

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes for May 21, 2019
3rd Floor Bedford County Courthouse
Consecutive after Rules and Legislative Committee



Present: Chairman, Mark Thomas; Commissioners Anderson, Pinson

Absent: Commissioner Brown, Mayor Graham

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, 5:29
2. **Prayer** – Chairman Thomas
3. **Roll Call** – 2 absent
4. **Approval of minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee** – Motion to approve, (Pinson, Anderson) unanimous
5. **Animal Control Reports** – Reports in packets. Maria had nothing to add.
6. **Sheriff/Jail/Workhouse Reports/Drug Task Force** – Reports in packets. Sheriff in attendance. Bedford County jail was in the Top 10 as far as the State taking our convicted felons. They've been pretty good to us. However, with that being said & according to the FY18 reports, we received \$447,408 from the State for the felons we do have.

Commissioner Anderson: We have 6 officers at the courthouse. Does the CH security fund pay for those officers or does it come from the Sheriff's budget? Judge Rich mentioned there's \$789k in the CH security fund. Is this fund not to pay for those officers & not from your budget? Sheriff: There are limitations on what this fund can be used for – metal detectors, cameras, etc., but not to pay for extra staff needed at the Justice Complex.

Commissioner Anderson: With regards to the 20 new employees needed, couldn't we get together & figure something out? Can we do without the transport officers? And the booking agents, two are needed? Who's currently doing the booking now? **Mary West:** What we currently have will be spread out at the new facility & leave us with no none. It's a very, timely process to fingerprint & 'book' someone. The bondsmen complain about how much time it takes as it is now. **Commissioner Sweeney:** We need to be careful looking at the number of 20; probably looking at 10. It's next to impossible to hire jailers right now. We have 4 shifts. The chances of getting 5 new people per shift is pretty slim. We should hope for 2. Anderson concerned with maintenance of effort, must remain cognizant so we're not locked into something we don't need. **Sweeney:** But if we say 10 & we end up with 3, we've got a real problem. Must consider the next 3-4 years & hope to not be full. **Sheriff:** On this magical number of 20, the previous administration & Commissioners agreed CTAS would advise us on what was needed/required. That's their job. Experts in their field, Jim Hart & Bob Bass came up with the 20

needed. **Sweeney:** If we approve 20 according to the report & only get 13 then something happens, we're good because we approved what was recommended. However, if we go out on a limb & only approve 8 or 10 then something happens, then the report is thrown into a lawsuit because we made the decision to cut it. **Anderson:** Bass said 'in an ideal situation – perfect world scenario' we be for sure good with 20 but gave wiggle room. **West:** Average time of employment for a Bedford County jailer right now is 30 days, which is common across the State. And it takes 30 days to train an individual. **Sheriff:** I'm willing to work with anyone on any ideas of how we can best staff the new jail but to say I'll compromise or go against what is suggested, I won't. **Anderson:** Could you approve the 20 & not fund it? This may be a Robert Daniel question. Approve 20, hire 5. **Thomas:** It's my understanding that if you approve 20, it must be in the budget. He may only hire 5, but what happens if he does hire 20? The budget must be there. **Farris:** Is there a number that we have to approve to get the new jail certified? **Sheriff:** CTAS must certify the jail or it won't open. **Farris:** At what number will they certify the jail? They (recommended) 20, but what will it really take to certify? We become liable if it's on paper & we fall short of the recommendation. What is the ratio of inmates to staff?

Anderson: What about the cooks? Do you need 2 more cooks? And back to the transport officers. I thought we built this facility to cut down on transportation needs.

Anderson to Mary West: Report showed we wouldn't have a Jail Administrator, per sei, but possible a Code Administrator(?) under West. Third person under West to be Program Coordinator. Four Sergeants were recommended & you have 8, are you planning to lose 4 people? **West:** Possibly keep them as Sergeants but dock their pay or move them to a position where they could keep their same rank & pay.

7. **EMA Reports** – Director Scott Johnson in attendance & with the Memorial holiday weekend coming up, guess what it's time for. The river! The technical rescue team for the City & the County now is ran by the County Fire Dept. Document signed by all Public Safety Dept Heads. TVA hasn't been very cooperative when we're looking at shutting down their access points when water is 500 cfs at Normandy Dam. Hwy Super, Mark Clanton, & Johnson to go to Dement Bridge, Three Forks, 41A, next week. Mark has access to several concrete barriers & can block off the access points to kayakers. TVA won't let us shutdown the river, but they won't have a place to park! **Anderson:** Say it's barricaded, they park on the road & carry their kayak to the water. What then? What's the consequence? **Johnson:** If they are over the "fog line" in the highway, they can be towed. **Thomas:** This County needs to adopt a Resolution & send it to the State for approval that we have over 50 miles of river that eats up a lot of our rescue time & this happens mostly at night! It's very dangerous for first responders. We can get a Resolution passed to where penalties & fines can be enforced on violators. **Johnson:** The vast majority of people rescued from the river are NOT Bedford County people. We're going to print signs for every mile on the river to help locate people on the river. Especially from Dement to 41 A, that's our high traffic area for rescues. **Sweeney:** We pulled 6 people out last Saturday at 10PM. Heard them screaming. A one year old, 3 year old, 7 year old, 2 moms & a drunk grandfather. NO lifejackets! Also call Float-a-Boat rentals & tell them they are not allowed to rent to people when the water is moving like that. \$300 fine for no lifejacket. **Anderson:** All that waterway in this county & TVA has only one person allocated. That same TWRA person has to go to Bedford Lake & Tim's Ford in Coffee County. Can Marsh, Tracy & Reeves petition for another Agent? We used to have 2 in Bedford County. Even during deer season, imagine him having to go from Wheel to Beech Grove. It's too much for one person.
8. **Juvenile Reports** – Director Cynthia West in attendance. **Chairman Thomas:** Correct me if I'm wrong, but I was told there was a juvenile girl in a lot of trouble, that she had been all over the State of TN, the judges moved her from one place to another, she couldn't get in any of the juvenile corrections programs, no one could control this child. Cynthia was contacted & reluctantly took her under her wing. This child was released finally & all while under Cynthia's supervision/influence & guidance. We're proud of things like that, the progress, & the education we can provide. Kudos to Ms. West.
9. **Probation Reports** – Director Joyce Reed not in attendance. Death in the family.

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

11. Old Business – Juvenile Operations Study Session update: Met with an architect; project in progress.

12. New Business

13. Announcements

14. ADJOURN: (Anderson, Pinson) unanimous 6:00 p.m.