

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

January 9, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Board of Education

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jack Black  
Commissioner Gary Farley  
Commissioner Trey Gooch  
Commissioner Jeff Jordan  
Commissioner Steve Sandlin  
Commissioner Robert Stevens  
Commissioner Adam Coggin, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess  
Will Jordan  
Chantho Sourinho  
Rick Womack  
Joe Carr  
Laura Bohling  
Heather Dawbarn  
Carol Cook  
Joyce Ealy  
Jim Tracy  
Mike Sparks  
Lisa Nolen  
Lisa Crowell  
Robert Alsup

Nell Blankenship, Mark Crocker, Bill Jones, Ellen Scudder, James C. Cope, Susan Allen, Larry McElroy, Jeremy Cawthon, Steve Schroder, Becky Shelton

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

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Black moved, seconded by Commissioner Sandlin, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

DISCUSSION WITH LEGISLATORS:

Commissioner J. Jordan inquired if there were any anticipated changes in the teacher evaluations. Senator Tracy advised there is a Resolution making the program more efficient and streamline.

Commissioner J. Jordan next advised the Steering Committee and Commission were very sympathetic to the synthetic drug issue and inquired if it is expected for the bill to pass. Representative Sparks advised he will try to get the fiscal note dropped from the bill in hopes of getting it passed. Additionally, he hoped to include a provision that stores caught selling the synthetic drugs will not be able to sell beer, tobacco or lottery tickets. Representative Sparks advised he appreciated the Steering Committee and Commission seeing the problem and bringing awareness to it.

Representative Womack advised regarding the teacher evaluations he was looking at establishing guidelines to change the evaluations.

Commissioner Sandlin advised as to maintenance of effort although he understood the same, he hoped with the economy some consideration could be given to this issue.

Mayor Burgess advised in June, 2009 a law was enacted making the County responsible for outpatient and inpatient mental health evaluations and treatment for individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses which cost Rutherford County \$151,000 the first year. Mayor Burgess advised he was asking consideration to repeal this law. The Committee was provided a copy of a Greene County Resolution requesting the General Assembly repeal T.C.A. 33-7-304, Public Chapter 531, Section 45 and requiring the State to continue to be financially responsible for these evaluations. Representative Carr advised at the very least Rutherford County could be pulled out specifically from the statute.

Commissioner Farley advised jails are overcrowded and inquired if the State per diem for inmates would be reduced. Senator Tracy advised he saw no movement to reduce the per diem.

Commissioner Farley inquired as to any anticipated bills with unfunded mandates and Senator Tracy advised there were none known at this time but anyone can track bills on line. The filing deadline is January 26.

Mayor Burgess advised the mental health bill was filed at the last minute in the Technical Corrections Bill. Senator Tracy advised Governor Haslam has done away with the Technical Corrections Bills.

Commissioner Sandlin requested protection of the BEP funding because if it is cut in Nashville it has to be made up locally. Five people had to be hired to do the teacher evaluations requiring local funding. Representative Womack advised the BEP is being looked at and potentially bringing teachers under the State umbrella to provide salary increases.

Commissioner Black advised he appreciated the signage on Jefferson Pike. Senator Tracy advised Jefferson Pike is still on target from 840 to Smyrna. The engineering has been done and the State is beginning to buy right-of-ways.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPEAL T.C.A. 33-7-304 PUBLIC CHAPTER 531 SECTION 45 AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE OF TENNESSEE TO CONTINUE TO BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS AND TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH MISDEMEANTOR OFFENSES ONLY:

The Committee reviewed the Resolution received from Greene County requesting the General Assembly repeal T.C.A. 33-7-304 Public Chapter 531 Section 45 and asking for support of other Tennessee counties. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to adopt a Resolution requesting the General Assembly repeal T.C.A. 33-7-304 Public Chapter 531 Section 45 and to require the State of Tennessee to continue to be financially responsible for outpatient and inpatient mental health evaluations and treatment for individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses only. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

MODIFICATION OF PRIVATE ACT REGARDING WHEEL TAX DECAL:

County Clerk Lisa Crowell provided the results of her poll of 21 counties regarding whether to issue a wheel tax decal for the use and information of the Committee. The wheel tax is automatically paid when the payment is made for State car tags and the registration stands as proof of purchase. Decals have been purchased for this year and if the change is approved could be effective next year. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Farley moved, seconded by Commissioner J. Jordan, to accept the recommendation of the County Clerk to do away with wheel tax decals and approve the proposed Resolution as presented amending Tennessee Code Annotated Chapter 329 of the Private Acts of 1970 relative to the issuing of a wheel tax decal or emblem in Rutherford County. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORDS MANAGEMENT:

Register of Deeds Heather Dawbarn addressed the Committee advising her office was willing to work with other County offices using EDP funds to begin electronically storing documents as there is no continuity of records. If documents were scanned this could reduce storage costs and would save employee time accessing documents. Ms. Dawbarn advised a wording change was required in T.C.A. Title 8, Chapter 13 as to duties of the Register's Office and provided a copy of the proposed change. Ms. Dawbarn advised she did not know at this time if the project would require hiring more staff but this could also be funded from the EDP. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Farley, to approve the amendment to T.C.A. Title 8, Chapter 13, as to the Register of Deed's duties as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE VACANCY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND HEALTH, EDUCATION & FACILITIES BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised John Jones has resigned from the Industrial Development Board and Health, Education & Facilities Board and the position was accordingly being announced. The term expires August, 2013.

FILL CPA VACANCY ON AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Chairman Coggin advised an application had been received from Mark H. Crocker for appointment to the Audit Committee in the CPA position. Mr. Crocker was in attendance and addressed the Committee.

"Commissioner Black moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to recommend Mark H. Crocker for appointment to the Audit Committee in the CPA position. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

FILL VACANCY ON CONSERVATION BOARD:

Chairman Coggin advised an application had been received from David Mitchell for appointment to the Conservation Board. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sandlin moved, seconded by Commissioner Black, to recommend David Mitchell for appointment to the Conservation Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Coggin declared the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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ADAM COGGIN, Chairman