



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Commissioners

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Thursday, October 19, 2023

6:30 PM

Blount County Courthouse, Room 430

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 2176 6209

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, October 19, 2023, 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 the Clerk. There were 17 members present and 4 were absent. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present:** 17 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Chairperson Jared Anderson, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Vice Chair Nick Bright, Commissioner Richard Carver, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner Ron French, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Scott King, Commissioner Staci Martin, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Steve Mikels, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, Commissioner Tom Stinnett, Commissioner Linda Webb, and Commissioner David Wells
- Absent:** 4 - Commissioner Dyran Bledsoe, Commissioner Brad Bowers, Commissioner Mike Caylor, and Commissioner Jeff Jopling

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner French, that the agenda be set.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stinnett to combine the Highway Department items F.1, F.3, F.4 and F.12; and the Sheriff's Office items F.5, F.6, F.7, F.8 and F.13. With no objection, the Chairman declared those items to be grouped for a singular vote.

An electronic vote was taken to set the agenda as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

B. CONSENT CALENDAR.

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

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright that item B.7 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for discussion and possible action. With no objection, the Chairman declared that item B.7 would be pulled from Consent Calendar as information only, and would be the last item considered under F. New Business.

An electronic vote was taken to adopt the Consent Calendar as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

1. [Proclamation in Recognition of October 15 - 21, 2023 as National Friends of the Library Week.](#)

Attachments: [Proclamation in Recognition of October 15-21, 2023 as National Friends of the Library Week.](#)

The Proclamation was read out loud by Commissioner Reagan, and presented by the County Mayor and commissioners to Blount County Public Library Director Manny Leite.

2. [Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting on September 21, 2023.](#)

Attachments: [Minutes \(48\)](#)

The minutes were approved.

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

Attachments: [BONDS AND OATHS RESOLUTION 23-10-011](#)

[Oaths of Deputy Sheriff 2023-Oct-19](#)

[Notary Public Bonds Oaths 2023-Oct-19](#)

The Resolution was adopted.

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

Attachments: [Notaries to be Elected 2023-Oct-19](#)

The notaries were elected.

5. [Receiving of Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [Jail Inspection Report for August 2023](#)

[Jail Inspection Report for September 2023](#)

[Minutes of Animal Center Advisory Board 2023-Jun-27](#)

[Minutes of Beer Board 2023-Sep-12](#)

[Minutes of Budget Committee 2023-Sep-12](#)

[Minutes of Education Committee 2023-Aug-29](#)

[Perishables Report Q1 FY24](#)

[Trustee Report for September 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

6. [September 2023 Financial Reports. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [ARPA Utility Project Update September 2023](#)

[ARPA Tracking 9.30.23](#)

[FY23.24 Capital Exhibit](#)

[SEPTEMBER 2023 EXPENSE REPORT](#)

[SEPTEMBER 2023 REVENUE REPORT](#)

[YTD EXPENSE REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 2023](#)

[YTD REVENUE REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30 2023](#)

[US BANK REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023](#)

The reports were received and filed.

8. [Tuckaleechee Utility Board of Commissioners \(4-Year Term\) Reappointment of Lamar Dunn. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [Lamar Dunn Comm Packet 10-2023](#)

The appointment was received and filed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

D. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND CONFIRMATIONS.

1. [Veterans Affairs Committee Appointment of Larry Grant, American Legion Post 13.](#)

Attachments: [BCG Email - Fwd Veterans Affairs Committee](#)
[AmericanLegion Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stinnett, seconded by Commissioner French, that the appointment be approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Akard, that the appointment be postponed until the November commission meeting. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 15 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 2 - French, and Stinnett

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

F. NEW BUSINESS.

1. [Resolution No. 23-10-001. Budget Increase - Highway Capital - \\$501,863.50 \(Appropriate funds for repairs to Long Rifle Road Slip, Blair Loop Road Slip and Helton Road Bridge\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Hwy Long Rifle Slip Blair Loop Slip Helton Rd Bridge](#)
[Amendment Hwy Slips Long Rifle Slip Blair Loop Slip Helton Rd Bridge](#)
[Memo Hwy Long Rifle Slip Blair Loop Slip Helton Rd Bridge](#)
[GSI Proposal Long Rifle Slip](#)
[GSI Proposal Helton Rd](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stinnett, seconded by Commissioner King, that the Resolutions in items F.1, F.3, F.4 and F.12 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

2. [Resolution No. 23-10-002. Budget Increase - Highway Capital - \\$200,000.00 \(Accept and appropriate TEAP Grant funds for tire recycling; with a 80/20 split, with Blount County's portion at \\$40,000.00\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Hwy Tire Grant \(2\)](#)
[Amendment Hwy Tire Grant](#)
[Memo Hwy Tire Grant](#)
[Backup Hwy Tire Grant](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Stinnett, that the Resolution be adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, seconded by Vice Chair Bright, that the Resolution be amended by 1) striking the first whereas clause and replacing it with "WHEREAS, Blount County requests to increase the Highway Department Budget to appropriate the use of Highway Fund Balance to accept and appropriate the Tire Environmental Act Program (TEAP) to test using recycled tires as an asphalt additive on roads; with a 80/20 split (Blount County's portion at \$40,000). This is referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee (5-0)."; and 2) striking the word "September" in the now therefore, be it resolved clause and replacing it with "October". An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

An electronic vote was taken to adopt the Resolution as amended. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 1 - King

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

3. [Resolution No. 23-10-003. Budget Increase - Highway Capital - \\$198,500.00 \(Appropriate funds for phase three of the traffic impact study for East Broadway and Old Knoxville Highway\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Hwy Ph3 Traffic Study](#)
[Amendment Hwy Ph3 Traffic Study](#)
[Memo Hwy Ph 3 Traffic Study](#)
[Back up Hwy Ph3 Traffic Study](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.1 above.

