



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

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- 10-A Linda Webb 865-389-0541 lwebb@blounttn.org
- 10-B David Wells 865-221-7603 dwells@blounttn.org

Thursday, February 20, 2025

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

Live stream via <https://zoom.us/join>

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 0848 9165

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Blount County Courthouse of Maryville, Tennessee. Blount County Commission Chairman Jared Anderson called the meeting to order. An electronic roll call was taken by Blount County Clerk Gaye Hasty. There were 18 members present and 3 were absent. The Chairman declared that a quorum was present. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present:** 18 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Chairperson Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Quentin Caldwell, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Mike Caylor, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, and Commissioner David Wells
- Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Jeff Jopling, and Commissioner Linda Webb

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Martin, that the agenda be set as published. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the Consent Calendar be approved.

With no objection, the Chairman declared there to be a couple of changes to the Commission minutes for January 16, 2025. In reference to item F.5. Resolution No. 25-01-014, "A Resolution Protecting Property Ownership Rights of Citizens of Blount County." the following amendments were made:

1) page 8 states, "Commissioner Giles asked to suspend the rules in order to ask another commissioner a question. Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared the rules to be suspended" insert "for the purpose stated."; and

2) page 9, the motion made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that called for the question states that the motion "passed", but it actually "failed" to receive a two-thirds vote.

There was no objection to these revisions.

An electronic vote was taken on the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

1. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on January 16, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [MeetingMinutes13-Feb-2025-03-47-20](#)

The minutes were approved as amended.

In reference to item F.5. Resolution No. 25-01-014, "A Resolution Protecting Property Ownership Rights of Citizens of Blount County." the following amendments were made:

- 1) page 8 states, "Commissioner Giles asked to suspend the rules in order to ask another commissioner a question. Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared the rules to be suspended" insert "for the purpose stated."; and
- 2) page 9, the motion made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that called for the question states that the motion "passed", but it actually "failed" to receive a two-thirds vote..

2. [Minutes of Zoning Public Hearing on January 7, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [ZPH Minutes 2025-Jan-7](#)

The minutes were approved.

3. [Approval of Bonds and Oaths.](#)

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 25-02-011](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2025-Feb-20](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2025-Feb-20](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

4. [Notaries to be Elected.](#)

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2025-Feb-20](#)

The notaries were elected.

5. [Receiving of Reports. \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [Minutes of Budget Committee 2024-Dec-10](#)

[Records Requests Quarterly Report OCT-DEC 2024](#)

[Trustee Report December 2024](#)

The reports were received and filed.

6. [January 2025 Financial Reports \(INFORMATION ONLY\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update January 2025](#)
[ARPA Tracking 1.31.25](#)
[FY24.25 Capital Plan](#)
[January 2025 Expense Report](#)
[January 2025 Revenue Report](#)
[YTD Expense Report as of January 31, 2025](#)
[YTD Revenue Report as of January 31, 2025](#)
[US Bank Report January 2025](#)

The reports were received and filed.

7. [Consideration for approval; Draft - Blount County Government Finance Department Policies and Procedures. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Memo- Financial Management Policies & Procedures](#)
[Policies & Procedures Manual - Finance Department Rev Jan 2025](#)
[PDF](#)

The policies and procedures were received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.****1. [Agriculture Extension Committee \(2-Year Term\) Appointments of Farm Women Rep. Lyssa McKenry and Farm Men Rep. Steve Myers.](#)**

Attachments: [Ag Committee appointments February 2025](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the appointments be approved. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**F. NEW BUSINESS.**

1. [BCSO Grant Application - \\$200,000.00, \(To apply for FY25 Bureau of Justice Assistant Grant to purchase a Virtual Training Simulator that provides different scenarios during training; no matching funds are required\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [BCSO Grant Application Worksheet VR Training Simulator](#)

[Backup - BCSO VR Training Simulator Quote](#)

[Backup - BCSO VR Training Support Documents](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the grant application request be approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner King, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that items F.1 thru 16 be adopted. Commissioner Mikels objected to this motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner French that the items be combined as follows:

F.2 and 3 (Civil Defense budget increases);

F.4, 5, 6 and 7 (General Services budget increases);

F.8, 9 and 10 (County Clerk budget increases); and

F.11 and 12 (Juvenile Court budget increases).

