

# COURTHOUSE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Minutes for Apr. 16, 2019  
3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse  
Consecutive after Law Enforcement



**Present:** Commissioners Jeff Sweeney, Brian Farris, Chasity Gunn, Brent Smith

**Absent:** Chairperson Julie Sanders, injured

**Others Present:** Mayor Chad Graham; Mayor's Exec Asst, Liz Barnett; County Commissioners: Biff Farrar, Jimmy Patterson, Greg Vick, Anita Epperson, Sylvia Pinson, Mark Thomas, Linda Yockey, Bill Anderson, Don Gallagher, Janice Brothers; BCSD Jail Director, Mary West; Times Gazette Reporter, John Carney; IT Director, Josh Carney; Probation Director, Joyce Reed; Juvenile Director, Cynthia West; e-911 Director, Phillip Noel; Asst Fire Chief, Brian Cantrell; Sheriff, Austin Swing; EMA Director, Scott Johnson; EMS Director, Ted Cox

**1. Call the meeting to order** – Commissioner Sweeney, 6:03 PM

**2. Prayer** – Commissioner Farris

**3. Roll Call** – 1 absent

**5. Approval of the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 19, 2019 Courthouse and Property Committee minutes** – Motion to approve (Farris, Gunn) unanimous

**6. Zoning Reports** – Director Chris White present. Commissioner Smith asked what are your future needs & what does your budget look like?

White: Our biggest two, a new vehicle for the inspector we hired last year & another zoning inspector. Building activity did NOT slow down during the winter as expected. March's report reflected double the revenue of Feb.

Land Sales – Developers are buying the land right now. It's not decreasing but increasing. And when "legit" building activity goes up, "illegitimate" activity also goes up. Hand-in hand with a great economy. Those that don't get the proper permits are just as busy – a plethora of violations. Another zoning inspector will more than be covered. Our dept turns in a lot more money than we bring in; the more activity – the more revenue because everything we do involves a permit which costs money. The salary for a new inspector will be about \$41k.

Budgeted \$30k for a new vehicle; spent only \$26k.

White: We started a GIS Dept for the County in IT. Took 2 years to build the base layers of a GIS map to make it functional. We were asked to build a zoning map. The State used to update our zoning map. They have since done away with the State Zoning office. SCTDD decided to have a planning assistant office we could work with. A few years later, they decided that was no longer feasible.

When someone applies with the County Commissioner to rezone a property, that requires a legislative action. That's why the Commission is required to vote on it. Maps are required to be updated. We've gone 2 years without any updates.

If we contracted with a private company to update these maps, we would've spent more than our GIS employee's salary. Currently, licenses would be \$5,000/user plus \$500/year thereafter. Andy has been

researching the cost for multiple users since so many would want & benefit from having access to these maps: EMS, Fire, Hwy Super, 911, Property Assessor, Deeds, etc.

The Zoning Dept also needs more fuel budget, more training & development dollars.

Smith: Growth is coming & it's imperative we are staffed & ready in Zoning.

Yockey: And the revenue Zoning creates will pay for another employee.

Vick: Zoning is doing an outstanding job. Right now, Rutherford has over 3,000 homes approved to be built.

White: A new Zoning Regulations Resolution is in the works. New subdivision regulations are really needed.

Sweeney: The bottleneck is when a new developer comes in with 60-90 days due diligence. If Zoning doesn't have the manpower, we lose that developer. We're behind the 8-ball as we speak. With the benefit of the map, people will be able to see exactly what they need to buy property, criteria. If we miss one meeting, that's another month/30 days gone.

**7. IT Reports** – Director Josh Carney reported the courthouse annex is running cable on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. The basement is next. Bids are currently being solicited via our website for the low-voltage project at the Justice Center. Running fiber from the main to 3 sub-data rooms, 800-1000 drops, will have 10GB/sec on LAN. Trying to plan for future growth.

White: Regarding GIS – If we're ever going to be a real player, some real money must be invested.

Josh: Ronda Clanton purchased a very high-end license, but the County really needs an (enterprise) license. Consider other users pitching into the fee: The City, Shelbyville Power, City Police, etc.

Vick: How do we do that?

Josh: Growth is inevitable.

Vick: Team up with Chris & Mark & research the expense of such licenses. Ensure no duplication of efforts is taking place.

**8. Health Dept** – No one present

**9. Fire Dept Report** – Chief Thomas reported he's been given another project. SRT – Special Response Team which comes with special equipment. Inherited a truck, 2 trailers, a boat & a lot of "stuff". We need more real estate for all of it. Trying to sort through it all for a call can delay our team 20-30 minutes before we even respond. We're working on a solution, the square footage needed, but we need more space for everything. SRT budget?

Much of the inherited equipment needs to be re-certified. The dry suits are not wet suits as a result of the flooding & will be \$7-\$8,000 to replace.

We need a rescue boat designed for fast waters with a jet drive, \$40k. We rescued 21 people during the flood with a top motor craft. One motor, bent shaft, it's not made for this type of rescue.

Need a \$53k line item increase just to get back to status quo!

And much of our "stuff" may not re-certify. Ropes are only good for so long, regardless of use.

We need a 4-door 4WD utility type of truck that holds ALL of our rescue equipment instead of several vehicles with equipment everywhere – it's unorganized & slows down our team.

**10. 911 Communications Director Report**

**11. Motion to approve all reports** – (Smith, Gunn) unanimous.

**12. Old Business**

- a) **Bell Construction Update** – Sweeney reported they started the water & gas, a couple of easement changes that didn't result in a price change.

**13. New Business**

**14. Announcements**

**15. Adjourn 6:35 PM (Smith, Gunn) unanimous.**