

Cannon County,  
Tennessee  
Board of  
Commissioners  
Legislative Minutes

July 11, 2020

&

July 13, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER** - The July County Commission Meeting was called to order Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtroom of the Cannon County Courthouse.

**PRAYER** - Prayer was led by Commissioner Corey Davenport

**PLEDGE** - Pledge was led by Commissioner Karen Ashford

**ROLL CALL** - (Present) Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. ALL PRESENT

**APPROVE/CHANGE AGENDA** - Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey requested that item #16 be moved to item #9. Motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Brent Brandon to move item #16 to #9.. Motion was carried by All Ayes. Motion was made by Commissioner Randy Gannon and seconded by Commissioner Corey Davenport to approve agenda. Motion was approved by All Ayes.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA-** (a) Approve meeting minutes (6-4-20 & 6-29-20) (b) approve notary applications of Tonya Gannon, Timothy Gentry, Perla Carreras, Sydney Borren, Charlene Odom, Darlene Pendergrast, Juanita Strait. Motion was made by Commissioner Jeannine Floyd, seconded by Commissioner Russell Reed to approve both a & b. Motion was approved by All Ayes

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Gregory Johnson addressed the Commission about the County being in compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1973. Mr. Johnson said the TN Dept of Transportation has appointed Margaret Marlow as coordinator to help Cannon County become compliant. One of the requirements is the public notification program and the County has appropriated \$5000 for the creation of the website. Mr. Johnson said the county already has a website cannoncountyttn.org that was approved by the Commission and would like the current website amended instead of a new site created. Commissioner Floyd asked if the website has to be a .gov and how much would it cost to upgrade the current website. Mr. Johnson stated the website does not have to be .gov and approximately \$1200 would buy new software. Commissioner Russell Reed made a clarification that the amount budgeted for the .gov website is only \$1,500.

**MEDICAL EXAMINER/AUTOPSIES** - Glenn Steakley spoke to the Commission concerning the amount of tax dollars that are being spent by drug and alcohol incidents. He also spoke of the rate of overdoses and suicides that have more people dying at a faster rate in Cannon County. Mr. Steakley described all of the programs that are in place to help with this

growing problem. Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey spoke about what was discussed with Dr. Thomas about the suicides and overdoses that have grown exponentially. He also acknowledged the work that Mr. Steakley's group is doing and the impact that it will have on our county for years to come. Commissioner Mahaffey said maybe it should be considered to up the amount budgeted for the Coalition.

**A.D.A. UPDATE/A.D.A COMMITTEE MEMBERS - Remove old add new-** Abby Howell gave the recommendations of the ADA Board of members wanting to be removed and members to be added to the committee. Mr. Howell requested that a Commissioner also be added to the committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Brent Brandon to remove Kristie Fisk and Darlene Poppele and add Tony Neal and Dallas Parsons. Voting Aye: Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Voting Nay: Jeannine Floyd (passed). Motion was approved by a vote of 8 for, 1 against.

Abby Howell updated the Commission of the ADA needs and progress of those needs. The list included ADA Coordinator (Abby Howell), ADA website public notice about ADA requirements, establish a grievance procedure, use current design standards specifications and details for new constructions and alterations, develop self-evaluation and transition plans, approve a schedule and budget to implement the transition plan, monitor progress on implementation of the transition plan. Commissioner Karen Ashford gave an update on the progress on the Gassaway Fire Dept. The work that is to be done is 75% complete and was paid for by the Community Center and Gary Hancock did the work. Mr. Howell presented the bids for the fairgrounds, Gassaway fire dept, Election Commission, Board of Education, Courthouse and Adams Hospital.

**CANNON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES -** The Cannon County Library System Board of Trustees requests the approval of Roger Turney, Dale Bush, Mike Reed to its Board of Trustees for a 3 year term starting July 1, 2020. A motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport, seconded by Karen Ashford to approve these members to the Library Board of Trustees. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -** A motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Brent Brandon to approve the Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey discussed the employees that are not being transferred to the Financial Dept. and the unreserved undesignated fund balance is no less than 10% of the operating budget and we are currently at a 25% requirement. He also pointed out the Ambulance Dept is not included in this document. Commissioner Brent

Brandon stated that this is a working document and can be changed monthly if needed by the Financial Management Committee. Commissioner Corey Davenport withdrew his motion before a vote was taken. Commissioner Corey Davenport made a new motion that the Cannon County Commission have received the Financial Management Policies and Procedures on behalf of the Financial Committee for us to review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brent Brandon. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon. Voting Nay: Jim Bush, Ronnie Mahaffey (passed). Motion was approved by a vote of 7-2.

