

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

The Van Buren County Commission met in a Regular Meeting, Tuesday October 18, 2016 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**

Sheriff Eddie Carter called the Meeting to Order.

**Roll Call**

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

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

**Lesa Bouldin made a motion, second by Rip Van Winkle to deviate from the agenda to allow Jacob Young to address the Commission. All agreed by voice vote.**

Mr. Jacob Young, the new Fall Creek Falls manager, introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Young explained his back ground experience of working with the State Parks. He stated, "It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to come to Fall Creek Falls State Park and if he could help the County anyway at all he would be glad to do so." Mr. Young is from DeKalb County and is married to Crystal Young and they have four children. He gave praise to the staff at Fall Creek Falls and is looking forward to implementing some of his ideas and working on some issues that Fall Creek Falls State Park has.

**Approval of Minutes from August 16, 2016 Meeting.**

Lesa Bouldin made a motion, second by William Maxwell to approve the Minutes from the August 16, 2016 Meeting. All approved by voice vote. Motion passed.

**Committee A Report**

Committee A Chairman Lesa Bouldin turned the Minutes over to Mayor Greg Wilson to bring before the Full Commission action that needs to be taken from the September 26, 2016 budget meeting.

**Committee A & B met on September 26, 2016**

One item that was listed on each agenda was the purchase of BDS. Committee A voted to move the item to full Commission. Committee B voted to recommend the purchase. I have compiled the following.

Total revenues for this purchase would be \$237,400 per year. BDS has agreed to being paid in four installments as the following shows.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> payment</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$150,000 from General funds.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> payment</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>\$150,000 from General funds.</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> payment</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>\$150,000 from General funds.</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> payment</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>\$150,000 from Solid Waste funds.</b>

Solid Waste would repay the General fund over the next 6 years \$75,000 per year. It is a very large amount to consider but it is a move that will generate a lot of new revenue for Van Buren County plus I feel this new revenue could be used to self-fund future programs in Van Buren County. I just wanted to provide you this information which the revenues were provided by BDS and also provide the funding for this project. The General fund is projected to end this Fiscal year with a balance of \$1,555,275.00 at the time this was written. The General fund is currently at \$1,049,040.00.

**Van Buren County Commission, Committee "A"**  
**September 26, 2016**

Committee "A" of the Van Buren County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Mayor Office.

Mickey Robinson called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken with the following members present; Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons and Will Maxwell. Mayor Greg Wilson also attended the meeting.

The First order of business was the addition of \$1200.00 to the retirement line item 204 for the Senior Center Director. A motion to approve this was made by Henry Seamons and Seconded by Will Maxwell. All present were in favor.

Will Maxwell made a motion to increase the litter grant reimbursement for \$2400.00. This was seconded by Henry Seamons. All present were in favor.

Henry Seamons made a motion to approve \$5300.00 for energy grant for the County maintenance line item. Henry Seamons then made a motion to adjust the budget and approve the final grant payment of \$143,023.27 on the Community Development Block Grant for the City of Spencer water rehab project. This was seconded by Will Maxwell. All present voted in favor.

The committee also discussed the insurance dollars that were received for the County truck that was totaled. The amount received for the truck was \$7374.00. The committee agreed for Mayor Wilson to look for a truck in that price range to the replace the totaled truck.

Next, Henry Seamons made a motion to proceed with the purchase of Best Disposal Service at a total purchase price of \$575,000.00. Will Maxwell seconded the motion and all members present voted in favor of said motion and the motion passed. This will be presented to the full County Commission.

Next, the board discussed the purchase of a new ambulance. Will Maxwell suggested possibly paying for half this fiscal year and half next fiscal year. Henry Seamons made a motion to adjourn and Will Maxwell seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Budget Amendments**

Rip Van Winkle moved to approve all the Budget Amendments that were reflected in the Committee A Report that are needed with the exception of the \$575,000.00 for BDS, this needs to be handled separate. Second by William Maxwell.

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

### **Committee B Report**

Committee B Chairman Rip Van Winkle went over to the Full Commission the Minutes from the September 26, 2016 Committee B Meeting and brought forward action that needs to be taken by the Full Commission.

## **Van Buren County Commission, Committee "B"**

**September 26, 2016**

Committee "B", of the Van Buren County Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 26, 2016, 6:30 pm, in the office of the County Mayor.

Chairman Rip Van Winkle called the meeting to order.

Upon roll call members David Chandler, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, Brian Simmons, and Rip Van Winkle were present. Van Buren County Mayor Greg Wilson was also in attendance.