Hearing no objection, the Chairman declared those items to be combined.

An electronic vote was taken on the motion that the grant application request be approved. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 25-02-001, Budget Increase – Civil Defense - \\$2,758.95 \(Accept and appropriate additional funds for Emergency Management Performance Grant received from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Civil Defense Emergency Management Performance Grant](#)

[Grant](#)

[Amendment - Civil Defense Emergency Management Performance Grant](#)

[Grant](#)

[Memo - Civil Defense Emergency Management Performance Grant](#)

[Backup - Civil Defense Emergency Management Performance Grant](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Bowers, that Resolution nos. 25-02-001 and 25-02-002 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 25-02-002, Budget Increase – Civil Defense - \\$2,562.50 \(Accept and appropriate additional funds for Homeland Security Program Grant received from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Civil Defense State Homeland Security Program Grant](#)
[Amendment - Civil Defense State Homeland Security Program Grant](#)
[Memo - Civil Defense State Homeland Security Program Grant](#)
[Backup - Civil Defense State Homeland Security Program Grant](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.2.

4. [Resolution No. 25-02-003, Budget Increase – General Services - \\$127,972.40 \(Appropriate funds to upgrade county security cameras and access control systems.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - General Svcs Security Cameras and Controls Upgrade](#)
[Amendment - General Svcs Security Cameras and Controls Upgrade](#)
[Memo - General Svcs Security Cameras and Controls Upgrade](#)
[Backup - General Svcs Security Cameras and Controls Upgrade](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that Resolution nos. 25-02-003, 25-02-004, 25-02-005 and 25-02-006 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

5. [Resolution No. 25-02-004, Budget Increase – General Services - \\$79,600.00 \(Accept and appropriate funds from the Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \[EECBG\] for the purchase and installation of three HVAC units.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - General Services EECBG](#)
[Amendment - General Services EECBG](#)
[Memo - General Services EECBG](#)
[Backup - EECBG Program Allocations](#)
[Backup - EECBG Request for Consideration](#)
[Backup - Grant Information Worksheet Central Svs EECBG](#)
[Backup - EECBG quotes](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.4.

6. [Resolution No. 25-02-005, Budget Increase – General Services - \\$36,762.00 \(Appropriate funds for painting the stairwells in the county courthouse.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - General Services Stairwell Paint](#)
[Amendment - General Services Stairwell Paint](#)
[Memo - General Services Stairwell Paint](#)
[Backup - Stair Painting Quotes](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.4.

7. [Resolution No. 25-02-006, Budget Increase – General Services - \\$19,324.00 \(Appropriate funds for modernizing building automation system that controls the HVAC units in county buildings.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - General Services HVAC Controls Upgrade](#)
[Amendment - General Services HVAC Controls Upgrade](#)
[Memo - General Services HVAC Controls Upgrade](#)
[Backup - Trane BAS quote](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.4.

8. [Resolution No. 25-02-007, Budget Increase – County Clerk - \\$25,834.00* \(Appropriate funds by use of fund balance for an additional counter clerk to support the increase of customer transactions.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\). *Amount amended at the Workshop meeting from twelve \(12\) month salary of \\$62,001.00 to five \(5\) month prorated salary.](#)

Attachments: [AMENDED Resolution - County Clerk request for additional employee 5 Month Prorated](#)
[AMENDED Amendment - County Clerk request for additional employee 5 Month Prorated](#)
[Amendment - County Clerk Request for Additional Employee](#)
[Resolution - County Clerk Request for Additional Employee](#)
[Memo - County Clerk Request for Additional Employee](#)
[Backup County Clerk Dashboard](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that Resolution nos. 25-02-007, 25-002-008 and 25-02-009 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

9. [Resolution No. 25-02-008, Budget Increase - County Clerk - \\$20,840.00 \(Appropriate funds from the Other State Revenue Vehicles Reserve to update and replace credit card machines, barcode scanners, and signature pads allowing more payment options for customers.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - County Clerk Data Processing Equipment](#)
[Amendment - County Clerk Data Processing Equipment](#)
[Memo - County Clerk Data Processing Equipment](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.8.

