

**HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSION
AGENDA PREPARATION SESSION
MARCH 30, 2016**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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

- The Trustee Monthly and Excess Fee Reports for January and February 2016 would be submitted for the record.
- An order appointing Hugh Coulter to the North West Utility District Board of Commissioners would be submitted for the record.
- Resolution No. 416-1 was the usual County Clerk item regarding notaries, etc. This required no committee assignment.
- Resolution Nos. 416-10, 416-11, 416-12, 416-14 through 416-16, and 416-18 were assigned to the Finance Committee, chaired by Commissioner Boyd.
- Resolution Nos. 416-2 through 416-9, 416-13, and 416-17 were heard by a Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Bankston stated that Resolution Nos. 416-2 through 416-9, 416-13, and 416-17 would now be heard by the Committee of the Whole.

0:59

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-2

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appoints John Shackleford to the Hamilton County Employee Appeals Board for a term ending August 5, 2017.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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1:17 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-3**

Chairman Bankston spoke regarding this item, which appoints Dr. Blaise W. Baxter to the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Hospital Authority Board of Trustees, for a term ending November 1, 2019.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

1:39 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-4**

Commissioner Bankston spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district nine, in the amount of one thousand dollars to assist with ongoing programs at Chattanooga's Kids on the Block, Inc.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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2:12 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-5**

Commissioner Beck spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district five, in an amount of three thousand dollars to assist A Night to Remember, Inc. with their scholarship program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

2:50 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-6**

Commissioner Fields spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of ten thousand dollars in general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district two, to assist the town of Red Bank with their Dixie Youth Program.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

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3:01 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-7**

Commissioner Mackey spoke regarding this item, which approves the expenditure of two thousand dollars in general fund discretionary monies, as allotted to district four, to assist Kappa Foundation of Chattanooga with their scholarship fund.

There were no questions from Commissioners.

3:30 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-8**

Chief Deputy Sheriff Allen Branum spoke regarding this item, which approves an Interlocal agreement between the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County for modifications and improvements to the Chattanooga/Hamilton County firing range, located at 300 Moccasin Bend Road, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 and to provide for equal sharing of ongoing operational costs of same.

The funds will be utilized to allow a new portable building transported to the site, to install a 30-Position target system; a 90-foot Running Man target system; a shoot-house; a training lab; upgrade the current speakers and sound system; replace defective items currently being utilized at the range; and to upgrade security and maintenance as well as additional parking.

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In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Chief Branum stated that the County is still working closely with the City of Chattanooga to replace the firing range. He noted that conversation has been going on for some time. The Moccasin Bend firing range is jointly owned by the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

Several Commissioners had issue with spending additional money at the Moccasin Bend location. They encouraged the Firing Range Committee (FRC) to move toward getting a long term plan in place. It was recommended the County consider having a firing range separate from the City of Chattanooga.

Chief Branum reminded everyone that the task of relocating the firing range is in response to a request from the National Service Park. The firing range is completely encompassed by the new Moccasin Bend National Park. Back in 2013 the National Service Park requested that the current land housing the facility be turned over to them for future use and park expansion. During that time (Resolution No. 113-14) it was noted that in order to continue mandatory firearms training and qualification, a suitable indoor range must be constructed for HCSO and CPD training operations. Outdoor firing ranges, like the one at Moccasin Bend are no longer suitable. The State of Tennessee requires all armed officers to complete a minimum of eight hours at the firing range per year.

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In response to several questions from Commissioners, it was noted that Hamilton County's contribution will be provided from bond proceeds; 95% of the improvements will qualify for bonds, 5% will be paid using operation funds. The operational costs of the facility will be shared equally by both parties and is currently included in the Sheriff's Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

In response to Commissioner Mackey's question, Development Director Dan Saieed stated he would look for grants that could be used to cover the costs. He noted that he has been in contact with the Southeast Tennessee Development District.

In response to Commissioner Smedley's question, Mayor Coppinger stated that equipment purchased with county bond monies will be county owned property.

It was also noted that the City of Chattanooga supported the proposed Interlocal agreement and they will also be contributing \$150,000.00.

Commissioner Graham noted he would be supporting the resolution and reiterated that the equipment being purchased is portable if the firing range relocates.

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27:31 **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-9**

Attorney Taylor, spoke regarding this item, which approves the issuance of bonds for the benefit of Woodbine Community Organization (WCO) AL DP, LLC. He introduced Attorney Patrick Alexander, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP and Richard “Dick” Brown, Attorney and Financial Advisor for Open Arms Care Corporation noted that this is simply a procedural matter and no cost to the county. The federal government requires local government to approve and hold a public hearing with respect to the proposed plan of financing for the issuance of the bonds to refinance the existing Hamilton County facilities and to finance two new Hamilton County facilities. The public hearing was advertised and will be conducted during next week’s commission meeting.

Attorney Taylor pointed out that the County Commission has approved this same process in the past (Resolution Nos. 1291-43 and 598-37).