County Mayor Greg Wilson informed the committee of the USDA Grant which Van Buren County has been awarded for construction of a Farmers' Market. A discussion was had about possible locations. The committee felt that the area directly behind the Yvonna Sutton Fair Building would be a good location allowing use of the existing bathrooms and also making those bathrooms more handicap accessible. A motion was made by Brian Simmons, Seconded by Hugh Hillis, to present that idea to the Van Buren County Fair Board, and if they approve to the full body of the County Commission. All commissioners present approved the motion by regular voting sign.

Mayor Wilson then shared some ideas he had discussed with George Burke, at a meeting about industrial development, about a joint Industrial Development Board with the City of Spencer. Mr. Burke was scheduled to meet with the City of Spencer and gauge their interest in pursuing such a venture and the structure of such a board that would be acceptable to both parties. A motion was made by Joey Grissom, Seconded by David Chandler, to have George Burke present to the full body of the Van Buren County Commission any resulting proposal which might come out of that meeting. All commissioners present approved the motion by regular voting sign.

Mayor Wilson updated the committee of the start date of February 1, 2017 for the implementation of the Parks and Recreation Grant, which the county received for improvements to the property directly behind the temporary administration building (Burritt College).

Two items of county property have been deemed by the committee to be no longer sufficient for the county's needs. A motion was made by David Chandler, and Seconded by Brian Simmons, to recommend to the full body of the Van Buren County Commission, that the old Dodge Truck with a blown motor and the wrecked F-100 maintenance truck, both be declared surplus, and sold on the state website for that purpose. All members present voted in favor of the motion by regular voting sign.

Mayor Wilson advised the committee of some security concerns which had been voiced by one of the judges in the county. The committee took no action but will consider said concerns when the new building nears completion.

Mayor Wilson updated the committee on the latest developments in the previously proposed purchase of land, contracts, and equipment, etc. from Best Disposal Service. A motion was made by David Chandler, and Seconded by Brian Simmons, to recommend to the full body of the Van Buren County Commission that the county proceed with the purchase. Commissioners David Chandler, Hugh Hillis, Brian Simmons, and Rip Van Winkle voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Joey Grissom abstained. Motion passed.

There being no more business, a motion was made by David Chandler, and seconded by Brian Simmons, to adjourn. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

#### **USDA Grant**

Van Buren County has been awarded a grant for construction of a Farmers Market. Committee B felt that the best area for the Farmers Market would be directly behind the Yvonna Sutton Fair Building. The bathrooms there could use some construction and be made more handicap accessible. This matter hasn't been discussed with the Fair Board yet so Rip Van Winkle moved to table this until the Fair Board has time for consideration. Second by Lesa Bouldin. All approved by voice vote. Motion passed.

#### **Industrial Development Board**

Mayor Wilson had discussed with George Burke about a joint Industrial Development Board with Van Buren County and the City of Spencer. After discussion of this matter with the City of Spencer, the City Alderman's were not interested in pursuing this matter.

#### **Dodge Truck & Maintenance Truck**

Two trucks owned by the County have been deemed by Committee B as no longer sufficient for the County's needs. Rip Van Winkle made a motion, second by Brian Simmons, upon the Committee B's recommendation that the old Dodge truck and the wrecked F-100 maintenance truck be declared surplus and be sold on the State website. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

#### **BDS (Best Disposal Service)**

Rip Van Winkle explained to the Full Commission, "When the Committee B voted in favor of the purchase of the land, contracts and equipment from BDS, they weren't aware of the proposed State demolition of the Hotel at Fall Creek Falls State Park and the rebuild." The down time of this process will affect the County in taxes and the number of County people that are employed at the Hotel. After much discussion

on this matter, Rip Van Winkle made a motion, second by Lesa Bouldin to table this matter until next County Meeting and Committee A needs to meet with Dan and Diane Goney to go over this in detail. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

#### **Howard Upchurch Update on August 19, 2016 Tax Sale.**

County Attorney Howard Upchurch addressed the Commission on the process of the County's last tax sale. Mr. Upchurch stated, "There was an individual from another State whom attends delinquent tax sales across the state, he said this was one of the most professionally ran sales that he had attended." He was very appreciative of the pre-sale announcements that we (Attorney Howard Upchurch and Clerk & Master, Tina Shockley) make to explain the sale process and to protect Van Buren County from litigation in the future." The issue with this sale is there's about 100 plus lots were out of this sale. The problem with these properties, they are assessed in a accordance with a developed sub-division or development that will have various amenities to the track of land, so the assessment on those lots are all offered to individuals and not offered together at the tax sale. The assessments then becomes an unreal amount because the developments have not taken place and the assessment value that we have to sell it for is not worth it. These properties are unrealistically priced and with that amount there's no bids on the properties. There has been some legislation passed that would address this situation, it was passed for some of the larger County's with very large developments but Mr. Upchurch thinks this legislation would fit Van Buren County in this situation. Attorney Howard Upchurch described to the Commission two different ways this could be handled to let them decide which way was best for Van Buren County.