**PROPERTY RE-APPRAISAL LAW** - Chris Coats said the City Of Woodbury owes the County \$13,000 in re-appraisal fees and is requesting approval of the Commission to send a letter to the City Attorney informing them of legal action if the amount owed is not paid. A motion was made by Commissioner Jeannine Floyd, seconded by Commissioner Jim Bush to send the letter to the City of Woodbury. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, and Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote 9-0.

**GREENBELT PROPERTIES EMAIL** - Commission received an email from Realtor Greg Goff concerning Greenbelt. Mr. Goff was not in attendance but Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey spoke on behalf of him. Commissioner Mahaffey stated that Mr. Goff was concerned that certain properties were not meeting the requirement for receiving the tax break. Assessor of Property, Angela Schwartz explained the requirements and the steps that property owners have to complete to qualify for the Greenbelt tax exemption. Commissioner Jeannine Floyd requested a list of all Greenbelt Properties.

**CANNON COUNTY GRANT LIST** - Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey discussed approved grants and understanding what they are and how they fit in the finances of the County. Commissioner Mahaffey recommended these funds be listed in restricted funds and not be listed in the budget. Roy Sullivan, 911 Director explained the grant programs and how the funding works. No Action was taken.

**CANNON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISING REQUEST** - Deborah Leach was present and Commissioner Corey Davenport and County Executive Brent Bush discussed the Cares Act. The request for fundraising for the Senior Center is on the agenda of the next budget meeting.

## COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES HANDBOOK COMMITTEE -

Commissioner Corey Davenport would like to create a committee to go through the handbook and make sure we are in compliance. No Action Taken

## WHEEL TAX & SALES TAX REFERENDUM REQUEST BY BOE -

A request by the School Board to increase the wheel tax by \$75.00. It was decided to get legal clarification from Chris Coats before voting on the wheel tax. A motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport and seconded by Commissioner Jim Bush to put the Sales Tax increase by 1 cent on to the ballot in November. And have Chris Coats and Matt Teply discuss the legality of the wheel tax. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Voting Nay: Russell Reed. Motion was approved by a vote of 8-1

A motion was made by Commissioner Corey Davenport to recess till Monday at 5:30. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeannine Floyd. Motion was approved by all ayes. Meeting was recessed at 1:27 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2020

ROLL CALL - PRESENT: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. ALL PRESENT

Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey shared the information that he had received from Matt Tepley concerning the verbiage on the referendum to increase the wheel tax. Commissioner Mahaffey said the State would approve the verbiage as long as it is concise, very clear to the people and meets the criteria of what the County is trying to achieve. The State suggested that the County Attorney should consult with CTAS to produce the verbiage that we are looking for to achieve what we want the referendum to achieve. The \$75.00 wheel tax that is requested by the School Board would include the \$40.00 that would continue to pay the debt that it is currently paying, the \$10.00 portion would pay for the school roof's, and the \$25.00 would accumulate for a down payment on a new school. When the \$40.00 portion is paid off it will continue to be in effect. Commissioner Randy Gannon suggested that the School Board do the leg work and bring back what they want and the Commission vote then. Also suggested is have Chris Coats and Matt Tepley attend the next school board meeting to assist in drafting this for the referendum.

FISCAL 2021 BUDGET - Chairman of the budget committee Karen Ashford stated that the only changes in appropriations is the Financial Office and the 3% raises for the people that have not had one in 6 years and solid waste employees. Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey

proposed going over each department's budget. The first discussion was the Gross Receipts Tax and the first \$1,500 of that goes to the Hwy Dept. Financial Director Diane Hickman stated that this is not in the budget that it is transferred as soon as it is received in the Trustee's Office. Commissioner Mahaffey said that if there is a way to stop paying this to the Hwy Dept we should stop due to the Hwy Dept not contributing to the Finance Dept. There was an error noted in the budget, it states the gross penny is \$25,680 and the actual gross penny \$27,913 net value of the penny is \$26,238. Commissioner Mahaffey recommended in his budget to not pay the state mandated raises for dept heads. He stated even though these raises are mandated by law the penalty for not upholding the law is only having a finding in the audit. Chairman Greg Mitchell agreed that the unfunded mandates are not fair but does not agree with voting to do something illegal. Judicial Commissioners, Sheriff's Dept, Jail, Agriculture Dept, and Centralized Financing were all discussed. The contributions were also examined and it was decided that because of the drug abuse and lives that are lost in our County that there is a great need for an intervention for our youth and families. Commissioner Corey Davenport suggested taking the \$1,500 from the web site design line and moving it to contributions. Commissioner Mahaffey said that it is a direct investment in our county because the need is so great, he supports funding it. Commissioner Randy Gannon made a motion to move \$1,500.00 from the web site line item to the Cannon County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition which will total \$2,500.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Corey Davenport. Motion was approved by a voice vote. The Solid Waste budget increased from \$22,018 to \$40,040. Commissioner Brent Brandon voiced his concerns with the projected revenue of collections for the Ambulance Dept. Due to Covid there have been less runs and collections could possibly be down. Commissioner Brent Brandon made a motion to reset line item 43120 patient charges from \$535,000 to \$510,000. Commissioner Corey Davenport seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a voice vote. In the discussion of the School Budget Commissioner Mahaffey explained that the school system receives a portion of the prior years collections of the Trustee, Circuit Court and Clerk and Master, interest, sales tax, bank excise tax, marriage license, state revenue sharing, and TVA. The amount budgeted for these was \$2,909,929.00 but the actual number collected as of 6-30-20 was \$3,136,012.00. He also explained the state would be increasing the BEP dollars for the upcoming school year \$326,000. Commissioner Mahaffey stated that the 68.5 cents of the school budget should be reduced so the MOE does not increase. Commissioner Russell Reed said the schools need money and this additional revenue was not budgeted for, and is from more property tax that was brought in (penny wise) than was anticipated. Commissioner Randy Gannon said that he understood the numbers and both sides but recommended that they leave the 68.5 cents because the school system is going to need this money. Commissioner Jeannine Floyd said that in her opinion those few pennies should be moved from the schools to General Debt Service for other improvements. Commissioner Reed added that the County General budget also pulled in the same additional funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Gannon to leave the school budget at 68.5 cents. Motion was seconded by Commissioner

