

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:00 pm by Commissioner Dietz, committee chair. Commissioners Acuff, Deitz, Gobble, Hill, Voncannon and Ward were present at rollcall. Commissioners Simerly and Miller arrived shortly thereafter.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes of Previous Session

Motion was made by Hill, seconded by Ward to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion passed by acclamation.

Motion was made by Acuff, seconded by Ward to approve the minutes of the previous session.

Motion passed by acclamation.

Old Business

No old business was brought forth.

New Business

State Representative Holtsclaw and Mayor Humphrey pitched a proposal to apply for a TWRA 75%/-25% matching funds grant to construct and implement a shooting range on 18 acres of county property located in the Carter County landfill. It was noted that to move forward with such a project, a resolution from the commission would be required, and the Landfill Committee was requested to propose such a resolution to the full commission at the November 17 session. The highlights of the proposal were as follows:

- Award of this grant would be require a 20 year commitment for maintenance, upkeep and operations of the facility by the county. It was suggested that this could be done in part through cooperative agreements with volunteer organizations, as well as trustee labor.
- The grant funds are available from increased TWRA revenue that has resulted from excise taxes collected from an unprecedented spike in gun sales. The grant criteria specifically requires a project designed to promote the continued elevation of tax revenue stemming from gun sales.
- The valuation of the already owned county property committed to the project would be counted toward the 25% funding match.
- Mayor Humphrey presented some planning maps designating the acreage proposed for use, and there was a question and answer session between the committee, Mayor Humphrey, Representative Holtsclaw, Range Master Fred Taylor and representitives from TDEC, plus quite a bit of discussion.

Concerns expressed by committee members included:

- Access and egress from the proposed site interfering with landfill operations.
- Expense of construction and where \$300,000-400,000 in seed money would come from.
- How pollution of groundwater from lead and other shooting by products would be mitigated.
- Adverse affects of gun range activity on the residents' quiet enjoyment of properties in the adjoining Judge Ben Allen Road community. Mention was made of the recent problems with noise from the nearby US Aggregates operations for this neighborhood.
- Commissioner Ward elaborated on the need for a more well defined comprehensive plan before a decision could be made.
- Commissioner Hill asked questions regarding projecions as to how much time it would take to recoup the required monetary investment and "put the citizens' money back in the bank", as well as how much projected revenue such a site would produce and who the demographic served would be.
- Commissioner VonCannon expressed his serious concerns about a capital expenditure of this scale, given other large expenditures that had not come from the budget process.

When more detailed answers to the questions posed by the committee could not be given by Mayor Humphrey, Representative Holtsclaw or the various TDEC and range experts, a Motion was made by Commissioner Von Cannon, seconded by Commissioner Ward to acquire collateral documents from the Greene

County TWRA Gun Range project, and study the matter properly before making any committee recommendations. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Landfill Director Lyons' Report to the Committee

Mr. Lyons advised the committee that the Bobcat needs a replacement motor with an estimated cost of \$5,000.00 and that the local Case dealer has stated that the machine's overall condition doesn't merit this level of expenditure, which is more than the machine was currently worth. The landfill has applied for a grant from the state to acquire a new machine, but the awards will not be announced until late December or early January. To lease a similar piece of equipment will cost approximately \$2,500 monthly, and acquiring used replacement equipment would cost a minimum of \$8,000. Mr. Lyons stated that funds were available within the current budget to pay for any of these options. Mr. Lyons reported that to date, 14 bicycles have been donated from the landfill to the program where prisoners refurbish donated bicycles and give them to children of inmates at Christmas. Mr. Lyons advised the committee of a problem with ammonia levels from the closed portion of the landfill are exceeding the caps mandated by Johnson City for processing, and that we may incur surcharges as a result. 145 ppm is the current level of output, and the requirement is 60 ppm maximum.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Ward stated that the gun range is a good idea, but that there needs to be a more concrete and detailed plan presented to the committee for an informed decision to be made. Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Gobble. Motion passed by acclamation.

respectfully submitted by Mike Hill, committee secretary