

# LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes for Apr. 16, 2019  
3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse  
Consecutive after Rules and Legislative Committee



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

**Absent:** Commissioners Brown

**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, 5:17
2. **Prayer** – Chairman Thomas
3. **Roll Call** – 1 absent
4. **Approval of minutes of the Apr. 16, 2019 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee** – Motion to approve, (Graham, Pinson) unanimous
5. **Animal Control Reports** – Maria reported new signage will be in/up next week. New budget includes \$20k for a new/er vehicle (that works). Current vehicles need major repairs, can move a bed from one bed to another, trade school does most of the repairs.  
Anderson: What's running right now? Maria: Our most reliable vehicles are the 2008 F250 & the 2007 GMC Sierra, but this one must run awhile before it goes into gear. Anderson emphasized how important a trustworthy vehicle is, a must have! Mayor confirmed this is in Maria's budget. And once some goes to surplus & is disposed of properly, those monies will go back into the BCAC budget.  
Maria: Something 4WD is preferable, nothing they have currently is 4WD & there are several roads they cannot access – farms, etc.  
Thomas: Only a 4WD vehicle should be considered. Asked, is the \$20k for a new or newer vehicle?  
Maria: Found a 2016 Ram 1500 with 50k miles on it for \$19k and that's without negotiating.  
Anderson to Johnson: Asked about TVA auctions. Johnson: Federal government surplus vehicles go through State surplus. Federal vehicles don't have the wear/tear on them that State surplus vehicles do. TVA surplus vehicles are independent of Federal & State. Scott to pursue options on this.  
Epperson then questioned the new signage. Maria: It's new & improved signage that will provide a clearer visual with the full name instead of just the acronym & also includes hours of operation. This option was a less expensive approach at only \$55 & the original sign will be relocated to the back.
6. **Sheriff/Jail/Workhouse Reports/Drug Task Force** – Reports in packets. Regarding staffing for the new jail, Anderson commented: The architects made a presentation at a meeting 4 years ago on staffing. We were told if we built the new facility (this way), we'd actually save on staffing. 4 years later, the jail almost complete, & we're told we need 1/3 more employees at the minimum. We were grossly misled. Anderson continued: Does TCI agree with CTAS's assessment? All were reminded of a meeting the Mayor & Sheriff has coordinated with TCI & CTAS for Monday at 5:00 to discuss this.

Anderson: Do we have to staff the facility as if the jail is at full capacity from day 1? We'll be moving in 210-220 vs. 400 at capacity. Sheriff: Yes, moving around 250 inmates. And with the extra room, Judges will no longer choose probation for these people because we will have the room to keep the offenders. We expect to house 300+ within the first 90 days. We must use both sides because male & female inmates must be separated. Manpower will be needed for all of the square footage.

Anderson: If we do have to fully staff the new jail from day 1, will it be filled with State inmates?

Sheriff: Currently, most, if not all, of our inmates are Bedford County inmates.

Anderson: Can the State penitentiary send State inmates to our new jail?

Sheriff: If we accept other inmates, we prefer federal inmates because they pay better. However, we need to take care of what we have.

Mayor: We are currently \$11 negative per day.

Sweeney: How long is a person hired & trained before they're ready for the job?

Sheriff: Depends on if the Academy is backed-up, then FTO. Could be 9 months to almost a year.

Smith: How are we comparing to our sister counties?

Sheriff: Running pretty close, neck-in-neck.

Smith: Post-move, will we have enough officers on the streets?

Sheriff: Initially, we had 4 officers patrolling the streets for over 500 square miles, not counting those on CH security or our SRO's at schools. Now it's 5/shift. I currently have 5 in law enforcement academy. Creating the split shifts have helped. The FBI calculates we should have 1 officer per 500 citizens. We could always use more. Patrolling over 1500 miles/day right now. Should have 5 more from the academy in 10 weeks.

Smith: Will we be close to the FBI calculation once these 5 graduate?

Sheriff: Yes, close. The 17<sup>th</sup> judicial district, city & county, has the largest dept as far as officers, but my dept doesn't have everyone (on patrol) because of CH security & SRO responsibilities to our schools.

Anderson: Do we now have 5 on patrol at night?

Sheriff: No. Pretend all 4 do actually show up for their shift. One calls in sick, one is transporting an inmate to another county; that leaves 2 which is dangerous because what if one is in Beech Grove & the other one's in Wheel? They can't help each other! We'd love to have 5 or 6 on patrol every night.

Thomas: Regarding post-move & getting work crews from the new location – added time & extra miles. Will take ~2 hrs/day + ~16mi/day. Can we bus them to one, central location & whomever needs workers can retrieve them from there? Something to consider because this will quickly add up for everyone who uses these crews: The City, Parks & Rec, County, Ag Center, etc.

Anderson reminded everyone that there were 9 Commissioners that didn't want the jail all the way (out there). Yockey agreed.

**7. EMA Reports** – Director Scott Johnson reported; nothing to add.

**8. Juvenile Reports** – Director Cynthia West in attendance.

Farris inquired about the meal expense if 7478 are served currently. What about after the move:

West: More money is in the budget to cover this. Right now, we pay \$500/month for meals.

Farris: I don't see a vehicle cost. How much is that expense?

West: Our vehicle is only used to transport kids to court. We have a \$300/month gas budget.

Mayor: The vehicle is on its last leg, a 1998 model.

Farris: The Sheriff's Dept pays for the Juvenile vehicle.

Mayor: We can break that out for budgetary reasons if need be.

Thomas: Mileage will rack up quick with the increased distance to/from the new location.

Epperson: What about using the bus from BCAC?

**9. Probation Reports** – Director Joyce Reed in attendance, reported drug screens are down because one officer has a broken foot & the restrooms where they test are downstairs.

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

**11. Old Business** – Juvenile Operations Study Session met March 28<sup>th</sup> at EMA, 9:00 AM. Mayor Graham provided the update: If we can contain current costs, we're best suited to stay in the business. We're still gathering specifics on the workhouse & what modifications would cost. Overall gist, stay in the role if possible, if we can contain costs. We may be near or stay on the fringe of break-even but if we were to step away from this role, there's no guarantee of what we'd pay or where we'd take the kids. No idea of length of confinement & expense.

Pinson: I'm impressed with our Juvenile Center & the education process of the residents. It's 'pay now or pay later'. If we can educate just one to be a good citizen, we've done well. I'm not in favor of doing away with this option. We need every component to keep our juveniles safe & help them with such programs & activities.

Mayor: We need to give these children the best chance for the best outcome.

Anderson: Hope the next meeting is at a time we can all come. We must all remember, the workhouse was the old Coke bottling building. If we expand, security becomes an issue. Juveniles cannot be taken anywhere else, so what's to keep them from escaping? If they get out, they go right back in – no consequences.

Mayor: We must meet State standards. Post-move, we need a meal solution & a vehicle/transport solution even if we choose to not modify anything.

Vick: We did a walk-thru. We now need a drawing which Robert Daniel is to budget for – plans.

Thomas: We've met with the State people & were encouraged afterwards.

Sweeney: We were commended, that we're ahead of the curve. We can get grants from the State opiate monies that the Governor has put out there.

Farris: This facility was designed & built from an old paint store & the day is coming when we run out of band-aids & into the same issue that we've come to with the current jail – at capacity. Lots of cost will come with this. Retrofitting, fixing, repair after repair – too costly. Rebuild brand new from the ground up; we need something to grow into.

## **12. New Business**

## **13. Announcements** – none

## **14. ADJOURN:** (Pinson, Mayor) unanimous 6:00 p.m.