

1. CALL TO ORDER, 2. PRAYER & PLEDGE, 3. OPEN MEETING, 4. ROLL CALL

Be it remembered that the Bedford County Commissioners, acting as the County Legislative Body met in a regular session in the Bedford County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Tennessee on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 7:00 PM. Chairman Chad Graham called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Commissioner John Brown. Chief Deputy Jason Williams opened the meeting. County Clerk Donna Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the roll.

LINDA YOCKEY	MARK THOMAS	BRENT SMITH
JIMMY PATTERSON	BILL ANDERSON	JULIE SANDERS
JANICE BROTHERS	PHILIP FARRAR	ED CASTLEMAN
JOHN BROWN	GREG VICK	TONY SMITH
ANITA EPPERSON	SYLVIA PINSON	BRIAN FARRIS

With 15 commissioners present, Chairman Graham called the meeting to order. Commissioners Don Gallagher, Jeff Sweeney, and Chastity Gunn were absent.

5. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2018 COMMISSION MINUTES

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Yockey. Passed by voice vote.

6. NOTARY APPROVALS

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the notary applicants/renewals as submitted by the County Clerk. Second by Commissioner Epperson. Passed by voice vote.

FROM: BEDFORD COUNTY CLERK RE: NOTARY APPLICANTS FOR November 2018
 TO: RULES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE DATE: 9-11-18

NAME	NEW/RENEW	RECOMMENDED BY
1. Shae Cannon	Renew	
2. Venita B. Carmichael	Renew	
3. Amy Allen	Renew	
4. Lori D. Neill	Renew	
5. Julie Anderson	Renew	
6. Thomas E. Anderton	Renew	
7. Beverly G. Savage	Renew	
8. Elizabeth A. Burris	Renew	
9. Edwina Leigh Reynolds	Renew	
10. Brenda K. Clifford	Renew	
11. Sharon V. Edwards	Renew	
12. Mary J. Miller	New	Heflin/Yoes
13. Brenda E. Moore	New	Heflin/Yoes
14. Kent Smith	New	Heflin/Yoes
15. Lori O. Austin	New	Heflin/Yoes

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. RULES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

1. Railroad Authority Appointment

Chairman Graham asked that the item be deferred until next month. Motion to defer made by Commissioner Epperson. Second by Commissioner Thomas. Motion passed by voice vote.

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

C. COURTHOUSE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

D. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Budget Amendment #1 School Budget

Commissioner Tony Smith made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Brothers. Motion passed by roll call vote. 15 Ayes 0 Noes

A copy of the budget amendment is on file at the County Clerk's office.

2. Budget Amendment #2 Bedford County

Commissioner Tony Smith made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Yockey.

Commissioner Epperson made note that \$2000 was spent for Christmas decorations for the court house which is an expense that is not normally incurred. She asked what account the money came from. Finance Director Robert Daniels said it came from the County Buildings account.

**Motion passed by roll call vote. 14 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Pass
Commissioner Thomas passed.**

A copy of the budget amendment is on file at the County Clerk's office.

3. Quarterly Financial Report

Commissioner Tony Smith made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Brothers. Motion passed by roll call vote. 15 Ayes 0 Noes

A copy of the report is on file at the County Clerk's office.

8. QUARTERLY REPORTS

a. Clerk and Master (absent)

b. County Clerk

Donna Thomas pointed out that the number of transactions in the clerk's office is up 5% over this time last year and revenue collected for Bedford County is up 12%. She also provided a 5-year comparison showing transactions up 15% and revenue for Bedford County up 25% since FY 2013/2014.

c. Circuit Court Clerk/Driving School Director

Michelle Murray noted the driving school proceeds are down some due to state troopers being in training. It is already starting to pick back up. She noted that all the income stays in Bedford County. General Sessions/Circuit Court has collected \$1,162,833 for the county general fund.

8. QUARTERLY REPORTS (continued)

d. Property Assessor

Ronda Clanton reported they are up 264 parcels over last year. They are about to start the personal property season. New construction numbers are up tremendously and no slowdown in sight. Due to a small inventory many parcels are selling \$50K to \$100K more than appraised for. We are at least 15% undervalued, possibly up to 30%. We are up about \$25 million in assessed value over this time last year.

e. Director of Schools

Don Embry reported there are currently 8,667 students enrolled in Bedford which is up 65 students from last year. The new Cascade High school projected finish date is the end of March and should be ready to move into in August 2019. Last week the state released the ACT scores from last year and we are at 19.5, which is a big increase from the year before. Our graduation rate last year was 91.3%, which is well above the state average. Cascade Elementary was recently named a Reward School by the Department of Education for their growth in scores and achievement. We have added an additional portable (2 classrooms) at Eastside Elementary. The school board has given the go ahead to take bids on the addition of 8 classrooms to Learning Way. Commissioner Anderson asked if the portables at Cascade would be moved out and Embry said they would be needed elsewhere. Commissioner Yockey asked what would need to be done to what will become Cascade Middle School. Embry said it would need some general upgrades along with restroom remodeling.

f. Trustee

Tonya Davis presented a year-end report for FY 2017/18. She went over the report for the 1st quarter of this year. She noted that the LGIP is steadily climbing. She said the amount of uncollected tax for 2016 was less than 2% and her office is currently collecting for 2017. The tax relief cap for this year is \$29,270 for the elderly, disabled and veterans. Commissioner Thomas asked for the total amount of tax relief. Davis said she would get him a total, but noted that it is a state program and doesn't cost the county. She also said for the elderly and disabled there is an income cap, but not for veterans.

