forward the proposals to the committee.

Bob Carroll came before the committee after resubmitting the proposal for the substation for Poga, Elk Mills VFD on the Sluder Property. He reminded the committee that the condition for the gift of the property to the county is that it be utilized for a public purpose for the benefit of the citizens of Carter County. If the property is not used under these condition, they have the right to reclaim the property. This community have been asked for something like this for 30 years. He introduced Chief John Yarber who explained that a substation at the Sluder Property would cut response time for their department in half.

Logan Fuller, Carter County Employee came before the committee asking for them to remember the employees and approve the proposed bonus.

**5. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Mike Miller to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Robert Acuff  
Randall Jenkins  
Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward  
Mike Miller

**Abstain:**

Daniel McInturff  
Charles Von Cannon

Jerry Proffitt

**With five (5) yes votes, three (3) abstain, motion carried.**

**6. Maternity Leave Policy Discussion**

Chairman Acuff stated that it was requested that the county come up with a better maternity leave policy to include fathers and parents of newly adopted children. Attorney Hardin stated that it does apply to mother and father, for biological and adopted children. It is up to four (4) months. The only thing that they don't get now is pay, they can utilize their vacation pay and sick pay. They can also utilize the Family Medical Leave if it is a qualified medical leave. There were several points of discussion about what benefits would be accrued during leave and what the pay would be. With county wages being low, a better maternity leave policy would be an incentive for employment. There was discussion about paying the employee during that time because the money has already been budgeted to pay that employee. It was agreed that the topic would be tabled till next month.

**7. ARP Funding and Prioritization Issues**

- Carter County / SkyLine/SkyBest Fiber Based Internet \$3,200,000 (\$2,500,000 with \$600,000 coming from the general fund and \$100,000 from Carter Count Schools)

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Mike Miller to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff  
Robert Acuff  
Randall Jenkins  
Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt  
Layla Ward  
Jerry Proffitt  
Mike Miller

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

- Carter County EMS – Ambulance - \$241,124  
There was discussion about the EMS having a request for an Ambulance on budget and on the ARP Funds. It was decided that the vehicles were different and would serve different purposes.  
**Motion by Daniel McInturff, second by Jerry Proffitt to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Carter County Health Department – 127,700

**Motion by Layla Ward, second by Charles Von Cannon to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Carter County Essential Employees Bonuses 306 x \$5,000 = \$1,530,000

It was agreed that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

- Carter County 911 – Mobile Ready Emergency Center \$47,375

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Thomas Proffitt to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Carter County Fire Association 4 x \$150,000 = \$600,000

- Carter County Watauga VFD \$150,000

It was agreed that they link these two projects together.

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Jerry Proffitt to keep both on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Friends of the Animal Shelter Spay and Neuter Facility \$655,000

Chairman Acuff sent out an email from the comptroller's office stating that it would qualify for the funds.

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Thomas Proffitt to keep this on the list.**

Daniel McInturff asked how many non-profits did they have that didn't make the list?

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Poga, Elk Mills 30' x 40' Building \$154,942; Fire Pumper \$312,550 = \$467,492

Mayor Woodby stated that this would have to go through a bid process. Mr. McInturff stated that this number is going to go up. Mayor Woodby asked for this to be left on the budget for ARP and if it went over it could go to budget for further funding. Finance Director stated that it could be reserved as no more than the amount asked for and other funding could come from budget or fund raising. It was suggested that the amount to be raised to no more than \$500,000.

**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Daniel McInturff to keep this on the list but raise it to \$500,000.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Constables of Carter County \$48,000

**Motion by Thomas Proffitt, second by Jerry Proffitt to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Danner Bridge Replacement, 1<sup>st</sup> Utility District \$13,898.15 (est)

Blevins Hollow Bridge Replacement, 1<sup>st</sup> Utility District \$55,212.15 (est)

Chairman Acuff stated that it had already been voted on and he suggested that they be voted on together.

**Motion by Daniel McInturff, second by Thomas Proffitt to keep both on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- United Way of East TN Highlands in Carter County, \$50,000  
Mr. McInturff asked if there could be a guarantee that this money will stay in Carter County. Chairman Acuff stated that that was in the proposal.

**Motion made by Randall Jenkins, second by Layla Ward to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Carter County First Responders Radio Communication, \$3,700,000 (est).  
Chairman Acuff stated that they still don't have a tower cost, so this number is going to increase.

