

Cannon County,  
Tennessee  
Board of Legislative  
Minutes  
Special Call

February 22, 2021

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Cannon County Courthouse.

Prayer & Pledge - Prayer was led by Commissioner Greg Mitchell and 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, Kristal Alexander, Ronnie Mahaffey.

Ambulance Discussion/Vote - Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey started the meeting asking Chairman Greg Mitchell how did this meeting come about. Chairman Mitchell explained that he had been contacted by 6 of the 10 Commissioners with concerns about the Ambulance Dept. There were some questions as to the legality of the Special Call Meeting but Ben Rodgers, CTAS Consultant was present and gave the opinion that all requirements had been met after consulting with a CTAS Legal Consultant. The six commissioners that requested a special call meeting were Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Randy Gannon, and Kristal Alexander. Commissioner Ronnie Mahaffey requested the record to state his opinion that the meeting was illegal. Chairman Greg Mitchell gave each Commissioner a chance to state their concerns and opinions on the Ambulance Dept. Some of the questions asked were if the position of Director had been posted? County Executive Brent Bush responded with the answer that the position has not been posted. He stated that he had contacted Ben Rogers and Kevin Lowery both with CTAS and the Interim Director Abby Howell before deciding to do an assessment/evaluation in 30, 60, and 90 day increments to get feedback on anything that needs to be fixed before moving in any direction of hiring. Interim Director Abby Howell stated that he had sat in on one interview but before anyone was hired he was told to cease all interviews and hiring. He said that he had come to the conclusion that the Ambulance Dept could move part time up to full time and could go sixty to ninety days before they are burned out. Some of the concerns are that the director needs to be a highly trained, critical care paramedic that has been in the field for many years. The taxpayers have paid and the money is there to pay these positions but they have not been hired. The safety of the citizens and the safety of the employees at that Ambulance Dept. with eight people doing the work of twelve. Kevin Lowery explained that according to TCA the authority in hiring a Director falls under a couple of different ways. The County Executive, the Legislative Body, and the creation of an authority or a board. The way an authority or board is set up is by Resolution and if the County Legislative Body fills the seats on the board no Commissioner can be on the board. If the County Executive makes recommendations or fills the seats, two members of the Legislative Body are allowed on the board. Mr. Lowery stated from his standpoint and knowing the challenges of the EMS that this authority or board may be a good option for Cannon County. He said you can create a board and the qualifications of the members on the board can be a mixture of medical and business personal. Ben Rodgers recommended utilizing the current Ambulance Committee to develop the

specs for the new authority. Commissioner Kristal Alexander made a motion to have the County Attorney along with the Ambulance Committee draft a Resolution to assemble an Ambulance Authority to hire a Director for the Ambulance Dept. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corey Davenport.

Voting Aye: Russell Reed, Corey Davenport, Karen Ashford, Greg Mitchell, Brent Brandon, Kristal Alexander. Voting Nay: Jeannine Floyd, Jim Bush, Randy Gannon, Ronnie Mahaffey. Motion was approved by a vote of 6 For, 4 Against.

Adjourn - A motion was made by Commissioner Randy Gannon, seconded by Commissioner Russell Reed to adjourn. Motion was approved by a standing vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.