10. [Resolution No. 25-02-009, Budget Increase – County Clerk - \\$4,830.00 \(Appropriate funds from the Electronic Insurance Verification Revenue Reserve to create two new workstations and purchase new license plate cabinets.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - County Clerk Work Stations and License Plate Cabinets](#)

[Amendment - County Clerk Work Stations and License Plate Cabinets](#)

[Memo - County Clerk Work Stations and License Plate Cabinets](#)

[Backup - Work Stations and License Plate Cabinets Quote](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.8.

11. [Resolution No. 25-02-010, Budget Increase – Juvenile Court - \\$220,000.00 \(Re-appropriate Opioid Abatement grant funds to continue services with Helen Ross McNabb in support of Journey Court for at risk children.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Juvenile Court TN Opioid Abatement Grant](#)

[Amendment - Juvenile Court TN Opioid Abatement Grant](#)

[Memo - Juvenile Court TN Opioid Abatement Grant](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that Resolution nos. 25-02-010 and 25-02-012 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

12. [Resolution No. 25-02-012, Budget Increase – Juvenile Court - \\$100,000.00 \(Accept and appropriate funds from Safe Baby Court yearly grant awarded to support coordinator position and the salary supplement to the juvenile court services director for oversight of program.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Juvenile Court Safe Baby Court Grant](#)

[Amendment - Juvenile Court Safe Baby Court Grant](#)

[Memo - Juvenile Court Safe Baby Court Grant](#)

[Backup - Safe Baby Court Grant Extra Supporting Documentation](#)

[Backup - Safe Baby Court Grant Worksheet](#)

This Resolution was adopted according to the action taken above in item F.11.

13. [Resolution No. 25-02-013, Budget Increase – Highway - \\$1,500,000.00 \(Appropriate funds for asphalt hot mix to allow the Highway Department to pave additional roads for the county.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - HWY Asphalt Mix](#)
[Amendment - HWY Asphalt Mix](#)
[Memo - HWY Asphalt Mix](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner French, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

14. [Resolution No. 25-02-014, Budget Appropriation – BCSO - \\$687,141.00 \(Appropriate Federal Opioid Funds for FY25-27 for eligible expenses in the Blount County Sheriff's Office.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - BCSO Appropriation of Opioid Funds](#)
[Amendment - BCSO Appropriation of Opioid Funds](#)
[Memo - BCSO Appropriation of Opioid Funds](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner French, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

15. [Resolution No. 25-02-015, Budget Decrease – BCSO - \\$229,047.00 \(Decrease funds originally budgeted during FY25 with local revenue sources that are eligible for the use of federal opioid funds.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - BCSO Use of Opioid Funds](#)
[Amendment - BCSO Use of Opioid Funds](#)
[Memo - BCSO Use of Opioid Funds](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

16. [Resolution No. 25-02-016, Budget Increase – Animal Center - \\$14,000.00 \(Appropriate SMACF reserve fund balance to help cover expected operational cost.\) Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(4-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - Animal Center](#)
[Amendment - Animal Center](#)
[Memo - Animal Center](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Carver, that the Resolution be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

17. [Resolution No. 25-02-018, A Resolution by the Blount County Board of Commissioners Supporting the Efforts of the Blount County Highway Department to Repair and Maintain the Swinging Bridge in Townsend, Tennessee, Known as the "Dark Island Bridge"](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Maintaining Swinging Bridge](#)
[Jopling, Bowers & Akard 02-03-25 \(Dark Island Bridge\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowers, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the item be postponed for one month. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Carver, Giles, McMahan, and Mikels

No: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Caylor, Davis, French, King, Martin, Reagan, and Wells

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken on the motion that the Resolution be adopted. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 18 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bledsoe, Bowers, Bright, Caldwell, Carver, Caylor, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 3 - Hannah, Jopling, and Webb

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.

H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

I. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chairman declared, that with no further business, and in hearing no objection, the meeting be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners having met in regular session on Thursday, February 20, 2025, adjourned at 7:17 p.m.