

**Board of Commissioners
Carter County, Tennessee
SPECIAL CALLED SESSION
Monday July 26, 2021**

Call to Order – Chairman Travis Hill called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Roll Call

Roll Call as follows:

Present:

Willie Campbell
Mark Blevins
Robert Acuff
Nancy Brown
Julie Guinn
Bradley Johnson
Mark Tester

Charles VonCannon
Isaiah Grindstaff
Austin Jaynes
Jerry Proffitt
Ross Garland
Ginger Holdren
Layla Ward

Travis Hill
Sonja Culler
Daniel McInturff
Aaron Frazier
Robin McKamey
Kelly Collins
Thomas Proffitt

Absent:

Mike Hill
Randall Jenkins
Gary Bailey

Present: Twenty-one (21)

Absent: Three (3)

Approval of Agenda

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Yes:

Willie Campbell
Mark Blevins
Robert Acuff
Nancy Brown
Julie Guinn
Bradley Johnson
Mark Tester

Charles VonCannon
Isaiah Grindstaff
Austin Jaynes
Jerry Proffitt
Ross Garland
Ginger Holdren
Layla Ward

Travis Hill
Sonja Culler
Daniel McInturff
Aaron Frazier
Robin McKamey
Kelly Collins
Thomas Proffitt

Absent:

Mike Hill
Randall Jenkins
Gary Bailey

Yes: Twenty-one (21)

No: Three (3)

Receiving twenty-one (21) yes, zero (0) no, and three (3) absent, **motion carried.**

Opening Prayer – Commissioner Willie Campbell

Pledge of Allegiance – Julie Guinn

Recognition of the Elected Officials in Attendance

Review and Consideration of the Proposed Countywide Carter County Communications Project, Including Discussion and Potential Approval of Current Proposals/Bids and Potential Sources and Methods of Funding.

Peter Rogers, Director of TACN and Scott Tidwell from Motorola spoke to the commission about the P25 communications system that is being used statewide. They explained how the system works and the benefits and coverage that can be received with their system. Benefits of the system are:

- Statewide 700/800/VHF P25 Phase 1 and Phase 2 System
- Statewide Coverage
- Currently 6 Channels at Every Site
- 10 Year Maintenance and Life cycle Management Program in place
- The \$200 per radio per year has been lifted

Discussion continued, questions about cost and coverage of the service, tower locations and who decides new towers are need, were asked by the commissioners and first responders in the courtroom and answers were given by the two representatives from the state and Motorola. Assuring them that the system would have coverage that would cover about most of the county. Recorded on page:

Captain Tom Smith addressed the commission with a presentation (attached) that would explain the DMR system that he has researched, and the commission agreed to put out for RFP. One bid was received on the RFP and the details are in the presentation. Captain Smith spoke about the system and the ability to continue to use the devices that are already in service with the city and county agencies, thus saving money. He called attention to the fact that 10 agencies including the Highway Department, Landfill, Fire Departments and Rescue Squad will also be able to use and afford this system. Again, discussion began, and questions were asked as with the Motorola system about cost, coverage of the service, tower locations. Captain Smith described the process of installing the system. He explained that the cost of the TACN system was more than the county could afford because the cost of the portable radios that would need to be replaced just in the Sheriffs office alone would be \$2+ million dollars. This doesn't include the mobile, portable and mountain top repeaters would have to be replaced to use this system.

Chief Shaw with the Elizabethton Police Department spoke to the commission and expressed the need to get a communications system that everyone can use. Each agency depends on the others. The DMR system that is being presented by Captain Smith will work with the city equipment that will only need updated to match the technology. This will be affordable to not only the county and city police agencies but also the Volunteer Fire Departments, Rescue Squad, and others.

Motion was made by Austin Jaynes, second by Mark Blevins to defer and get a quote from for the P25 Systems offered by the state. The quote must be broken down into categories with the prices of what it will cost with a line item for each aspect of the system.

Mark Blevins withdrew his second and hoped that Mr. Jaynes will withdraw his motion and have another motion to turn down the bid on the DMR System that Captain Smith brought before the commission.

Robert Acuff second the motion from Austin Jaynes.

Austin Jaynes changed the motion, second by Robert Acuff to reject the bid and rewrite the RFP to include the system offered by the state with detailed cost breakdown of the systems and equipment.

Motion was made by Brad Johnson, second by Mark Blevins to end discussion.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Willie Campbell
Mark Blevins
Robert Acuff
Nancy Brown
Julie Guinn
Bradley Johnson
Mark Tester

Charles Von Cannon
Jerry Proffitt
Austin Jaynes
Ross Garland
Layla Ward
Ginger Holdren
Travis Hill

Sonja Culler
Daniel McInturff
Aaron Frazier
Robin McKamey
Kelly Collins
Thomas Proffitt

No:

Isaiah Grindstaff

Absent:

Mike Hill
Randall Jenkins
Gary Bailey

Vote on motion by Austin Jaynes, second by Robert Acuff to reject the bid and rewrite the RFP to include the system offered by the state.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Willie Campbell
Mark Blevins
Robert Acuff
Nancy Brown
Julie Guinn
Bradley Johnson
Mark Tester

Charles Von Cannon
Jerry Proffitt
Austin Jaynes
Ross Garland
Layla Ward
Ginger Holdren
Travis Hill

Sonja Culler
Daniel McInturff
Aaron Frazier
Robin McKamey
Kelly Collins

No:

Isaiah Grindstaff
Thomas Proffitt

Absent:

Mike Hill
Randall Jenkins
Gary Bailey

Yes: Nineteen (19)

No: Two (2)

With a vote of nineteen (19) yes, two (2) no, **motion carried.**

Adjournment

Motion by Brad Johnson, second by Mark Blevins, voice vote all approved, meeting adjourned.