

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes for June 18, 2019
3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse
Consecutive after Rules and Legislative Committee



Present: Chairman, Mark Thomas; Mayor Chad Graham, Commissioners Anderson, Pinson, Brown

Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor's Exec Asst, Liz Barnett; County Commissioners: Linda Yockey, Julie Sanders, Don Gallagher, Brent Smith, Chasity Gunn, Jeff Sweeney, Janice Brothers; BCSD Jail Director, Mary West; Times Gazette Reporter, John Carney; IT Director, Josh Carney; Probation Director, Joyce Reed; Juvenile Director, Cynthia West; BCFD, Brian Cantrell, e-911 Director, Phillip Noel; Asst Fire Chief, Brian Cantrell; Sheriff, Austin Swing; Tabatha; Workhouse, Ronnie Prince; EMA Director, Scott Johnson; BCFD, Brian Cantrell; Animal Control, Maria Hughes

- 1. Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman, Mark Thomas, 5:59
- 2. Prayer** – Chairman Brown
- 3. Roll Call** – All present
- 4. Approval of minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee** – Motion to approve, (Anderson, Mayor) unanimous
- 5. Animal Control Reports** – Reports in packets. Maria had nothing to add. Commissioner Anderson asked how the search was going for a new truck. Maria has identified one for less than \$20k and ~60k miles.
Anderson inquired about the process for dead animals on the roadways. Animal Control handles this for the City. How is this handled in the County? Maria: Our team goes to check on the situation if it's a horse or cow. Josie: The previous Mayor informed us we cannot pick up deceased animals/livestock. However, if the animal is blocking the roadway, it's moved to the roadside & we scan pets for a microchip.
- 6. Sheriff/Jail/Workhouse Reports/Drug Task Force** – Reports in packets. Sheriff in attendance. Commissioner Anderson asked about several squad cars he saw on Dover. Are they being surplused, not being used? Sheriff: Some are brand new. Every 3 years we get new vehicles & may have all of them in now. We are in the process of assigning new cars to officers. Anderson: Do the Deputies like the Explorers better? Sheriff: We were going to get Dodge Durango, but they changed to package & couldn't tell us how much they would be. Dodge Chargers have become troublesome. The Explorers have a higher ground clearance & are better than sedans for when we need to leave the paved roads. Chairman Thomas: You will be decommissioning some of the older vehicles, correct? We've got some that look pretty bad, rusted rooves. Sheriff: Our deputies have to have something to drive, so we probably won't be decommissioning as many as we'd like, but you're right! Some cars have over 200k miles on them & generally those go to the jail, or workhouse, SRO's, etc.

Commissioner Smith: Someone reached out to me with concerns of the number of deputies on night duty, concerned about other Deputy's safety. Sheriff: 5 years ago there would be many nights where we'd be lucky to have 2 officers on duty. When there's one in Wheel & one in Beechgrove, there's no way they can help each other. Even now if you have 4 or 5, there's going to be times where someone has

to be carried to Coffee County or Cookeville, one to the hospital, one to Moccasin Bend. We don't have enough jailers to transport, so deputies have to. However, we've got more on the roads now than then. Jason Williams has shifted people to provide better coverage. In my previous experience, the 2-10:00 shift would be busier than the day & night shift combined. We're trying to put more where they're needed. We have 5 that will graduate from the academy this Friday which will put more on patrol. Smith: So for right now, how many will be on shift? Sheriff: Williams confirmed 4.

7. **EMA Reports** – Director Scott Johnson in attendance. Added that every Spring they go through a grant audit by the military dept & audit all federal money. No findings & complimented on their documents.
8. **Juvenile Reports** – Director Cynthia West not in attendance. Vacation.
9. **Probation Reports** – Director Joyce Reed in attendance. Nothing to add.
10. **Motion to Approve all Reports Submitted:** (Anderson, Pinson) unanimous
11. **Old Business** – None
12. **New Business** – None
13. **Announcements** – Commissioner Anderson thanked Liz Barnett for her detailed attention to the Committee meeting minutes. Noted that full conversations had been left out in the past.
14. **ADJOURN:** (Thomas, Mayor) unanimous 6:12 p.m.