

LOUDON COUNTY COMMISSION
STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF LOUDON
October 15, 2012
6:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

- (1)**
Opening of Meeting **BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Board of Commissioners of Loudon County convened in regular session in Loudon, Tennessee on the 15th day of October, 2012. The **Honorable Roy Bledsoe** called the meeting to order.
- Commissioner Miller** opened the County Commission Meeting, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and gave the invocation.
- (2)**
Roll Call Present were the following Commissioners: **Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, and Miller: (8)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**
The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**
Thereupon **Chairman Bledsoe** announced the presence of a quorum.
Present was the **Honorable Mayor Estelle Herron.**
- (3)**
Agenda Adopted As Amended **Chairman Bledsoe** requested that the October 15, 2012 Agenda be adopted. **Mayor Herron** requested adding to the Agenda Consideration of a situation regarding the County Veteran’s Affairs Office which has been decertified due to lack of sufficient hours worked.
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Jenkins** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to adopt the Agenda as amended.
Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- (4)**
Minutes for Sept. 4, 2012 Approved **Chairman Bledsoe** requested that the September 4, 2012 County Commission Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted.
A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Harrelson** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve these minutes.
Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.
- (5)**
Comments: Agenda Items **Chairman Bledsoe** asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items on the planned Agenda come forward.
Wayne Schnell spoke about the E-911 Landline Rate Increase expressing his view that this is an outlandish increase on residents and businesses of 130% and that he was going to eliminate his landline in response to this. He also stressed that the County needs to collect their shares of the costs of E911 services from Loudon City and Lenoir City.

Loudon County Director of Schools, Jason Vance, spoke seeking additional information from the Commission regarding specific information they were seeking from his presentation at the Commission Workshop Meeting on October 22nd. Discussion included **Commissioner Meers** asking for information on the number of classrooms and the number of projected students. **Commissioner Miller** requested justification for any additional proposals he was anticipating from the School Board as well as the number of students and what the growth rate predications are.

Commissioner Meers asked about the plans for the old Greenback School Building and the response was that the decision has not been made yet. **Commissioner Miller** suggested that perhaps the extra space that was going to be available at Greenback High School could be used for Loudon High School students. **Director Vance** responded that the travel distance was prohibitive and not in accordance with the law for school transportation. **Commissioner Harrelson** requested enrollment numbers for each of the schools. **Commissioner Duff** commented that, in his presentation, **Director Vance** had mentioned schools in the Northern end of the County for the 5th and 6th Districts and he was very pleased to hear that this was being considered. He noted that the property previously purchased for this use was not appropriate for Loudon County and he stressed that he hoped the School Board would not forget this part of the County. **Commissioner Miller** requested that when they made comparisons between Loudon County and other counties they please use counties of similar size. **Director Vance** responded that we live in East Tennessee and they have to consider counties from the same area. General discussion included the comment from **Commissioner Miller** that he hoped the School Board would keep in mind the recent property tax increases on County residents for schools when they were considering any additional requirements that were not already funded.

Commissioner Duff asked about recent teacher losses and asked about the reason for those losses. **Director Vance** responded that he would include this in his report but he knows of 15 retirements due to the incentive that was offered and also 25 teachers who left to pursue other teaching jobs because they offered higher pay and he knew of no one who left for a lower paying position. **Commissioner Miller** responded that he hoped the teacher's competitive salaries would go beyond just the step tables but also consider the demographics. It was noted that 4 or 5 of the teachers who left Loudon County went to surrounding counties and cities because they paid more money. **Commissioner Duff** asked if the 15 teachers who retired where the "best" teachers and **Director Vance's** response was that these were "good solid teachers" but the schools needed to cut their budget on the higher paid salaries. **Commissioner Miller** concluded the discussion by complementing **Director Vance** and expressing the Commission's appreciation to him.

Commissioner Meers reported on the status of the traffic light at the Steekee Road and Route 72 intersection saying that everybody was now on board so that hopefully money can be found for this project and a couple of other roads that affect schools that also need remedied.