g. Highway Superintendent

Stanley Smotherman said his department has been clearing many fence rows due to the large amount of development. He said due to the tremendous growth Bedford County will soon be faced with the problem of solid waste disposal. The life expectancy of Middle Point Landfill (the landfill used to dispose of Bedford County waste) is 5-7 years, but due to the growth in development in Rutherford County it will be more like 3½ to 4½ years. Bedford County may have to consider other options. Smotherman thanked the commissioners and was very complimentary of the current county elected officials.

h. Election Registrar

Summer Leverette stated that the recent election is not included in her report, but will be in next quarter's report. Through September the total registration 23,420, with active registration at 22,505. New registration during that period was 760. Commissioner Thomas expressed concern about schools being used as voting precincts due to security issues. School Superintendent Don Embry responded that new legislation this year prohibits voting in schools while schools are in session, so only teachers and staff will be in the schools on election day.

i. Register of Deeds

Johnny Reed said his office is also seeing the growth in Bedford County. He said that the Registers of Deeds across Tennessee are going to ask for the support of their County Commissions in trying to get back the 2.6% lost in 2006 when the governor used that money to balance the budget. It would mean about \$30,000 per year for Bedford County. Commissioner Yockey asked how that is going to happen. Reed said there are 2 legislators who will sponsor the bill and it may take 2 or 3 years to go through. Commissioner Vick said he thought it was a recording fee that went for local option and during the budgetary crisis in the 90's it was taken away by the state and they kept the funds with the promise that it would return to local government.

Copies of written reports on file at the County Clerk's office.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Graham welcomed the Leadership Bedford participants in attendance. He also announced that he has appointed Commissioner Pinson to serve as the chairperson of the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 census. Bedford County will be the first area office to be opened. Pinson will be recruiting workers and organizations to help. This kicks off April 1, 2019. The census is very important as it affects funding for the county.

Commissioner Yockey said the mayor usually runs a holiday greeting in the newspaper and if any commissioners are interested in being a part of it to let him know. Yockey thanked county officials for contributing toward the courthouse decorations and said if any commissioners wanted to donate toward the decorations to see her.

Commissioner Brent Smith read a statement:

“I would like to share with you some facts that were shared with me last week, but before I do so let me preface by saying I’m about to do something very few politicians will do if any. That is, I am going to inform you and our community of some very disturbing information. For the record this was not my goal when I ran for office, but when it is this serious, I have to act. My job as commissioner is pretty simple really. It’s to vote on floor measures, help make our community a better place to live and work, and to listen to my constituents. Let me be very clear, I cannot enforce the law or make law. However, when I have had information put in front of me that I feel ethically compelled to share with my fellow citizens, I will do so. Especially when public safety is involved. There will continue to be things come up over the next few weeks, good and bad, and I simply want to inform the community of what’s going on because that’s my job. And hopefully in the future I will have better news to share.

“Let me start by asking a question. If your daughter, son, husband, wife or parents were killed by a drunk driver would you be outraged and demand justice? Of course you would. And I know the answer is yes. Now image this happened to you and your family right here in Bedford County. Imagine your tax dollars paid for this drunk driver to recover in a hospital after killing your relative and after several days was simply released, not into police custody but back into society, and is more than likely on the run and probably outside of our country south of the border.

“More information, I am sure, will come to light over the next few days, but as American citizens and citizens of Bedford County, we should demand more from our government officials, and that includes me. Hospitals and law enforcement, when such negligence – and I mean negligence – occurs. How much longer and how many more cases similar to this must we endure before we take action? How much longer does our normalcy bias immune us from such horrible injustices? How much longer, citizens, how much longer? I ask you as a friend and neighbor to awaken yourselves from your slumber because you really can make a difference. One person can make a difference. You can demand better and you must. For if you do not awaken your children will continue to pay the cost. I yield the floor to Commissioner Vick.”

Commissioner Vick read the following statement:

“Thank you, Brent. Thank you Mr. Chairman. This commission – I am so proud of what we have accomplished so far and where we are working together. We’re finding ways to work together. We’re strengthening our codes. We’re making Bedford County a better place to do business. We’re making it a better place for our young people.

But we have a problem in an area in the 2nd District, which Commissioner Tony Smith and I represent, and the problem is what is an ag tourism event that is going to be scheduled for the 18th of November. This ag tourism event posts itself as a racetrack, and this racetrack has horses coming out of gates, individuals coming out of gates. Their Facebook page shows drinking, underage drinkers, a bar. They’re selling food. They have a beer license. They’ve listed the races and the drivers, and they’re showing the amount that they are wagering on these events.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

“Now why is that important to us? It’s because this is a public safety issue. 202 Anderton Road is a country road. It’s a two lane road. It’s out in the rural part of the district. And on Saturdays and Sundays it is totally congested to where the neighbors and the people who use that road can’t get in or out. If they’re going to church, they can’t get home from church without a 2-hour wait. It’s a public safety issue because law enforcement’s been involved. Two weeks ago law enforcement issued over 100 citations out there.

“Mr. Chairman, we on this commission are leaders, and this commission has worked together and worked hard, and you yourself have worked hard to make this a better place. Rooster fighting, cockfighting in August, horseracing and gambling going on now. Members of the commission, we have got to step up and do something about this, and with Chairman Farrar’s permission, at our Rules Committee meeting I’d like to ask some more questions. Like Commissioner Smith said, we can’t solve problems, but we can certainly ask questions and we plan on asking those questions then. Thank you very much.”

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board, Commissioner Yockey made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Graham declared the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



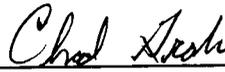
**Chairman Chad Graham
Bedford County Board of Commissioners**

I certify that the minutes were completed on the 20th of November and delivered to the Bedford County Mayor’s Office.



**Donna Thomas
Bedford County Clerk**

I certify that I received these minutes on the _____ day of November, 2018.



**Chad Graham
Bedford County Mayor**