

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

STATE OF TENNESSEE) Agenda Preparation Session
COUNTY OF HAMILTON) January 27, 2016

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 27th day of January, 2016, an Agenda Preparation Session of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners was begun and held at the Courthouse, in the City of Chattanooga, in the County Commission Room, when the following proceedings were held, to wit:--

0:12 Present and presiding was the Honorable Chester Bankston, Chairman. Deputy County Clerk Brooke Weaver called the roll of the County Commission and the following, constituting a quorum, answered to their names: Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Fairbanks, Commissioner Fields, Commissioner Graham, Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Mackey, Commissioner Smedley, and Chairman Bankston. Commissioner Beck arrived during discussion of Resolution No. 216-3. Total present - 9. Total absent – 0.

Also in attendance were County Mayor Jim Coppinger, members of his administrative staff and County Attorney Rheubin Taylor.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Bankston indicated the upcoming agenda items would be considered as follows:

- The Trustee's Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for December 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- The Juvenile Court Clerk's Reports for October and November 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- A Quarterly Investment Report for quarter ending December 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- Quarterly Fee Office reports ending December 31, 2015 would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 216-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 216-2 through 216-14 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 216-2 through 216-14 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

1:06

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-2

Sam Mairs, Juvenile Court Administrator, spoke regarding this item, which decreases the expenditure budget for the Juvenile Court Judge by \$32,369.00, and increase the expenditure budget for the Sheriff by \$32,369.00. In response to Commissioner Graham's request, Mr. Mairs approached the podium and further

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

explained that the funds will be used to fund a position for a deputy from the Sheriff's office, for security at the Juvenile Court.

2:23

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-3

Christie Jordan, Accounting and Budgeting Director for the Hamilton County Department of Education spoke regarding this item, which amends the Schools Federal Projects Fund budget by adding \$2,969,406 to the FY 2015-2016 revenue and expenditure budget; to amend the Self-funded Projects Fund budget by adding \$683,027 to the FY 2015-2016 revenue and expenditure budget; to amend the General Purpose Fund budget by adding \$2,634,810 to the FY 2015-2016 revenue and expenditure budget.

In response to several questions from Commissioners, she further explained that this was a standard resolution from the school system each year when monies come into the system. The additional revenue received in the General Purpose Fund budget came from an increase in Basic Education Program (BEP) funds and Sales Tax. The additional revenue received in the Schools Federal Projects Fund budget was federal grant monies, which are awarded, based on the federal government's fiscal year October 1 through September 30.

Time Code
Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

10:32

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-4

Commissioner Bankston spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Birchwood Regional Centre in the amount of \$5,900.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District Nine. He noted the funds will assist with the purchase of office supplies.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

10:57

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-5

Commissioner Fairbanks spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Soddy Daisy Vietnam Veterans Foundation in the amount of \$500.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District One. He noted the funds will assist with the purchase of a bugle.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

11:43

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-6

Commissioner Smedley spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Collegedale Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District Seven. She noted the funds will assist with the Collegedale Commons project.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

12:48

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-7

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Front Porch Alliance in the amount of \$5,000.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District Four. He noted the funds will assist with youth programming.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-8

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to A Night to Remember, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District Four. He noted the funds will assist with the organization's scholarship fund.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

13:48

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-9

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this item, which makes an appropriation to Partnership for Families, Children and Adults, Inc., in the amount of \$2,500.00 from General Fund discretionary monies, as allotted to District Eight. He noted the funds will assist with the Deaf Services program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

14:58

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-10

Gail Roppo spoke regarding this item, which accepts a bid of Southeastern Communications Services, Inc. for installation, termination, testing, programming and certification of a Bogen Quantum Intercom System at Ganns Middle Valley Elementary School amounting to \$30,194.45 for the Telecommunications Department. She noted that there were 583 notifications and 1 response. She stated the lack of response was due to the bid requiring an experienced, reputable Bogen certified contractor.

In order to qualify for the manufacturer's warranty on the complete installation project, the contractor and all technicians performing the installation must be trained and certified, or scheduled to be trained and certified, by Bogen prior to award of contract. At the request of Hamilton County government, Bogen Quantum System is in the process of conducting a training program for vendors to increase future bid participation.

