



Bradley County Commission
Johnny Mull, Chairman
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 12, 2021, at noon
Bradley County Courthouse

Members present: Louie Alford, Milan Blake, Vice Chairman Thomas Crye, Erica Davis, Dennis Epperson, Bobby Goins, Mike Hughes, Tim Mason, Chairman Johnny Mull, Charlotte Peak, Kevin Raper, Cindy Slater, Howard Thompson, Bill Winters, and non-voting Ex Officio member D. Gary Davis

Members absent: None

Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Bill Winters, Broad Street United Methodist Church Associate Pastor Betsy Switzer prayed the invocation.

REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor D. Gary Davis recognized Flag Sentry 2nd Lieutenant Ella Kidd for two years of service to Bradley County. Mayor Davis thanked the high school freshman for her two years of service and congratulated her on the beginning of her third year of flag sentry service.

Mayor Davis reported Bradley County Covid-19 positive cases are holding steady at 319 while hospitalizations remain relatively low. Mayor Davis announced there were two Covid-19 related deaths in Bradley County last week.

Mayor Davis reported four thousand four hundred (4,400) individuals received vaccinations in Bradley County last week for a total of thirty-five thousand (35,000) vaccinated Bradley County residents.

Mayor Davis asked Commissioners to fully review the Agriculture Extension Annual Recap 2020 Highlights and Successes. Mayor Davis noted plans are underway for the 4H and FFA organizations to work together, and reported the Bradley County Cannery, one of two county canneries in the state, provided twenty-one thousand (21,000) cans last year and saved residents approximately twenty-one thousand dollars (\$21,000.00).

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS

1st District

Commissioner Dennis Epperson had no report.

Commissioner Mike Hughes reported receiving a number of weekend calls and texts regarding the landfill odor.

2nd District

Commissioner Louie Alford and Vice Chairman Thomas Crye had no report.

3rd District

Commissioner Milan Blake placed on the April 19, 2021, voting session agenda a motion to accept the Finance Committee recommendation to approve the purchase of a one hundred (100) foot mid mount ladder fire truck to be paid for from the Fire Department Other Capital Outlay line item.

4th District

Commissioner Charlotte Peak had no report.

Commissioner Howard Thompson requested documentation from the auditors requiring a parts department at the Road Department. Thompson also requested the year the fraud prevention policy was established at the Road Department.

Thompson requested the revenue report year to date for the Brian K. Smith Workhouse. Thompson requested an explanation of why workhouse inmates have not been allowed to work during the recent months, the name of the person or group that authorizes the inmates to work, and an explanation for the required background check.

5th District

Commissioner Bobby Goins reported renovations on the Summit will soon begin.

Commissioner Cindy Slater recognized National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and expressed appreciation to our local 911 employees.

Slater placed on the April 19, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution designating an alternate to the Bradley County Board of Equalization.

Slater placed on the April 19, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution amending the tobacco use and smoking policy of Bradley County to prohibit smoking on the grounds of any playground. Commissioner Peak suggested the 2013 resolution regarding smoking and tobacco use in Bradley County buildings previously covered playgrounds.

6th District

Commissioners Tim Mason and Erica Davis had no report.

7th District

Commissioner Kevin Raper thanked everyone for an outpouring of love during the difficult time of losing his father.

Commissioner Bill Winters presented to the Commission the Agriculture Extension Annual Report in the absence of County Director Justin Thomas. Winters reported the office worked with seven hundred fifty-six thousand (756,000) clients in 2020, and noted the 4H program achieved an historic high in 2020 with three thousand one hundred and one (3,101) enrolled youth. Winters announced the homebuyer education program assisted ninety-seven (97) buyers with fifty-seven (57) of those clients successfully closing their home loan. Winters reported the Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program (TAEP) approved one hundred ninety-seven

thousand eight hundred fifty-three dollars (\$197,853.00) to sixty-five (65) producers, and added every dollar of TAEP money yields a six dollar and nine cents (\$6.09) local return. EXTENSION ANNUAL RECAP RECORDED AS ATTACHMENT.