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Layla Ward to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Shepard's Inn \$77,426.75  
**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Randall Jenkins to keep this on the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

- Blue Mountanya Regional Water Treatment Plant, \$1,224,750  
Chris Schuttler stated that he believes paying for this would be financing a private development for-profit project that will cost the county more than just getting it started. It will have future cost that the county will have to pay for. Mayor Woodby stated that there was a lot of unanswered questions with this project.

**Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Jerry Proffitt to remove this from the list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff	Thomas Proffitt
Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Randall Jenkins	Jerry Proffitt
Charles Von Cannon	Mike Miller

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

The committee took a 10-minute break

- Revisit #4. Carter County Essential Employees Bonuses 306 x \$5,000 = \$1,530,000  
Discussion began about the number of employees who qualified for the bonus. Finance Director Carolyn Watson informed the committee that the qualifying dates are September 12, 2021 – November 21, 2021. There were 281 employees that qualified and 8 employees who retired in 2021 and 2022 and qualify. She handed out quotes for \$1000 through \$5000 per qualifying employee. Mayor Woodby stated that part of this money is available to the employees of the county who worked during the pandemic. She stated that she believes they deserve it. It was agreed upon that the bonus would be \$4000 per qualifying employee with the county paying the FICA taxes and the employee paying the Federal Taxes. This would come to a total of \$1,402,228.00. (Ms. Watsons worksheet attached)

**Motion by Thomas Proffitt, second by Charles Von Cannon to keep it on the list for a \$4.000 bonus with the county paying the FICA taxes and the employee paying the Federal.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Robert Acuff	Layla Ward
Charles Von Cannon	Jerry Proffitt
Thomas Proffitt	Mike Miller

**No:**

Randall Jenkins

**Abstain:**

Daniel McInturff

**With six (6) yes votes, one (1) no, one (1) abstain, motion carried.**

Chairman Acuff figured the number with all the above approved projects without the Landfills transfer station project, but adding the 10% match for TDEC, the total is \$10,774,009.40. When the five projects that have already committed funds are added back in the total is \$1,394,637 this gives us a total of \$12,808,647. By his figures they need to cut \$1,135,356.05.

Chairman Acuff stated that now that they have voted to keep or remove the requests, he would like to prioritize them.

1. Carter County / SkyLine/SkyBest Fiber Based Internet
2. Carter County First Responders Radio Communications
3. Carter County Essential Employees Bonuses
4. Carter County Fire Association / Carter County Watauga VFD
5. Poga, Elk Mills sub station
6. Constables of Carter County
7. Carter County 911
8. Carter County Health Department
9. Friends of the Animal Shelter Spay and Neuter Facility
10. Carter County EMS
11. Shepard's Inn
12. United Way
13. Bridges

Mayor Woodby suggested that the Danner Bridge and Blevins Hollow Bridge Projects be removed from the list and take that out of the fund balance.

Carolyn Watson stated that other financing options could be looked at for the landfill and the communications project because they would be easier to finance.

Attorney Hardin stated that all this committee needed to do is complete the full list and prioritize then send it to Financial Management, they will find alternative funding if needed and send it to Budget.

**Motion by Daniel McInturff, second by Thomas Proffitt to accept the prioritized list and send it to the Financial Management Committee.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff  
Robert Acuff  
Randall Jenkins  
Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt  
Layla Ward  
Jerry Proffitt  
Mike Miller

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

**Projects with ARP Funds already Approved by Commission**

1. Stoney Creek VFD and Hampton VFD \$150,000 each = \$300,000
2. First Utility for Dry Hollow Waterline Extension \$382,250
3. First Tennessee Development Administrative Fee \$318,000
4. Purchase of 300 N Main Street \$295,000
5. Court Room Live Stream Equipment \$19,387.60

**TDEC Project List**

Discussion began with the updated recalculation for the TDEC funding from Ken Rea. (attached)

**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Thomas Proffitt to accept TDEC list.**

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

**Yes:**

Daniel McInturff

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins  
Charles Von Cannon  
Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward  
Jerry Proffitt  
Mike Miller

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

**8. Commissioner Comments**

None

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion by Mike Miller, second by Thomas Proffitt to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.**

DRAFT