17:28

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-11

Alecia Poe, Human Resources Administrator spoke regarding this item, which accepts the proposal of CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company to provide Group Health Plan Administration for Hamilton County. She noted that there were 5

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

notifications and 2 responses; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee (BCBS) was the second response. She gave a side-by-side comparison of both proposals. BCBS did have savings in some areas but CIGNA gave a better overall savings of \$420,701.00.

Commissioner Graham thanked both companies for participating in the bid and Mrs. Poe for her great explanation. He noted the importance of the decision and stated his support for CIGNA.

In response to Commissioner Fields question, Mrs. Poe stated that CIGNA has done a great job administering the county's self-funded health insurance plan. All savings that were projected by CIGNA five years ago have been realized by the county.

Commissioner Boyd thanked Mrs. Poe for her due diligence in explaining the two proposals. He quoted a recent Times Free Press news article in the Region Section published Sunday, January 24th. He stated the article was misleading and asked Mrs. Poe to clear up any possible confusion for the record.

Mrs. Poe reiterated that BCBS did have savings in some areas but CIGNA gave a better overall savings of \$420,701.00 and CIGNA's proposal was also less disruptive to employees.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

Mayor Coppinger gave praise to the staff for their hard work and thanked Russ Blakely and Associates for their consulting services. He also acknowledged that representatives from CIGNA were present in the audience and thanked them for participating in the bid process. Both proposals were very aggressive and he thanked each company for their time.

In response to Commissioner Fairbanks question, Mrs. Poe stated that overall feedback from employees have been overall positive. The majority of complaints are specific to the management of high tech imaging claims. She did point out that BCBS uses the same management as CIGNA.

Mayor Coppinger reminded everyone that the county's health insurance is a self-funded plan. CIGNA is simply administering the county's plan. The county is adamant about staying within the plan, making no exceptions. If the county wants to change the plan and add additional coverage it will cost more. He also pointed out that BCBS and CIGNA use the same company for pre-certifications.

It was also noted that pre-certification guidelines are put in place by the American Medical Association (AMA) and additional recommendations are given with each denial, which may be physical therapy, and/or additional imaging. When there are unusual

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

circumstances and a precertification has been denied by the insurance company, a peer-to-peer review could help with the approval process.

In response to Commissioner Haynes' comments, Mrs. Poe confirmed that due to the Affordable Health Care Act's limits the county will no longer be able to offer the same package they offered in 2011.

Chairman Bankston stated the representatives from Russ Blakely and Associates and CIGNA did not have to attend next week's meeting.

50:15

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-12

Bill Stoll, Hamilton County Risk Management Manger spoke regarding this item which accepts the proposal of BB&T/Huffaker Insurance to provide umbrella liability insurance coverage for Hamilton County. He noted this was renewal of existing coverage that was put in place back in 2001. He noted that policy limits were increased to 2 million per occurrence with a 4 million aggregate. The annual premium for the increased coverage is \$158,248.00 per year.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

54:02

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-13

Commissioner Boyd spoke regarding this item which amends the 2004 Interlocal Agreement between Hamilton County and the Hamilton County Board of Education relative to the construction of school facilities, authorizes the presentation of said amended agreement to the Hamilton County Board of Education for consideration for and approval and authorizes the County Mayor to execute said amended agreement when and if, so approved. He noted that the current local agreement (Resolution No. 504-17) was adopted May 5, 2004 and a review was needed.

County Attorney Rheubin Taylor noted that the state gives the Board of Education all authority regarding the construction and maintenance of schools. He referenced a packet the commission and the clerk's office received explaining the proposed changes. It was noted that the packet was not attached to Resolution No. 216-13.

Commissioner Boyd spoke about each amendment (1) No. 6, Section D, of the proposed agreement was added to identify and create a Selection Committee to be made up of four members: County Mayor, the Hamilton County Department of Education Superintendent, and the proposed projects School Board member and County Commissioner. This allows additional input on the final selection of architects

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

and/or engineers. (2) Additional language added to allow the Review Committee to select and recommend a maximum of three firms who are properly qualified to perform the work. (3) The list of recommendations will then be forwarded to the Selection Committee for consideration. (4) Upon receipt of the list of recommended firm(s) from the Review Committee, the Selection Committee will meet and select (or confirm) one firm as their recommendation on who should perform the work on each project.