AGENDA ITEMS

Hughes placed on the April 19, 2021, voting session agenda a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the Bradley County Mayor to enter into a monitoring services agreement with Envirosuite for an initial one (1) year term with the option of an additional one (1) year term to provide run-off odor monitoring at the Bradley County Landfill for an annual base compensation amount of seventy-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$71,500.00). Hughes explained the cost of the monitoring shall be paid from Solid Waste Fund 116.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

There was no communication from the audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is a voting session on April 19, 2021, at noon in the Courthouse.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Extension Annual Recap

2020 HIGHLIGHTS AND SUCCESSES

What is UT/TSU Extension?

UT/TSU Extension Bradley County is an organization that provides research-based education to citizens of all ages. Our educational activities cross several major spectrums. Many know of Tennessee Extension because they participated in 4-H which is the largest youth development organization in the nation. Others have utilized our agricultural agents for assistance with farm planning, research practices, profitability and more. Family and Consumer Sciences has been instrumental in providing financial and health education throughout the community. The Tennessee Nutrition Consumer Education Program (TNCEP) serves citizens receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamp) benefits by providing education regarding healthy eating, meal planning, and stretching food dollars. Many of these programs facilitate community and economic development through educational efforts.

In Bradley County, the Extension Office also manages the Cannery and Farmer's Market on Peerless Road. These programs and services are available to all residents of Bradley County without discrimination.

UT/TSU Extension Bradley County Staff Members

Justin Thomas	Family and Consumer Sciences	Extension Agent II/County Director
Lynne Middleton	4-H Youth Development	Extension Agent III
Hannah Goodson	4-H Youth Development	Extension Agent I
Jason Debusk	Agriculture/Tennessee State University	Extension Agent I
Evangelon James	Agriculture and Natural Resources	Extension Agent I
Kathy Hayes	Tennessee Consumer Nutrition Education Program	Program Assistant II
Kathryn Ervin	4-H Youth Development	Program Assistant II
Lisa Williams	UT/TSU Extension Bradley County	Administrative Assistant II
Mary Lou Woods	Bradley County Cannery	Cannery Manager
Bryan Smith	Bradley County Extension Office	Janitor

Number of Clients Directly Served in 2020 (All Programs excluding Cannery/Farmer’s Market)

Method	Contacts Reached
Personal Correspondence (email, digital contacts, social media, Zoom, etc)	193,172
Group Meetings	5,492
On-Site Visits (Farm, Home, and Workplace)	598
Mass Media (TV, Radio, Podcast)	557,075
Total	756,337

4-H Youth Development 2020 Enrollment Statistics

Extension Agents: Lynne Middleton & Hannah Goodson

Program Assistant: Kathryn Ervin

Enrollment

Youth Enrolled in Bradley County 4-H: 3,101

Breakdown by Race:

	White	Black	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian	Not Given	Total
Total	2874	162	25	25	4	3101

Ethnic Breakdown:

Hispanic—194 Not Hispanic—2907

Breakdown by Gender:

Female—1516 Male—1585

4-H Clubs

- 172 4-H Clubs (In-school, after-school, community, special interest)
- 20 of 26 Possible Project Areas participated in by 4-Her’s.
- 1015 speeches delivered by 4-Her’s.
 - 4th, 5th & 8th grade 4-Her’s placed 1st in sub-region contest
 - 6th grade 4-Her placed 2nd in sub-region contest



4-H All Stars from Bradley County win Regional Awards

All Stars is the second level of recognition in the Tennessee 4-H Program. Once a 4-H member is initiated into Honor Club (the first tier of recognition), he or she is eligible to join the All Star Service organization during their 9th-12th grade career. This year, in Bradley County, we have 10 All Star members with new ones looking to be inducted. Along with 75 potential future All Star members, those who have already been inducted donated over 290 hours of service. The total hours of service multiplied by the volunteer pay rate for 2021 (\$27.20) equal nearly \$8,000 in hours of work donated to our community. In addition to that number, 4-H members helped 2,169 people in our community and donated over \$8,200 worth of supplies to organizations such as, New Hope Pregnancy Center, The Caring Place, Shoes for Orphan Soles, New Life Food Ministry, Foundation House, Samaritan's Purse, and the local animal shelter.