Pat Hunter spoke about the E-911 Emergency Communications District request for increases in funding stressing that it specifically targets landline users which affects lots of older people and that this was unfair that only landline users were being affected. She feels that the Commission should not approve this request and that the two cities of Loudon and Lenoir City should be asked to contribute their fair share of the cost of E-911 services. She said that with the County yearly contribution of \$540,000. to E-911, the District should be more proactive in making this happen. **Commissioner Miller** agreed but also pointed out that the E-911 budget for the County has gone down consistently over the past several years.

Estelle Herron, Loudon County Mayor, requested consideration and possible action on the following items:

(6)
Board
Appointments
Approved

1. Boards/ Committees Appointment Resolutions
 - A. Loudon County Greenway/Walking Trail Study Committee
 - B. Establishment of a Loudon County Corrections Partnership (CCP) and Rescinding Resolution 080612-M which Established and made Appointments to a Jail Study Ad-Hoc Committee.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Harrelson** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve both Resolutions.

Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

Resolutions 101512-A & B

(7)
County
Veteran's
Affairs Office
Certification
Remedied

2. Request Consideration and Approval of a Solution to Remedy the Recent Decertification of the County's Veteran's Affairs Office.

The Veteran's Affairs Office has been decertified because they are not operating the sufficient number of hours to maintain certification. The number of hours required is 1,000 hours per year and our office is currently working only 832 hours yearly – there are two people working in this office. **Mayor Herron** is recommending approval of a three-day work week which would result in 1,248 hours yearly and qualify the office for recertification. She would also like to increase the salaries of the people manning the office from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour. The two gentlemen currently working are not interested in continuing to work at this rate. She is, therefore, recommending hiring one person to work 3 days per week. Once this person is hired, training and testing will be required before they would be able to operate the office so this process will take some time to produce a resolution to the problem.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Maples** with a second by **Commission Miller** to approve the Mayor's Recommendations.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Meers, Maples, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, and Jenkins: (8)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**

The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**

(8)
Special
Called
Meeting
Anticipated

Mayor Herron announced that the Commission could anticipate a Joint Special Called Meeting on October 29, 2012, along with the City of Loudon, to consider Project Sparrow. She said there would be more information available later this week that will allow the necessary resolutions to be produced.

Commissioner Yarbrough asked the Mayor about the scheduling of a meeting between the County and the Solid Waste Commission and the Mayor responded that she was working on this.

Loudon County E-911 Director, Jennifer Estes, requested consideration and possible action on the following item:

(9)
Commission
Agrees To Not
Increase Costs
To Offset What
State Provides
Relative To
E-911 Rate
Increase on
Land Lines

A. Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Rate Increase on Land Lines for the County Emergency Communications District.

Discussion included **Ms. Estes** emphasizing that the Commission was **not approving the rate increase** but only agreeing that the County would not increase costs that would offset what the State would provide. She also said that they were looking at notifying Loudon City and Lenoir City that they will be invoiced for the E-911 services that are provided to them and that the target for doing this was the first of the year.

Commissioner Maples asked about placing fees on cell phones and **Ms. Estes** responded that they were looking at this legislation when this project runs out – probably about 2-4 years before this happens. **Commissioner Miller** asked how much would be charged to the two cities and the response was that they're still working on these figures.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Harrelson** with a second by **Commissioner Miller** to approve this Resolution stating that the County will not increase costs to offset the State's contribution.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, and Meers: (5)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Maples, Bledsoe, and Yarbrough: (3)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**

The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (5,3,1,1)**

Resolution 101512-C

Loudon County Purchasing Director – Leo Bradshaw

(10)
Contribution
To Medicare
Advantage
Plan Insurance
For Retirees
Approved

1. Request Consideration of the Contribution to the Renewal of the Medicare Advantage Plan Insurance for Retirees.

Director Bradshaw reported that the Medicare Advantage Plan for County Retirees Insurance is due for renewal. Currently the County is paying \$110. per month for each retiree but this figure has fluctuated greatly over time. The current plan will go up to \$171. next year. The Medicare Advantage Plan is provided by Humana, a LPPO program. The Employees Health Insurance Plan is provided by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. There's an available Medicare Advantage Plan option that would cost \$143. per month and it's his recommendation that the County go with this plan. He stated that the benefits were very close to what the retirees currently have. There are currently 22 Retirees on this plan and it's the next best option at \$143. per month. He also said that currently a large number of Retirees are opting out of regular Medicare and going with the Medicare Advantage Plan through the Group Plan with the County. Further discussion included **Tammy Reynolds, Employee Benefits Office**, commenting that this was a good deal for both the County and the Retirees and she also recommended this option. She stated that this would also keep the Group Plan costs down for both the County and Retirees and that the Retirees were very happy with this plan. The time schedule for renewal is dictated by the Medicare Insurance schedule and January 1st is when the open enrollment time is scheduled for Medicare.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve these recommendations.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (8)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**