After much discussion on this matter, Rip Van Winkle moved to have the County Attorney Howard Upchurch to petition the Chancery Court to make it possible for Van Buren County to set another sale for these properties and to have those properties reassessed by the Van Buren County Assessor's Office based on the terms of the sale whether it be one big property or individual lots, it needs to be reassessed once someone buys the Property. Committee A can look at it and see if they want to group it or sale it individually once we get a ruling by the Chancery Court. Second by Lesa Bouldin.

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

#### **Court House Security Meeting.**

County Mayor Greg Wilson, District Attorney, Sheriff Eddie Carter and Judge Stanley met a couple weeks ago and discussed the security concerns at the Courthouse. They spoke about the upgrades that were made at the Courthouse with the new metal detectors at the Entrance. They were very satisfied with that but there're still concerns with the security. These concerns will be considered before completions of the new Jail. No action was taken at this time.

#### **TCRS Representative**

Mayor Greg Wilson introduce James Armistead, a Representative with TCRS. There is a 401k and 457 plan that is available to the Employees in Van Buren County and simply a benefit to the employees. The plans will be available to anyone working for the County and it's up to that person if they want to participate.

There will need to be two Resolutions to be passed by the Commission before this can be put into place, so this matter will be tabled until next month for action.

**Comptrollers Audit Findings (Mayors Office)**

Mayor Wilson updated the Commission on audit findings in the Mayor's Office (segregation of duties, which the plan wasn't put in until January 2016) and they are working on correcting that. Mayor Wilson and Tiwana Bricker are working on the Debt Service with the Ambulance Service with correction of that also.

**Van Buren County Jail Contract**

Sheriff Eddie Carter address the Commission about the two bids he had received for the Van Buren County Jail's Inmate Medical Program. First bid was Southern Health Partners with a base annual price and cost pool which totaled \$93,900.00. The second bid was Quality Correctional Health Care in the amount of \$75,900.00. After the Full Commission interviewed each group individually, with questions asked by the Commission, we had a roll call vote.

**Southern Health Partners:** Lesa Bouldin, David Chandler, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons and Robert Van Winkle voted no. Rip Van Winkle voted yes. 9-no votes and 1-yes vote.

**Quality Correctional Health Care:** Lesa Bouldin, David Chandler, Joey Grissom, Hugh Hillis, William Maxwell, Mickey Robinson, Henry Seamons, Brian Simmons and Robert Van Winkle voted yes. Rip Van Winkle voted no. 9-yes votes and 1-no vote.

**The New Inmate Medical Care Services was awarded to Quality Correctional Health Care.**

**Proclamation for Red Ribbon Week**

This is a Drug Education Program for the School System, sponsored thru the Three Star Program. Mayor Wilson needs approval on this Proclamation.

Greg B. Wilson, Van Buren County Mayor  
P.O. Box 217  
Spencer, TN 38585

**WHEREAS,** Alcohol and Drug abuse in this Nation have reached epidemic stages; and

**WHEREAS,** it is imperative that visible, unified prevention education efforts by Community members be launched to eliminate the demand for drugs; and

**WHEREAS,** The National Red Ribbon Campaign offers Citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles (no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, business, Government, parents, law enforcement, media, medical institutions, religious Institutions, schools, senior Citizens, service Organizations, and youth will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week-long campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community of, Van Buren County, further commits its resources to ensure the success of the Red Ribbon Campaign;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, I, Mayor Greg Wilson, of Van Buren County, do hereby proclaim October 23-31, as Red Ribbon Week, and encourages its citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but all year long, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free Van Buren County.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016

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Rip Van Winkle moved to approve this Proclamation. Second by Mickey Robinson. All approved by voice vote. Motion passed.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**\$2,500.00 donation to the Senior Companion Program**

Road Superintendent Randy Oakes was in attendance for approval of a \$2500.00 donation to the Senior Companion Program for gas. Lesa Bouldin made a motion, second by Brian Simmons to approve a \$2500.00 donation from the Highway Department to the Senior Companion Program.

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

**Speed limit change on Bald Knob Mountain Road**

Randy Oakes also brought before the Full Commission needing approval for the speed limit to be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph on Bald Knob Mountain Road. (Per the residents on this Road with a petition) William Maxwell made a motion, second by Mickey Robinson to reduce the speed limit on Bald Knob Mountain Road to 35 mph. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed.

**Maintenance & Trash Collection Truck**

Mayor Wilson needs authorization for an amount to buy a Maintenance and Trash Truck. Rip Van Winkle moved to approve an expenditure for vehicles for Maintenance and the liter grant program for a maximum of \$15,000.00. Second by William Maxwell.

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

**Adjournment**

Mickey Robinson made a motion, second by Rip Van Winkle to adjourn. All agreed by voice vote. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.