

Minutes for the Meeting of the Records Committee

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm on March 11, 2021 by Chairman Jarrod Ellis.

A quorum was present--Honorable Judge Stacy Street, Register of Deeds Jarrod Ellis, Scott Bowers, Ginger Holdren, Interim Mayor/Commissioner Patty Woodby, and Patsy Lewis.

Visitors present were Lisa Germaine and Vivian Carr.

Motion was made by Scott Bowers to approve the agenda, seconded by Judge Street. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Judge Street and seconded by Patsy Lewis to approve the November 2020 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

During public comments Lisa Germaine stated that she wants to see the Archives up and going. She further stated that she hoped there would be no more disposal of our historical documents.

Bowers then began a discussion about the archivist that needs to be hired--job description, salary, benefits, oversight, and so on. The state requires that the person has a minimum of a Master's degree since the person is responsible for documents insured for millions of dollars. There is currently \$505,180 in the account for the archives. The balance is growing by approximately \$115,000/year.

A discussion of possible archive location sites then took place. Mr Bowers informed the committee that the location must be county-owned, so the former Chamber of Commerce building is not an option since it is city-owned. Other places mentioned in the discussion were the Dayton Siler building currently occupied by the State Probation and Parole office, the Workforce Development Complex, the Cowan office building, the Whitehead-owned house adjacent to the courthouse, and the former Johnson City Press building. It was concluded that the Johnson City Press building on Broad St was worth pursuing since it has no second story and very few windows. The committee noted a discrepancy in what we are being told--Finance Director Burke says we can buy a building and Scott Bowers says we can only update a currently-owned building. The committee tasked Judge Street with looking into the possible use and purchase of the JC Press building.

Scott Bowers stated that he has a list of the documents in our possession. Johnson County recently found some of Carter County's records from 1779.

Judge Street made a motion to go ahead and hire an archivist. Scott Bowers seconded it. All committee members voted yes. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Records Committee was set for April 22 at 5 pm in the Mayor's conference room where members will wear masks and social distance.

Patsy Lewis made a motion to adjourn and the meeting ended.