Russell Reed. Voting Aye: Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon. Voting Nay: Jeannine Floyd, Jim Bush, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 6 for, 3 against.

Commissioner Jeannine Floyd voiced her concerns with the Centralized Finance and following the laws. She said the law said that all employees that have bookkeeping jobs dealing with any kind of revenue or budgeting have to come over to the Finance Dept. Commissioner Gannon explained that there is one employee from the school system and one employee from the Hwy Dept that chose not to come over to the Finance Dept. These employees basically quit the Finance Dept and was hired back by the school system and Hwy Dept. for a different position. Director of Schools, Freddie Curtis stated that the financial management committee voted at the last meeting to implement the new implementation plan that says employees start August 1, 2020. Mr. Curtis said that the percentage was 2.05 positions that would be sent to the Financial Office and that the board attorney and also an outside attorney had approved the plan.

Commissioner Floyd requested the documents to be sent to her. Commissioner Corey Davenport made a motion to approve the appropriations and consolidate the budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Randy Gannon but before the vote the motion was withdrawn.

Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey made a motion to leave the Sheriff's budget and the jail budget the same as it was last year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeannine Floyd.

Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Voting Nay: Russell Reed. Motion was approved by a vote of 8 for 1 against. A motion was made by Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey to leave \$800.00 in the travel line and the budget stays the same for Judicial Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jim Bush. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Jim Bush, Ronnie Mahaffey. Voting Nay: Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon. Motion failed by a vote of 3 for, 6 against.

Commissioner Corey Davenport made a motion to approve appropriations and consolidate the budget. Commissioner Randy Gannon seconded the motion. Chairman Greg Mitchell read the appropriations - General Fund \$1.45, Solid Waste Sanitation \$0.08, General Purpose Schools \$0.685, General Debt Service \$0.040, Ambulance Service \$0.2050, for a total of \$2.46.

Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey recommended to re-distribute the pennies and set some money aside into Capital Needs or Debt Service. Commissioner Davenport and Commissioner Gannon withdrew their motion and second. It was decided to move pennies to start a new Capital Outlay fund. Chairman Greg Mitchell read the appropriations - Capital Outlay \$0.0300, General Fund \$1.41, Solid Waste \$0.08, General Purpose Schools \$0.685, General Debt Service \$0.050, Ambulance Service \$0.2050 for a total of \$2.46. Commissioner Corey Davenport made a motion to approve those appropriations and consolidate the budget. Commissioner Randy Gannon seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon. Voting Nay: Russell Reed, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 7 for, 2 against. A motion was made by

Commissioner Jim Bush, seconded by Commissioner Corey Davenport for the \$0.03 Capital Outlay to only be used for Capital Outlay projects and it will be an ongoing, reoccurring, perpetual fund. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Jim Bush, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 9 for 0 against. Chairman Greg Mitchell read again - Capital Outlay \$0.0300, General Fund \$1.41, Solid Waste \$0.08, General Purpose Schools \$0.685, General Debt Service \$0.050, Ambulance Service \$0.2050 for a total of \$2.4600 property tax rate.

Commissioner Corey Davenport made a motion to set the tax rate at \$2.4600 with those appropriations. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Karen Ashford. Voting Aye: Jeannine Floyd, Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon. Voting Nay: Jim Bush, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 7 for, 2 against.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Russell Reed, seconded by Commissioner Randy Gannon. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.