

**MINUTES OF THE VAN BUREN COUNTY COMMISSION
VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

The Van Buren County Commission met in a Regular Meeting Tuesday January 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Van Buren County Yvonne Sutton Fair Building. The following action was taken as recorded in Minute Book, "Q".

Call to Order

Chairman Joey Grissom called the Meeting to Order.

Roll Call

Members present: Lesa Bouldin, David Chandler, Zach Fletcher, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons, and Robert Van Winkle.

Also present: County Attorney Howard Upchurch, County Mayor Greg Wilson, and County Clerk Lisa Rigsby.

Approve of Minutes from the December 14, 2017 Special Called Meeting

Lesa Bouldin made a motion, second by Mickey Robinson to approve the Minutes from the December 14, 2017 Meeting. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

Committee B Report

Committee B

01/09/2018

Present Brian Simmons, David Chandler, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis and Mayor Greg Wilson

The Drain at the New Building

Mayor Wilson informed the Committee that he had talked with Randy Oakes at the County Highway Department about possibly putting in a drain at the new building. Randy said the Highway Department was busy with projects and would not be able to help with the drain. The Mayor also spoke with some local contractors about possible prices for these repairs and they seem to be very close to the quote from J-Cumby. After much discussion it was decided to take to full Commission and to direct County Attorney to check into the possibility that should it be covered by ECE Engineering firms bond, or the Construction Company's bond (J-Cumby) and not the responsibility of the County. Motion was made by Joey and seconded by David, all voted in favor.

Agriculture building and Grant

Mayor Wilson brought to our attention that the County has been offered an Agriculture Grant for \$150,000.00 for the purpose of building a New Agriculture Building. (See attached plans). This building would be used for the Extension Agents Offices and 4-H class rooms as well as utilized as a new fair building. The repairs to fix the old fair building would total around \$90,000.00. The grant for this building is a county match but is an in kind match. The County would put up the property for the building as an in kind match. With the property as an in kind match our highest estimate for County monies would be around \$50,000.00 but would more than likely be much lower. UT would furnish the building and offices

so the County would be out nothing there. The buildings Committee thinks this would be a great deal for the County. A motion was made by David Seconded by Hugh to send this to the full Commission for a vote to pursue. All were in favor.

Old jail/Court house

We discussed that when the Sheriff vacates the old jail, should we put it on the market at once or should we hold off for a period of time. After discussion the Committee decided we should wait a minimum of 30 days and then decide when to put it on the Market. Also the same 30 day wait on Court house before turning it over to Historical Society.

Burritt Building and Masonic Buildings.

Mayor Wilson informed the Committee of a possible \$75,000.00 tourism Grant that could be used to upgrade the Burritt Building after the move to the new building is complete. The Committee discussed using the money to block off the upstairs office area and stairwells. The upstairs office areas could be used as County storage and this would lower the heating and cooling of the building. The down stairs area could still be used by the public as always. The only remaining offices in the building would be move to the Masonic building. As the Extension office and 4-H offices would be located in the new Ag building. Motion was made by David and seconded by Hugh to send to full Commission, all were in favor.

Weather days J-Cumby

With Weather days, the new completion date for new building is March 3, 2018. This will increase contract time by 47 days. Also see attached. Motion made by Joey and seconded by David to send to full Commission for approval. All were in favor.

No new Business

Motion made by David to adjourn, seconded by Hugh. All in favor.

Committee B Chairman Brian Simmons brought forward action from Committee B Meeting that needs action to be taken by the Full Commission.

Agriculture building and Grant

Brian Simmons made a motion, second by Lesa Bouldin to deviate from the agenda and move line item 7 up. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

The first order of business with action being taken was the New Agriculture Building and Grant. Mayor Wilson brought to Committee B's attention that the County has been offered an Agriculture Grant for \$150,000.00 for the purpose of a new Agriculture Building. The Fair Building is in disrepair and the cost to fix it would be \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00. The County is looking at placing the New Building behind the Grand stands in the parking lots. The County would put the property up for the building as an in kind match for this Grant. With the property as a match the highest estimate for the County monies would be around \$50,000.00.

Lesla Bouldin made a motion, second by Mickey Robinson to amend Commissioner Simmons' motion and to vote to approve a site for the Van Buren County Agricultural Learning Center and also the proposed budget and direct the County Mayor to pursue this Grant.