4. [Resolution No. 23-10-004. Budget Increase - Highway Capital - \\$192,000.00 \(Appropriate funds for purchase of used Track Hoe for use in the field for bridge and slip repairs\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Hwy Track Hoe](#)
[Amendment Hwy Track Hoe](#)
[Memo Hwy Track Hoe](#)
[Quote 320 Excavator](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.1 above.

5. [Resolution No. 23-10-005. Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$119,959.00 \(Appropriate awarded mental health transport grant funds\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO Mental Health Grant](#)
[Amendment-BCSO Mental Health Grant](#)
[Memo BCSO Mental Health Grant](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Akard, seconded by Commissioner Reagan, that the Resolutions in items F.5, F.6, F.7, F.8 and F.13 be adopted. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

6. [Resolution No. 23-10-006. Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$24,500.00 \(Appropriate awarded senior outreach program grant funds\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO Senior Outreach grant](#)
[Amendment- BCSO Senior Outreach Grant](#)
[Memo BCSO Senior Outreach award letter](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.5 above.

7. [Resolution No. 23-10-007. Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$22,147.00 \(Appropriate awarded Justice Assistance Grant funds for interoperable radio communications equipment\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution BCSO JAG grant](#)
[Amendment BCSO JAG grant](#)
[Memo-email detailing JAG grant](#)
[JAG grant award letter](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.5 above.

8. [Resolution No. 23-10-008. Budget Increase - BCSO - \\$14,994.52 \(Appropriate awarded corrections emergency response team training equipment grant funds\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution - BCSO TCI grant](#)
[Amendment BCSO TCI grant](#)
[Backup BCSO TCI grant](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.5 above.

9. [Resolution No. 23-10-009. Budget Increase - School Capital - \\$67,500.00 \(Appropriate funds for consulting fees needed for roof design and construction oversight at William Blount High School\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution School Capital \(WBHS Roof\)](#)
[Amendment School Capital \(WBHS Roof\)](#)
[Memo School Capital \(WBHS Roof\)](#)

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

Yes: 17 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Stinnett, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 4 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, and Jopling

Abstain: 0

10. [Resolution No. 23-10-010. Budget Increase - Central Services Capital - \\$34,833.00 \(Appropriate funds to replace damaged floor in the property assessor's office\). Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Central Svs Capital Prop asses floor](#)
[Amendment Central Svs Capital Prop asses floors](#)
[Memo Central Svs capital prop asses floor](#)

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

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

11. [Resolution No. 23-10-014. A Resolution for Broadband Ready Communities.](#)

Attachments: [Broadband Ordinance Blount County](#)
[Broadband Eligible items](#)
[Broadband Designated Ready Communities](#)

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: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

12. [Resolution No. 23-10-015. Highway Department requests to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Parks and Rec and the Blount County Highway Department to acquire materials and services between the two departments. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Hwy MOU with Parks & Rec](#)
[Parks & Rec MOU](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.1 above.

13. [Resolution No. 23-10-016. Purchasing requests the Sheriff's Office Department agreement with Flock Safety be approved with terms extending beyond the current fiscal year to lock in current pricing and maximize cost savings. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION - Purchasing multi year BCSO Flock](#)
[Memo BCSO multi-year Law Enforcement contract](#)
[Back up BCSO multi year Law Enforcement Agreement](#)

The Resolution was adopted according to the action taken in item F.5 above.

14. [Resolution No. 23-10-017. Purchasing requests a multi-year contract with LexisNexis \(online legal research platform\) for Circuit Court starting in the FY 2023-2024 until FY 2026-2027 for purposes of saving on subscription fees. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [Resolution Lexis Law Library](#)
[Memo Lexis Law Library](#)
[Lexis Agreement](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Carver, 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: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

15. [Resolution No. 23-10-018. Office of the Mayor requests that the Mayor have authority to execute the Interlocal Agreement and use of fund balance, not to exceed \\$42,035.00, to keep the Great Smoky Mountains National Park open in the event of Federal Government shutdown. Referred to full commission with a favorable recommendation by the Budget Committee \(5-0\).](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION office of the mayor interlocal 2](#)
[Agreement - Blount County, Gatlinburg, Pigeon F \(1\)](#)
[Memo office of the mayor interlocal](#)

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

Yes: 16 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Bright, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, Hannah, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 0

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

7. [Blount County Highway Department Employee Handbook. \(Information Only\)](#)

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 23-11-013 Highway Dept Employee Handbook](#)

[Memo Re BCHD Handbook](#)

[BCHD Handbook](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Bright, seconded by Commissioner Mikels, to disapprove of the action taken on the Blount County Highway Department Employee Handbook, while acknowledging its legality.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mikels, seconded by Commissioner Giles, to amend the pending main motion that the Blount County Highway Department Employee Handbook be disapproved while acknowledging the legality of it, and to further request information from the Highway Superintendent why the action was taken.

A motion was made by Commissioner Giles to request a business case to the county as to why the action was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have failed for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Commissioner McMahan, seconded by Commissioner King, that the item be postponed in order for the Highway Superintendent to respond to the full commission's request for explanation. An electronic vote was taken. The Chairman declared the motion to have passed by the following vote:

Yes: 14 - Akard, Anderson, Bennett, Carver, Davis, French, Giles, King, Martin, McMahan, Mikels, Reagan, Webb, and Wells

No: 2 - Bright, and Hannah

Absent: 5 - Bledsoe, Bowers, Caylor, Jopling, and Stinnett

Abstain: 0

G. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS.**H. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.****I. ADJOURNMENT.**

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned. The Blount County Board of Commissioners having met in regular session on Thursday, October 19, 2023, adjourned at 8:24 p.m.