

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

February 01, 2022, 6:00 PM

Members:

Daniel McInturff - present

Charles Von Cannon – present

Thomas Proffitt - present

Travis Hill (in for Randall Jenkins)

Robert Acuff - present

Layla Ward – present

Isaiah Grindstaff - present

Mike Miller - present

1. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff at 7:45 PM.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was used from the Building & Grounds meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Travis Hill, second by Isaiah Grindstaff.

All in favor, **motion carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes from January 2022

Motion by Daniel McInturff, seconded by Thomas Proffitt to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

With seven (7) yes votes, one (1) abstain, **motion carried.**

5. Public Comments

None

6. Old/New Business

a. Process for ARP Prioritization

Chairman Acuff stated that he would be meeting with Skyline/Skybest, hopefully they will have copies for the committee for engineering maps for Districts 1, 2, and 6 for the fiber-based broadband. The RFP needs to be written and sent out. He stated that he has asked Attorney Hardin to look over things to make sure there are no mistakes before it goes to Financial Management and the Finance Department. He believes that one of the stipulations for the RFP should be that whoever bids on it must have experience in working with rural communities.

He would like to have conversation about how they are going to prioritize the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds. He thinks that they need to figure out how they are going to rank the projects. He believes that the Financial Management Committee plans to have the money to come from TDEC will flow through this committee as well. That will include utilities, wastewater, and potable water. Today was the deadline for having those projects submitted to the First Tennessee Development District. There will be some projects that

did not make that deadline for the TDAC money but that does not mean we need to discount them from the ARP money.

Chairman Acuff stated that he believes that they should work to help the most people in the county, make the most impact possible. He has had calls from all over the county from people with ideas and suggestions of things that need to be done in the county.

Mayor Woodby stated that she believes that infrastructure and broadband are two of the most important projects.

Chairman Acuff stated that while broadband is on the list of things that ARP money can be used for. With the \$3.2 million that the county has set aside, hopefully the governors rural broadband grants, that still have not been released, we may not have to dip into ARP funds to get those projects done. We are looking at maybe \$15/\$20 million to take care of Districts 1, 2, and 6.

Travis Hill stated that there are people in Carter County that do not have clean drinking water. He would like to see everyone have access to a public water supply.

Isaiah Grindstaff asked if any proposals have been submitted. Mayor Woodby and Chairman Acuff stated that they have not seen any come through. Dr. Acuff stated that if someone wants to ask for some of the money for a project they will have to send in a proposal, do their own engineering for the project.

Charles Von Cannon state that two things must happen to grow this economy in carter county. You must have land but if you had it you would have to run sewer to it. That will be staggeringly expensive.

Chairman Acuff asked Commissioner McInturff and mayor Woodby if in their contact with Tracy McAbee and the Hunter School Expansion Project, does it include sewer? Chris Schuettler stated that TDOT was pressured into putting lines across Hwy 91 so the ability to hook into the sewer is there, the county will have to have city cooperation. Daniel Estes stated that if that is a plan it would be nice to have that conversation. They were not sure that the city would be able to handle that much more.

Chairman Acuff summarized the list of priorities mentioned:

Help the most people across Carter County

Potable Water

Sewer Treatment

He wanted to add to the list, the healthcare safety net with EMS. There will be a proposal from them to purchase a new ambulance. He stated that he spoke to Terry Arnold about Station 3. That is the station that serves Poga and that area, what they need to do to add to that station to handle their larger truck.

Isaiah Grindstaff asked Daniel Estes about the cities purchase of a ladder truck. Mr. Estes stated that they are looking to purchase one within the next several years. He stated that they were hoping to get another 5 years out of the one they have. The cost will be approximately \$1.2/\$1.4 million. Mr. Grindstaff stated that this would also benefit the county residents as well and should consider helping the city with this purchase.

Charles Von Cannon stated that he still believes that a study should be done on all the equipment for the fire departments need to be done to see what is needed.

Mr. Von Cannon asked Finance Director Carolyn Watson if the county is making money on the Federal Prisoners? Ms. Watson informed the committee that she is gathering information and looking into that.

Daniel McInturff stated that when talking about helping the most people across the county we need to consider the CTE Program. It will benefit the kids and families and future families for years to come.

Travis Hill said he would like to see projects finished. Not do a little bit here and a little bit there.

Chairman Acuff said that he contacted Joy McCray and asked her to give their input from the chamber. And he encouraged everyone to speak to their community and ask what they would like to see the money spent on.

b. Dates for additional meetings

Dates for additional meetings are as follows:

February 28 at 6:00 PM – Town Hall Meeting

March 1 at 6:00 PM – Regular Scheduled Meeting

March 28 at 6:00 PM – Town Hall Meeting

All meetings will be in the Main Courtroom

7. Reminder of US Treasury/Comptroller of Tennessee use for ARP funds:

Recipients may use SLFRF funds to:

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risk because of their service in critical sectors

- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expand affordable access to broadband internet

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within these four separate eligible use categories.

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-fiscal-recovery-funds>

8. Commissioner Comments

9. Adjourn

Motion by Mike Miller, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by

Gwen Crowe