

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

September 25, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rhonda Allen
Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Chantho Sourinho
Commissioner Brad Turner
Commissioner Jeff Jordan, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Jeff Sandvig
Dana Garrett
Sue Cain
Steve Schroeder
Becky Shelton
Lisa Nolen
Mark King
Joe Bales
David Jones
Gene Cain

Chairman J. Jordan presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with six members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dana Garrett presented the Health Department report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Health Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

Mark King presented the Community Care report for the use and information of the Committee advising the State has passed a law that there can be a doctor on staff. Additionally, the Federal government is to start penalizing hospitals for readmissions within thirty days and likely a doctor in a nursing home will become common. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Community Care report. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Lisa Nolen presented the Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner J. Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Allen, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Jeff Sandvig presented a capital projects fund budget amendment advising in the Capital Projects Fund all open purchase orders are liquidated at the end of the fiscal year. Each year an amendment to re-budget those closed out purchase orders from Account 34685 is required. This year's amendment is \$55,196 which will complete plumbing and other associated work for Campus School Renovation Phase II. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Allen moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Phillips, to approve the amendment of \$55,196 from Account 34685, Committed for Capital Projects, to Account #91300-335, Maintenance & Repair Services - Buildings. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

MTSU SCIENCE BUILDING FUNDING REQUEST:

Joe Bales representing MTSU again addressed the Committee regarding a funding request of \$1,000,000 from the County towards construction costs of the new Science building at MTSU.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised he had received push back comments from constituents on concerns regarding the requested amount and unfunded projects of the County. Commissioner Allen advised she too had received the same comments from constituents. Chairman J. Jordan advised he had received a couple of comments not necessarily in favor of the request and advised it is tough because the County has projects it really needs to do and there is pressure to do beyond schools but he was in favor of the request in some capacity. Chairman J. Jordan advised people have been waiting on the State to do the Science building for ten years and he felt the State should pay for the whole thing but he would support the request. There are a number of things that make this community unique in the South and MTSU is one of those. Twenty-five percent of Rutherford County citizens are college graduates.

Finance Director Nolen provided information if the request was taken from the Development Fund or from unassigned fund balance at \$200,000 every year for five years.

Mayor Burgess advised the ending fund balance this year is better than anticipated and the Development Tax took in more last year than anticipated. Additionally, single family permits are up this year. It is reasonable to think the County will do better than anticipated this year. MTSU has been a tremendous resource over the years and with Motlow and the Technology Training Center attracts jobs to the area. Mayor Burgess advised if the money is not raised from private contributions or government entities then it will be passed to students and it is getting more and more expensive to get a higher degree. This project is critical to the future of Rutherford County citizens, especially the young.

Commissioner W. Jordan questioned if the County had to commit to the full amount or could it just be done year by year. Additionally, the current Commission cannot commit the next Commission. Commissioner W. Jordan advised he would like to address a year at a time.

Mr. Bales advised he appreciated the concerns of the Rutherford County taxpayers. This requirement for funding is unprecedented but indicative of State funding for higher education. Mr. Bales advised the new Student Union Center was paid for by fees assessed to students. There are 7,200 students on campus from Rutherford County and there are Rutherford County students in every four year school in the State. This is an investment in jobs and education.

Commissioner Allen advised she would like to wait and see what Murfreesboro does on the request and felt the City reneged on the Motlow request.

Commissioner J. Phillips advised he had one e-mail against the request but has 26,000 constituents in favor. MTSU has helped the County over the years with GIS, etc. and growth is based on the quality of education.

"Commissioner J. Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to support \$200,000 this fiscal year and forward to the Budget Committee with the understanding to look at the request every year until get to the \$1,000,000."

Commissioner W. Jordan advised \$200,000 is the best case scenario and he could not support at this time but he could support a lesser amount.

Commissioner Allen advised she was concerned that the County previously borrowed \$1,000,000 for the Joe B. Jackson project but gave the money to the Sheriff.

Chairman J. Jordan advised the Budget Committee would decide where to find the money for the request.

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to amend the original motion to change the amount to \$100,000 this year. This amendment failed by roll call vote with Commissioners Cook and W. Jordan voting "yes" and Commissioners Allen, J. Phillips, Sourinho, Turner and J. Jordan voting "no"."

"The original motion failed by roll call vote with Commissioners J. Phillips, Sourinho and J. Jordan voting "yes" and Commissioners Allen, Cook, W. Jordan and Turner voting "no"."

The Committee was advised the County is already spending \$3,800,000 over revenue for this year. Commissioner Turner advised he was not prepared to vote for the request at this time with the other requests on the table. Commissioner Allen advised she had been surprised by the unfunded mandates of \$5,800,000 in education from the State. Commissioner W. Jordan advised the County has paid its obligation to Motlow and this would be an equitable contribution.

"Commissioner J. Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to support \$100,000 this fiscal year and forward to the Budget Committee with the understanding to look at the request every year until get to the \$1,000,000. This motion passed by roll call vote with Commissioners Cook, W. Jordan, J. Phillips, Sourinho and J. Jordan voting "yes" and Commissioners Allen and Turner voting "no"."

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman J. Jordan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

JEFF JORDAN, Chairman