Attorney Taylor stated that if Resolution No. 216-13 is adopted the next step will be to present said agreement to the School Board for approval. After reviewing the amended agreement, the School Board may counter offer, deny or accept. The amended agreement is not official until all parties involved have agreed.

Commissioner Mackey questioned if former District 8 Commissioner Curtis Adams initiated the East Ridge Elementary School Project or did the Hamilton County Board of Education. For further clarification, he asked the Clerk's office to research his question. He noted that the proposed Selection Committee has an even number of members; he recommended adding a fifth member.

In attempt to clarify Commissioner Mackey's question, Chairman Bankston, former Chairman of the School Board's Facilities Committee, stated that he presented a list of five school projects, which included East Ridge Elementary, to the Facilities

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

Committee and all five were approved. The School Board then made recommendations to the County Commission. All five schools were also approved by the County Commission.

Commissioner Haynes called upon the Clerk's office to research whether the 2004 Interlocal agreement with the School Board was initiated by the School Board or the County Commission.

In response to Commissioner Haynes question, County Mayor Coppinger stated he was the only person who could sign bonds for the county. In addition he made several comments regarding Commissioner Boyd's proposed amendment. He noted that the current process for selection of architects provides all the necessary checks and balances for county government. He further stated that amending the current process and adding a Selection Committee in addition to the current Review Committee, would be counter intuitive. It doesn't make sense to have a member from the commission on the final Selection Committee, and have the body of the County Commission give final approval. The proposed amendment has the county commission involved in the entire process.

Mayor Coppinger and Commissioner Haynes spoke highly about the county's current state of transparency. Commissioner Haynes spoke about the transparent

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

review process of recent projects, including the new Ganns Middle Valley Elementary school, in his district.

Commissioner Graham noted that the County Commission has the final say as to whether the proposed school project is funded or not.

Commissioner Smedley encouraged the commission to make their decision on a district by district basis.

1:17:00 Commissioner Mackey noted the excess classroom space that is not being used in his district. He recommended the school system reconfigure their boundaries and fill the existing empty space.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 216-14

In response to Chairman Bankston's suggestion, Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, proceeded with hearing this item in Committee of the Whole.

Becky Barnes, Health Services Administrator spoke regarding this item which authorizes the County Mayor on behalf of Hamilton County, Tennessee, the Health Services Division, operating as the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department to

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

sign a contract amendment with the Tennessee Department of Health to provide Family Planning Services to residents of Hamilton County and increase the expense and revenue budget by \$18,400.00. She noted the State of Tennessee is providing the money and this resolution simply accepts the funds.

1:20:03

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

Several Commissioners and Mayor Coppinger gave their condolences to Commissioner Graham and his family regarding the recent passing of his wife's grandmother.

Commissioner Mackey reported that the Chattanooga Central Pounders basketball team won Tuesday's home conference game against Hixson by a score of 81-41.

1:20:50

Commissioner Graham thanked everyone for their condolences and spoke highly of his wife's grandmother.

Time Code
Position

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

1:22:16 Commissioner Boyd invited everyone to attend a community meeting regarding the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) at the East Ridge Community Center, February 9th at 6:30 pm.

1:23:53 Mayor Coppinger expressed get well wishes to Louis Prosterman, Hamilton County Development Supervisor.

Mayor Coppinger spoke about recent workshops and thanked the commission for their participation and attendance. In attempt to continue to keep everyone informed, he noted that additional workshops will be held as needed.

1:26:26 In response to Chairman Bankston's requested, Mrs. Jordan reported that the School Board voted to have a real estate agency list the old East Brainerd Elementary property.

DELEGATIONS

Chairman Bankston asked for delegations on matters other than zoning. There were none.

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
JANUARY 27, 2016**

Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, February 3rd at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

02-17-16
Date

W.F.K.
Clerk's Initials