It was explained that the state has agreed to close a 40-year-old facility in east Tennessee for people with limited mental functioning. Under the plan the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will close Greene Valley Development Center in Greenville, TN, moving the remaining residents into more home-like settings

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integrated into neighborhoods. The plan to close Greene Valley is part of an overall agreement submitted in federal court, which ended a long-running lawsuit.

The purpose of the resolution is to (1) refinance 32 residential treatment facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, each containing eight beds, for a total of 256 beds, and four day program service facilities and (2) finance the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of nine residential treatment facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, each containing four beds, for a total of 36 beds.

Nine of the existing facilities being refinanced are located in Hamilton County and two new facilities will be constructed at 7817 Gamble Road, Georgetown, TN 37336. All facilities are owned by WCO, leased to Open Arms Care Corporation and managed by Integra Resources, LLC.

In response to Commissioner Graham, Attorney Taylor confirmed that the County has no liability if the organization defaults on the tax free municipal bonds. Commissioner Graham noted he would be supporting the resolution.

Chairman Bankston asked that Attorney Alexander and Attorney Brown both be present at next week's meeting. To accommodate their schedule the Chairman agreed to move the resolution forward on agenda and hear it as the first item.

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35:33

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-13

Development Director Dan Saieed spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the County Mayor to submit a grant application to develop a conceptual master plan for Chester Frost Park to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 which includes a \$20,000 county match.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development is offering a Tourism Enhancement Grant that provides funds for planning. The process would include Pinky's Point, a 200 acre undeveloped section, and improvements to park features and amenities that could, in some cases, create new sources of revenue.

In response to Commissioner Boyd's question, Mr. Saieed stated that it was his understanding that hotel-motel tax monies are earmarked for marketing and it was questionable if the Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) would be able to use said monies to pay the \$20,000 county match. He noted that the grant application must be submitted by April 18th.

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Mayor Coppinger reiterated that this resolution is a request to submit a grant application. If the grant is awarded, it is a possibility that the \$20,000 may come from the CVB's hotel-motel tax fund.

Commissioner Graham explained that the hotel-motel tax is allocated to CVB for the promotion of specific area events and fostering of tourism within the Hamilton County area (Resolution No. 207-27). He thanked Mr. Saieed and his staff for finding grants and bringing them to the commission and reiterated that this resolution is a request to submit a grant application.

Mayor Coppinger stated that if the grant is awarded the \$20,000 will be recouped through fees charged for the added amenities at the park.

42:49

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – RESOLUTION NO. 416-17

John Agan, Director of Engineering spoke regarding this item, which authorizes the slope stabilization repairs of Hotwater Road by GeoStabilization International on the state contract for soil nailing for various counties. Hotwater Road in Hamilton County has exhibited an area which requires slope stabilization along the roadway to preserve the existing road platform. The slope stabilization repairs require specialized

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geotechnical design and construction methods that can be provided by GeoStabilization International.

The price for the repairs from the state contract is \$296,593.00. The work is required and will be coming out of the Highway Department's operating budget. He also noted that GeoStabilization International is the same company that repaired Robert Mills Road, Cash Canyon Road, Montlake Road, and the W Road emergency repair.

Commissioner Graham spoke highly of GeoStabilization International and stated that the Cash Canyon Road repairs provided a long term fix and were very beneficial.

Commissioner Boyd, Chairman of the Finance Committee, announced that the Finance Committee would be meeting in the Commission Room immediately following today's Agenda Session.

46:49

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bankston asked for announcements from members of the Commission.

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As had been announced earlier Cleveland Grimes, longtime Executive Director of the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA), passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, March 29th. Commission members, Mayor Copping, and Attorney Taylor spoke highly of Cleveland Grimes and gave their condolences to his family. Mayor Copping especially praised Mr. Grimes. He stated that he was extremely valuable in leading this difficult program and that his work in making the program successful will be missed.

47:39 Commissioner Graham encouraged everyone to participate and volunteer at their local recreation center. He recognized that his wife, son and daughter were present in the audience and wished his daughter a happy 16th birthday.

50:12 Commissioner Boyd announced that out of respect for Mr. Grimes' family the community meeting on March 31st at 6:30 pm at the Red Bank Community Center regarding the Hamilton County Waste and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) is postponed until further notice.

51:02 Commissioner Fields announced that the County Public Records Commission is meeting April 6, 2016 at 8 am in the Commission conference room, Room 106 Courthouse.

Time Code
Position

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51:47

Commissioner Smedley announced that the Commission and School Board meeting that Commissioner Beck requested regarding school facilities has been postponed until a further notice. She stated that she is waiting to hear back from School Board member Jonathan Welch.

1:00:04

DELEGATIONS

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

Being no further business, Chairman Bankston declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, April 6th at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted:



William F. (Bill) Knowles, County Clerk

Approved:

04-20-16
Date

W.F.K
Clerk's Initials