The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**

Loudon County Budget Director – Tracy Blair

(11)
Application For
Special Litter
Projects Grant
Approved

1. Consideration of a Request to Approve a Grant Application for Special Litter Projects; \$25,000. to \$100,000.; 20% match required.

Discussion of this item included reluctance from some Commissioners to commit funds without knowing exactly how much money would be involved.

Director Blair stressed that the Commission was not committing funds at this point but only approving the application for the Grant. Further action at a later date would be required to commit funding.

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Meers** to approve this application.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Bledsoe, Duff, Harrelson, Jenkins, Meers and Maples: (6)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: Yarbrough, and Miller: (2)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**

The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (6,2,1,1)**

(12)
No Motion
On Fire Rescue
Grant

2. Consideration of a Request to Approve Additional Funding for a Grant Match for Loudon County Fire Rescue; \$54,187.

Chairman Bledsoe requested a motion on this item and received **no motion**.

(13)
Medical
Loss Ratio
Rebate
Distribution
Approved

3. Consideration of Distribution of a Medical Loss Ratio Rebate.

Director Blair explained the rebate and the options for its distribution to include reducing insurance cost in the current year or returning the money to the employees. Discussion resulted in a **motion** made by **Commissioner Miller** with a second by **Commissioner Harrelson** to distribute the rebate 88% to the County and 12% to employees currently working for the County and Retirees who participated in the current medical plan as of June 30, 2012.

Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, and Maples: (8)**

The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**

The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**

The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**

Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**

Exhibit 101512-D

4. Consideration of Amendments to the Following Funds:

- (13)**
Fund 101
Approved
- a. County General Fund 101
- A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Yarbrough** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve these amendments.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Duff, Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, and Bledsoe: (8)**
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**
The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**
Exhibit 101512-E
- (14)**
Fund 141
Approved
- b. General Purpose School Fund 141
- A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve these amendments.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Yarbrough, Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Bledsoe, and Duff: (8)**
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**
The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**
Exhibit 101512-F
- (15)**
Fund 142
Approved
- c. School Federal Projects Fund 142
- A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Duff** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve these amendments.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Harrelson, Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Bledsoe, Duff, and Yarbrough: (8)**
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**
The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**
Exhibit 101512-G
- (16)**
Fund 143
Approved
- d. Central Cafeteria Fund 143
- A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve these amendments.
Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted **Aye: Miller, Jenkins, Meers, Maples, Bledsoe, Duff, Yarbrough, and Harrelson: (8)**
The following Commissioners voted **Nay: (0)**
The following Commissioner was **Absent: Franke: (1)**
The Commission currently has a **Vacant Seat: (1)**
Thereupon the Chairman declared the motion **Passed: (8,0,1,1)**
Exhibit 101512-H

(17)
Notaries
Approved

Loudon County Commissioner, David Meers, made a **motion** with a second by **Commissioner Maples** to approve the following Notaries: *Debra J. Lorenz; Gary L. Scriven; Vicki Ann Miller; Steven Kirby Burrell; Cheryl E. Ellis; Cheryl L. Belitz; Amanda Ruth Morris; Lenford Tracy Layman; Sue Hart; and Barbara S. Musser.*

A **motion** was made by **Commissioner Meers** with a second by **Commissioner Jenkins** to approve these notaries.

Upon voice vote the motion **Passed** unanimously.

Exhibit 100112-I

(18)
Comments:
Non-Agenda
Items

Chairman Bledsoe asked that any visitor wishing to address the Commission regarding items not on the Agenda come forward.

No one came forward.

Chairman Bledsoe asked if there were any further comments and, upon receiving none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

(19)
Adjournment

There being no further business, a **motion** being duly made and seconded, the October 15, 2012 County Commission Meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY MAYOR