

STEERING, LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

October 5, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Paul Johnson
Commissioner Allen McAdoo
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Robert Stevens
Commissioner Brad Turner, VC

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess Robert Arnold
Lisa Duke Crowell Jared Barrett
Veronica Buchanan Joe Crowell
Brian Robertson Joe Jernigan
Keith Bratcher Leigh Bratcher
Michael Wrather Becky Shelton

Vice-Chair Turner presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with five members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

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

FILL VACANCY ON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Vice-Chair Turner advised applications had been received from Veronica Buchanan, Michael Wrather and Joe Crowell for appointment to the vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. All applicants were in attendance and addressed the Committee.

"Commissioner Stevens moved, seconded by Commissioner McAdoo, to nominate all applicants and vote for one. Ms. Buchanan will be recommended for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals with Commissioners McAdoo, Phillips and Stevens voting for Buchanan; Commissioner Johnson voting for Wrather and Vice-Chair Turner voting for Crowell."

FILL TWO VACANCIES ON BEER BOARD:

Vice-Chair Turner advised applications had been received from Keith Bratcher and Jared Barrett for appointment to the Beer Board. Both applicants were in attendance and addressed the Committee.

"Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to recommend Keith Bratcher and Jared Barrett for appointment to the Beer Board. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

ANNOUNCE COUNTY GENERAL EMPLOYEE VACANCY ON INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

Vice-Chair Turner advised the position previously held by Virgil Gammon as the County General employee representative on the Insurance Company was vacant and accordingly being announced. The term expires January, 2018.

ANNOUNCE VACANCY ON CORRECTIONAL WORK CENTER BOARD:

Vice-Chair Turner advised the position previously held by Virgil Gammon on the Correctional Work Center Board was being announced. The term expires January, 2019.

IN-STATE COLLEGE TUITION FOR VETERANS:

The Committee was reminded of the request last month by Commissioner Doug Shafer regarding a Resolution to the County legislative delegation extending the time limit on the Tennessee

Veterans Education Transition Act to fifteen years and offering in-state tuition to any veteran wishing to attend a Tennessee State college or university and was provided a proposed Resolution. Commissioner Phillips advised fifteen years seemed like a long time although he did not necessarily have a problem with it. Vice-Chair Turner advised it may be that individuals that take advantage of the benefit are younger. Commissioner Johnson advised it would be consistent with Federal bills. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner McAdoo, to approve the Resolution as presented and forward the same to the Commission. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION DISCUSSION:

Mayor Burgess and Brian Robertson addressed the Committee with a review of processes historically used in technology purchases for County General including identifying needs, funding, procurement and installation for both routine/small purchases and large purchases. Vice-Chair Turner suggested the need for Service Level Agreements in contracts. Mr. Robertson reviewed large projects his department has worked on with the Clerk & Master, County Clerk, Register of Deed's, Property Assessor, Sheriff, PAWS, Fire & Rescue and EMS as well as the GIS procurement and implementation. Mr. Robertson advised there had been no legal action before last year on software contracts due to the system in place and generally speaking the process has worked well over the years. Mayor Burgess advised the process was being reviewed due to difficulty in recent months. It raises the level of success if software has been used by a great number of State entities already and also the timing of implementation is important whether at the beginning of tenure or at the end. Mayor Burgess advised he thought technology requests should come through the Mayor and OIT. Additionally, Mayor Burgess advised on complex projects a report should be made monthly to the reporting Committee if there is one. Mayor Burgess advised if he and the OIT department head do not agree with the department head requesting technology then the department head should still make a report to a Committee as the Mayor and OIT are not the last word. Mayor Burgess advised even if a technology purchase is on State contract if it is \$100,000 or more it should go to the Purchasing Committee to have more review and before final Commission approval any contract should be reviewed by the County Attorney or legal specialist. Technology contracts are complex with so many moving pieces no one person can review the whole process and there are Third Party Enterprise Software Evaluators that may be money well spent on large projects. Mr. Robertson advised one benefit of the Third Party Enterprise Software Evaluators is reduction in faulty purchasing decisions. Mayor Burgess advised the most difficult part of the process is writing the RFP. A well tested system used by multiple agencies would not need the higher level of scrutiny. Vice-Chair Turner advised it would not hurt to have review to make sure the County actually gets what it wants and needs.

Commissioner Phillips asked about consideration for security for departments and personal information. Mr. Robertson advised there is a team that meets monthly and departments can advise of needs or questions and they have sources with Homeland Security and the FBI.

The Committee was advised OIT does provide training on using different programs.

Mayor Burgess advised conversion can be more difficult than making the right choice. Commissioner Phillips advised change has to be part of the training process. Mayor Burgess advised they reserve the right to discuss this further when they have more information. Commissioner McAdoo advised the information needed to be shared with other Committees as well.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' ACCRUED SICK LEAVE:

Commissioner Stevens next inquired if there had been any resolution to the issue concerning accrued sick leave for elected officials. Mayor Burgess advised the Comptroller and TCRS had advised elected officials do not accrue sick leave and do not have this privilege. Mayor Burgess advised he did not know what happened with those that got the benefit and would ask the Finance Director if she has a plan. One complication is some received sick leave when they were employees and were entitled to it but thereafter were elected to office and as an elected official were not entitled to the same. Sheriff Arnold advised the Finance Director deleted his sick leave accrued after his election. The Committee asked for a report from the Finance Director.

WAITING LINES AT EMISSIONS STATION:

Commissioner Phillips advised he had been approached regarding the waiting lines at emissions testing and what triggered the need for another facility or a larger one. Mayor Burgess advised the end of the month is a peak time and the County Clerk has the same problem but it is not a problem for the whole month. The County does not control the emissions center. Mayor Burgess advised he had a note to call TDEC to see if it was receptive to a new location. Commissioner Phillips advised he thought there was a proposed bill on certain aged cars being exempt but he hadn't heard anything further on it. County Clerk Crowell advised the County is growing and needs to keep up with growth and explaining the situation to the vendor may help.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS:

Vice-Chair Turner advised they were still working on trying to set a date for the legislator's meeting before the new session starts.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Vice-Chair Turner declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

BRAD TURNER, Vice-Chairman