Upon roll call: Lesla Bouldin, David Chandler, Zach Fletcher, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons and Robert Van Winkle voted yes. No changes to any yes vote. Motion passed.

**Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program
Agribusiness Development Grant Program
Request from Van Buren County**

I. The Agribusiness Project

- a. The purposed project is to construct an Agricultural Pavilion and adjoining meeting room with a commercial kitchen, which will be named the Van Buren County Agriculture Learning Center, for the use of educational and professional development of 4-Hers, FFA members, farmers, producers, small business owners, and Citizens of Van Buren County.
- b. The Van Buren County Agriculture Learning Center will be used for educational activities and hands on demonstrations for both adults and youth.
- c. The property in which the Agriculture Learning Center is to be constructed on belongs to Van Buren County and the Van Buren County Mayor and Commissioners will oversee the project.
- d. The Van Buren County Agricultural Learning Center will provide a place in which the youth of Van Buren County can learn how to exhibit livestock and recognize and understand the importance of producing quality marketable animals. It will also serve as an adult learning venue for UT Extension, Soil Conservation, N.R.C.S., White/Van Buren Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, Adult Education, and the Agricultural Community. For example the processing, development, and care of livestock and other Agricultural products would be taught and demonstrated here.
- e. A short term goal of the Van Buren County Agricultural Learning Center would be to provide a place to further the interest and awareness of the Agricultural impact on Van Buren County. A long term goal would be to help the Agricultural producers in Van Buren County to increase production and profitability of their products.
- f. The meeting room and commercial kitchen would be used to help the vegetable producers add value to their product by offering educational seminars and hand on demonstrations on food preservation. It would also allow for a place for these producers to rent in order to resale their products.
- g. The Van Buren Agricultural Learning Center will benefit Tennessee Agriculture and farmers, since various Agriculture-related groups in Van Buren County will utilize it.

The Van Buren County Agriculture Learning Center can be used to provide education to adults in the following ways.

1. The UT Extension Van Buren County can use it as a teaching facility for Agricultural demonstrations, field days, and food preservation demonstrations.
2. The Cattlemen's Association can use the learning center to hold production Meeting.
3. Soil Conservation and N.R.C.S. can use the learning Center as a training facility and field days.
4. Leadership Van Buren can use the learning Center to help train leaders for Van Buren County.

The Van Buren County Agriculture Learning Center can be used to provide education to youth in the following ways.

1. 4-H and FFA members can use the learning center to enhance their skills at showing and caring for livestock. They can also showcase their project work at this facility.
2. Leadership training can be conducted at the learning center to help grow future leaders.
3. Demonstrations for VBHS students can be held at the learning center on best practices for caring for livestock.

The success of the Van Buren County Agriculture Learning Center will be measured in the number of adults and youth that use the facility. Currently there are over 490 youth enrolled in our 4-H program and 200 youth enrolled in Agriculture classes at VBHS. The White/Van Buren Cattlemen's Association has around 200 members.

II. Marketing Plan

- a. The target market is primarily Van Buren County, which is one of the smallest Counties in Tennessee. In 2012, 5,677 people lived in our County. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, there were 245 farms in Van Buren County with the average size being 151 acres. This is a 15% increase in the number of farms but an 8% decrease in farm size. This statistic indicates the need for the Agriculture Learning Center, we need best management practices now more than ever.

III. Justification and Need

- a. Agriculture is one of Van Buren County's largest industries. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture for Van Buren County, the Market value of products sold was \$5,568,000. Currently we do not have a suitable facility where hands on training in live demonstrations for livestock production, equipment demonstrations, and food preservation classes can be held.

IV. Use of Requested Funds and Current Resources

- a. A combination of Grant Funds and In-Kind donations will be utilized to fund the construction of the Van Buren County Agricultural Learning Center. A detailed budget and drawing will be provided if grant is awarded.

Weather days J-Cumby

Brian Simmons made a motion, second by William Maxwell to approve the increase contract time by 47 days for J-Cumby being that with weather days the new completion date for new building is March 3, 2018.

Upon roll call: Lesa Bouldin, David Chandler, Zach Fletcher, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons and Robert Van Winkle voted yes. No changes to any yes vote. Motion passed.