Because of the high impacts made, Bradley County 4-H All Stars were the winners of the Don Bowman Service Award and the Peggy Davis Award. These awards are both given to a county group of All Stars that make an impact in their community and this year part of the scoring was rated on the groups' response to COVID-19.

4-H and FFA Partner Together!

In August, Hannah Goodson approached the Bradley Central and Walker Valley High School Agriculture and FFA programs. The meetings were intended to convey vision for building both the 4-H and FFA programs since students can register as both a 4-H and FFA member. Hannah also wanted to help agriculture teachers with their variety of responsibilities, while also keeping students who grew up in 4-H involved in their county. There is an encouragement nationwide for 4-H and FFA programs to align and work together. This collaboration better prepares our students and provide them with every opportunity possible within these organizations. Establishing this relationship allowed for high school aged students to make a connection to Bradley County 4-H leadership opportunities, contest, and community involvement. Since making this connection in August, I have worked with high school aged 4-Hers participate in livestock shows, training with them for livestock skill-a-thons, and local county events. FFA officers and members have reached out for 4-H opportunities, asked how their FFA Chapter can support 4-H, and asked for advice in FFA events and meetings within their school and county.

Masks and Project Books Everywhere!

Throughout the days of the pandemic, Kathryn Ervin diligently spent time making masks for civic organizations, community partners, churches and more. She hand crafted over 400 masks. On top of that, she created county specific project books for 4-H project groups including: Creative Arts and Design, Horse, Outdoor Recreation, Gardening, Livestock, and Food Science.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Extension Agent: Justin Thomas

Homebuyer Education

The Bradley County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent has been providing homebuyer education for many years. As a Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) Certified Homebuyer Education provider, Bradley County has been leading the way in educational efforts.

2020 Homebuyer Education by the Numbers:

- 97 Homebuyer Education Clients
 - Includes Habitat for Humanity and City Fields partnership
- 57 clients closed on their home loan (79%)
 - Property value of \$8.1 million
 - Property tax estimate on above value--\$48,500

Walk Across Tennessee “Bradley Walks”

In 2020, Bradley Walks was offered for a fifth consecutive year. This is a 6 week program is a large community health promotion project that utilizes the network of Bradley County Health Council and local industry.

Bradley Walks by the numbers:

- 248 participants
- 39,000 miles walked
- 45 participants reported weight loss which averaged 7.6 pounds per person



Financial Education

PERSONAL FINANCE TEACHER TRAINING

In 2020, our Personal Finance Teacher Training has shifted from face-to-face meetings to Zoom meetings. Our team knew there was a better way. We worked with our state specialist for consumer economics and our state creative team to develop an asynchronous online training with a four hour follow-up meeting.

The team consisting of Extension Agents from Bradley, Blount and Knox Counties piloted a “proof of concept” online training with partners from Tennessee Retire Ready, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Tennessee Attorney General’s Office, and Bowater Credit Union.

Through these “experiments,” the team has forged the way to completely develop a cutting edge technological training that allows Extension Agents and Personal Finance Teachers in Tennessee high schools to save time and money on travel by utilizing educational resources at hand.

Agriculture

Extension Agents: Jason Debusk & Evangelon James

Private Applicator Certification

In 2020, 43 individuals completed Private Applicator Recertification. In additions, 2 individuals received initial certification. Private Applicator certification allows individuals to apply restricted-use pesticides by ground application for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity on property owned or rented by the applicator.

Tennessee Agriculture Enhancement Program

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program was established in 2005 to provide cost share dollars to agricultural producers for the purpose of making long-term investments in Tennessee farms and communities. Participation allows producers to maximize farm profits, adapt to changing market situations, improve operation safety, increase farm efficiency, and make positive economic impact in their communities. Producers with a qualifying UT Extension “Master” program certification may be eligible for up to 50 percent cost share of the program maximum.

In 2020, 65 producers were approved for \$197,853 in TAEP funding.

For every \$1 of TAEP money award, a \$6.09 return is realized locally. **In Bradley County, the return would equate to \$1,204,925 in local economic impact.**