

**Law Enforcement
Committee Meeting
March 5, 2012**

FILED

4-3-2012
MARY GOUGE
COUNTY CLERK

D.C.

Members Present: Ken Arney, JoAnn Blankenship, Ronnie Trivett, Robert Gobble, Buford Peters, Scott Sams, Richard Winters, and Steve Lowrance (for L.C. Tester).

Absent: L.C. Tester

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Arney at 6:45 p.m. Chairman Arney, noted that he had to cancel last months meeting due to a death in the family.

Motion was made by Robert Gobble, seconded by JoAnn Blankenship to approve the minutes of the last meeting, December 5, 2011, as printed. All ayes, motion carried.

At this time Chairman Arney noted that a Fireworks Ordinance had been placed in the packets. It was noted that County Attorney, Keith Bowers, Jr. had written the Resolution, and then was "added to and taken away" by Chairman Arney. He noted that this was a draft only, compiled by ordinances from other counties in the State.

Chairman Arney stated that this was not "just Ken's" that it was the whole committee and the whole Commissions.

Scott Sams stated, "It's not mine. I don't agree with this at all." Commissioner Sams also voiced his disagreement with the fines as listed and several other items listed in the draft.

Chairman Arney proceeded to read the Resolution as drafted.

Discussion followed concerning the sale of Fireworks by the Volunteer Fire Departments and Vendors. Some of the discussion was concerning sale of fireworks being sold in tents, and in damp and dangerous locations. It was noted that the Ordinance (if approved) would apply to sales in the County only and some businesses would be "grandfathered" in. Chairman Arney stated that the Ordinance would apply to "all" if approved and noted that the Building & Grounds Committee along with law enforcement would oversee violations and complaints.

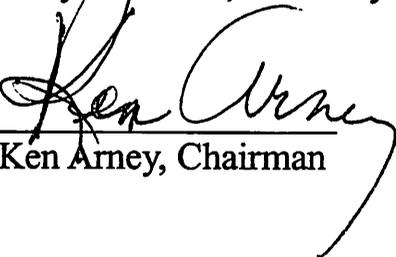
Ron Hartley, a local firework retailer at this time spoke concerning the ordinance. Mr. Hartley stated that the Volunteer Fire Departments should not have exclusive rights to firework sales in his opinion. He stated that everyone should have the opportunity to open a business if desired. He pointed out that sales tax dollars from the sales of fireworks would benefit the county.

Much discussion was voiced concerning businesses being "grandfathered" in and everyone was in agreement that this needed to be clarified before the Resolution is approved for final draft.

Motion was made by Robert Gobble, seconded by Ronnie Trivett to review the current drafted Resolution and come back to the next meeting with changes for further discussion for possible approval of a Fireworks Ordinance. All Ayes, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Robert Gobble. All Ayes meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,
Patsy H. Lewis, Secretary


Ken Arney, Chairman

APPROVED

4-2-12