

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes for Tuesday Feb. 19, 2019
3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse
Consecutive after Rules and Legislative Committee



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

Absent: Commissioners Brown, Pinson

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; Workhouse, Ronnie Prince; EMA Director, Scott Johnson; BCFD, Brian Cantrell; Animal Control, Maria Hughes

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman, Mark Thomas, 5:52
2. **Prayer** – Commissioner Thomas
3. **Roll Call** – 2 absent
4. **Approval of minutes of the Jan. 15, 2019 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee** – Motion to approve, (Anderson, Graham) unanimous
5. **Animal Control Reports**
6. **Sheriff/Jail/Workhouse Reports/Drug Task Force** – Reports in packets. Sheriff was hoping to have the staffing analysis for the new Justice Center in hand for this meeting, but it wasn't ready. It's in a 'draft' version as of this meeting.
Commissioner Vick asked if fees were charged when the Sheriff's Dept escorts someone; answer, no. Also asked if there are other services the Sheriff's Dept is providing that they could charge for; home alarms, funeral escorts, livestock escapes, etc. There are 35 alarm calls on this month's report.
7. **EMA Reports** – Director Scott Johnson reminded everyone about the pending rain/flood forecasts for the weekend, expected road closures, general warnings. If you go through a high water sign/barrier, you can be charged for every expense incurred to rescue you, including all fees for equipment & personnel!
8. **Juvenile Reports** – Director Cynthia West reported 377 hours of continuing education, 23 semester credits earned
9. **Probation Reports** – Director Joyce Reed in attendance
 - a. Commissioner Vick expressed his displeasure over the crime numbers on the report: 1054 active probationers, 565 DUI's, 173 domestic violence, 314 thefts, 512 drug offenses, 113 assaults, 7 child abuse/neglect. Vick: 'This is what's going on in our county! This is what you're having to work with! This is what our Sheriff is busting his behind on.' It was noted that several crimes committed in Bedford County are not from Bedford County citizens. Our County is the 'back road' for avoiding I-24. For some reason, "all roads lead to Bedford County", per Reed.

10. Motion to Approve all Reports Submitted: (Anderson, Graham) unanimous

11. Old Business – none

12. New Business

- a. **Juvenile Detention Operations** – The Mayor to form a study committee to include Judge Rich, Nicole Cashion, Juvenile/Cynthia West, Finance/Robert Daniel that will explore [fact finding] to bring recommendations back to this Committee then onto the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Sanders of the CH & Property sub-committee exploring vacant county properties mentioned adding beds to cover the costs of housing juveniles, move into a larger facility.

Commissioner Brent Smith wants to be out of the ‘juvenile business’. Commissioner Farris mentioned that moving to any other facility, possibly the jail once moved to the new Justice Center, would require a total retrofit/upgrade to accommodate juveniles according to the codes the State requires today.

Commissioner Anderson questioned the security of the Work House. The jail is more secure.

Thomas asked what does it cost to transport our kids to another county, possibly Chattanooga or Cookeville, vs. keeping them here & expanding.

Commissioner Yockey asked, “Why did we ever get in the business of housing juveniles to begin with?”

13. Announcements – none

14. ADJOURN: (Anderson, Graham) unanimous 6:35