

Board of Supervisors – November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 6:00 pm in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

Honorable Steve Bates – Vice-Chairman	<u>ABSENT</u>
Honorable J. H. Rivers	
Honorable James Lawson (By phone)	Honorable John T. Schoolcraft – Chairman
Honorable Robert E. Robbins, Jr.	
Honorable Fred Luntsford	
Honorable Bobby Cassell (By phone)	
Honorable Robert R. Adkins – members of said Board and Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator (By phone)	
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney	
Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary	

PRAYER

Bob Adkins led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

MINUTES

Robby Robbins made a motion to approve the minutes of October 08, 2020 as presented. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion.

Supervisor Rivers stated that the Minutes for October 8, 2020 show that Supervisor Cassell voted in favor of the Resolution Redesignating Funds Now Designated for County Construction Projects. He voted nay and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect his vote.

Mr. Robbins amended his motion to approve the October 08, 2020 minutes as amended to show that Supervisor Cassell voted nay on the Resolution Redesignating Funds Now Designated for County Construction Projects. Fred Luntsford seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the agenda as presented to include the items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – TOWN OF POUND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a proposed boundary adjustment between the County and the Town of Pound. The proposed adjustment areas contain approximately 38.5 acres of land, specifically, the immediate areas around the former Pound High School and the current J. W. Adams School.

Cliff Cauthorne and Walter Crouse were in favor of the boundary adjustment.

Stacy Carson, Town of Pound Mayor, has no problem with the adjustment. She was concerned that the Town of Pound has not held its public hearing to hear the voice of the people in the Pound area.

Terry Shortt, a former Town of Pound Council member, asked the Board to table any action on this item because there are several unanswered questions including cost vs revenue. The people in Pound need to have their input before any decision is made.

Attorney Mullins stated that both parties need to have a public hearing for public input prior to any agreement being signed.

There being no further public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: MECC UPDATE

Dr. Kristen Westover, President MECC, gave an overview of changes that have been made at the college due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the changes in certain activities. She briefed the Board on the CARES Act funding that has been awarded to MECC and the benefits that have been reaped from those funds. An update was given on the different training courses that are available at the college.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Bill Gilliam, representing the Historical Society in Pound, after hearing that the old Pound High School is going to be demolished, asked for the Pound High School sign that is above the door at the entrance of the school building. The Historical Society would like to place the sign in the Pound Historical Society as part of Pound's history.

Walter Crouse, a resident of the Hurricane section of Wise County, stated that some former students at the Pound High School may want something from the school as a souvenir. He voiced his opposition to online learning and the health issues associated with this type of schooling. Citizens need to recycle to save space in the landfill. The County needs to watch its spending and keep its personnel working.

Stacy Carson, Town of Pound Mayor, gave an update on the upcoming events scheduled for the year-end holidays in Pound.

Jennifer Davis, a resident of Dotson Creek, asked the Board's assistance in getting Comcast to provide adequate cable services to its customers, especially during this pandemic with children having to do schoolwork from home. Many calls have been made to Comcast regarding different problems that individuals are having, and requests have been made for better service, yet nothing is being done.

Board members voiced their frustration with Comcast as well. County Staff and Board members have contacted Comcast with different complaints with little or no change in service.

There being no further comments the public expression period was closed.

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – SIX YEAR PLAN

Set a public hearing (12-10-2020 @ 6:00 pm) on the proposed Wise County Secondary Six-Year Plan and Secondary System Construction Budget

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Set a public hearing (12-10-2020 @ 6:00 pm) on the proposed Comprehensive Plan for Wise County

The motion to approve the Consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT – TOWN OF POUND

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to table any action on the Town of Pound Boundary Adjustment until after the Town of Pound has advertised for a public hearing. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BONUS PAYMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by Bob Adkins, to authorize the County Administrator to prepare and pay Thank You bonus payments to County and Constitutional employees with an amount not to exceed \$551,034.00.

Aye	Steve Bates	Abstain-	Fred Luntsford
	Bobby Cassell		
	James Lawson		
	Robby Robbins		
	Bob Adkins		
	J. H. Rivers		

Motion carried.

Supervisor Robbins voiced his concern that the County needs to save money, where possible, to pay on the principal for the school debt. Every effort needs to be taken to bring the debt down as quickly as possible.

IN RE: RESOLUTION FOR COMPLIANCE – GLAMORGAN SEWER PROJECT

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by J. H. Rivers to approve the resolution for compliance regarding the Glamorgan Sewer Project. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 2020

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office)

IN RE: RESOLUTION OPPOSING REVISION OF JUDICIAL DOCTRINE OF QUALIFIED IMMUNITY – LAW ENFORCEMENT

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the resolution opposing any legislative repeal or revision of the judicial doctrine of qualified immunity for Law Enforcement Officials. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 2020

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator’s Office)

IN RE: COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY – POSITION

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the request from the Commonwealth Attorney for a temporary/full-time position at a rate of \$40,000 per year with single insurance coverage to begin 11-1-2020 and end November 1, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Robby Robbins, to approve Budget amendments #13 through #16 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by Steve Bates, to appoint Gary L. Hall to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a term of four (4) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – BUILDING CODE & APPEALS BOARD

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by James Lawson, to re-appoint Jimmy Hawkins to the Building Code and Appeals Board for a term of five (5) years. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members reiterated the need for cable competition, which would give citizens a choice for better service. At this time, the Board has no control over Comcast. Hopefully, there will be some competition available once Comcast's franchise has expired.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made by Robby Robbins, seconded by Bob Adkins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

John T. Schoolcraft, Chairman