Committee A Report

Committee A

January 10, 2018

Attending: Robert Van Winkle, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Will Maxwell, Lesa Bouldin

Also Attending: Greg Wilson, Robert Newman, Trevor Galligan, Representatives from AirMedCare

The committee participated in a presentation on possibly joining other counties in a lawsuit against drug manufacturers and distributors for damages incurred by counties from opioid abuse. Galligan & Newman presented the committee with information (attached) containing CDC statistics and a contract they will be presenting to the full commission for approval. **Will Maxwell made the motion and Mickey Robinson second to take to the full commission for approval will all members voting yes upon roll call.**

The city council members recently approved providing basic AirMedCare coverage for the citizens of the city. Representative approached the committee about extending this to the citizens of the county at an annual cost of \$21,132. (Information and contract attached) **Mickey Robinson made the motion and Will Maxwell second to take the presentation to the full commission for vote. All members voted yes by regular voting sign.**

The possibility of constructing, and funding up to \$40,000, for the Van Buren Ag Learning Center, which will be used to replace the current fair building, was discussed. This had been discussed in Committee B on an earlier date. There were some concerns with the drawing presented but overall the committee felt it would be an asset to the county and should be pursued.

Proposed Budget Van Buren Ag Learning Center

Department of Agriculture	\$ 150,000
Architect/Engineer	\$ 25,000
Land Donation	\$ 35,000
Caney Fork	\$ 10,000
Van Buren Board of Ed	\$ 5,000
Middle TN Gas	\$ 5,000
Ben Lomand Connect	\$ 5,000
University of Tennessee	\$ 35,000
Van Buren County	\$ 20,000
HVAC	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$300,000

Henry Seamons made the motion and Mickey Robinson second to take the proposed budget for the Van Buren Ag Learning Center project to the full commission for approval. All members voted yes upon roll call.

Briefly discussed possible drainage issues at the new building as presented in Committee B minutes. Contractors are addressing several options.

In order to secure workman's compensation insurance on the elected officials for Van Buren County an additional \$17,695.00 will need to be added into the budget. **Mickey Robinson made the motion and Robert Van Winkle second to transfer from fund balance and increase line 101-58400-513 by \$17,695.00 all members voted yes to take to the full commission upon roll call.**

Discussed the option of taking over the food service for the Senior Citizens Center. Van Buren County could receive the money currently being paid to UCHRA for providing the meals at the center and to two (2) homebound residents. Several concerns were discussed; it was decided to possibly look into this at later date more in depth. The consensus of the committee is that moving into the new building and the possible needs there are more pressing at this time. **With no other business to discuss Mickey Robinson made the motion and Henry Seamons second to adjourn. All yes by the regular voting sign.**

Committee A Chairman Lesa Bouldin brought forward action that needs to be taken by the Full Commission from the Budget Committee A meeting.

Workman's Compensation Insurance

Lesla Bouldin explained to the Full Commission that Workman's Compensation Insurance doesn't currently cover the elected officials. In order to secure this the County would need to amend the budget by \$17,695.00 from Fund Balance. After much discussion on this matter, Lesla Bouldin made a motion, second by Robert Van Winkle to transfer from Fund Balance, increase line item 58400-513 by \$17,695.00 to amend this Workman's Compensation issue. Mayor Greg Wilson added, "There is also some stuff in the

audit from overtime in a couple of the areas last year that caused it to go up but it's mostly from the office holders."

Upon roll call: Lesa Bouldin, David Chandler, Zach Fletcher, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons and Robert Van Winkle voted yes. No changes to any yes vote. Motion passed.

Everything else from the Committee A Meeting would be brought up at a later date for discussion because of not knowing the cost increase of the New Building.

Notary approval for Lesa Bouldin

David Chandler made a motion, second by Brian Simmons to approve the Notary renewal for Lesa Bouldin. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

Old Business

None

New Business

Road Superintendent Randy Oakes came before the Full Commission to communicate to them he is purchasing an excavator for the Highway Department and is putting it out for bids. Also Mrs. Nancy Beck contacted Mr. Oakes about the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Shockley Road. Mr. Oakes feels he can't get a petition signed at a 100% so he is asking the Commission for their thoughts on this matter and all decided for him to leave it at 35mph.

Adjournment

David Chandler made a motion, second Brian Simmons to adjourn. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.