



*Bradley County Commission*  
**Johnny Mull, Chairman**  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
June 14, 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, Kevin Raper, Cindy Slater, Howard Thompson, Bill Winters

Members absent: Charlotte Peak

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Chairman Johnny Mull called the meeting to order.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Bobby Goins, Peerless Road Church of God Senior Adult Pastor Connie Kennard prayed the invocation.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY MAYOR**

There was no report from the County Mayor.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND/OR DISTRICTS**

**7<sup>th</sup> District**

Commissioner Bill Winters remembered Corky Whitlock and Hollis Maddox. Winters announced a service for Charlie Rose will be held at noon on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at Westmore Church of God.

Commissioner Kevin Raper remembered the Whitlock family.

**6<sup>th</sup> District**

Commissioner Erica Davis announced the SPCA Board of Directors will meet at noon on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, in the Louie Alford conference room.

Commissioner Tim Mason congratulated the Lake Forest Middle School archery team on placing twenty-two (22) out of forty-three (43) teams at the world archery tournament.

Commissioner Mason relayed the concerns of constituents regarding the proposed Bradley County School Board increased compensation, and stated he cannot support the proposed increase.

Commissioner Mason remembered Whitlock.

**5<sup>th</sup> District**

Commissioners Bobby Goins and Cindy Slater had no report.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> District

Commissioner Howard Thompson had no report.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Commissioner Milan Blake had no report.

Chairman Mull remembered Hollis Maddox and Corky Whitlock.

Chairman Mull recognized Trustee Mike Smith and Trustee Office accountant Deborah Ledford and congratulated Ledford on earning the Certified County Finance Officer certification.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Vice Chairman Thomas Crye placed on the June 21, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution fixing the compensation of the members of the Bradley County Board of Education when attending regular and special meetings and discharging the duties imposed by Title 49 of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

Commissioner Louie Alford requested a Building and Land Committee meeting to assess the maintenance needs of the Dooley Street EMS building.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> District

Commissioner Mike Hughes expressed disappointment regarding the Bradley County Schools request to withdraw from the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget funds for the Hopewell School drive way project. Commissioner Hughes opined the traffic congestion along Highway 60 during peak school hours is a real safety concern citing fifty-one (51) vehicle accidents that occurred within one (1) mile of the school in a one (1) year period resulting in nine (9) accidents including one entrapment.

Commissioner Dennis Epperson concurred with Commissioner Hughes regarding the need for action at Hopewell School.

Commissioner Epperson notified Commissioners of a proposed road from the Tom Rowland exit from APD40 to Harrison Pike. Commissioner Epperson noted the Tennessee Department of Transportation has agreed to fund fifty percent (50%) of the cost of planning the road.

Commissioner Epperson placed on the June 21, 2021, voting session agenda a resolution requesting allocation of funds from the State of Tennessee for improvement to the intersection of State Highway 312/Harrison Pike at Freewill Road located in Bradley County, Tennessee.

Commissioner Epperson announced the master utility plan stakeholders meeting will be held June 17, 2021, at 9:00a.m. in the Commission room.

#### AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Slater opined the proposed three hundred percent (300%) pay increase for school board members is excessive. Commissioner Slater suggested a reasonable increase would be to three hundred twenty five dollars (\$325.00) per month which equates to an annual two percent (2%) increase since 1993. Commissioner Hughes agreed with Commissioner Slater. Commissioner Winters explained the increase is to equal the compensation for the county school board to the Cleveland City Schools school board members. Commissioner

Epperson requested compensation information for school board members in counties comparable in size to Bradley County.

Commissioner Blake detailed the Finance Committee budget proposal for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Commissioner Blake placed on the June 21, 2021, voting session agenda a motion to confirm the Finance Committee recommendation to approve the final fiscal year 2020-2021 budget amendments.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Lonnie Setlich, 2448 Executive Park, provided his online research regarding school board compensation which suggested seventy five percent (75%) of small school districts receive no compensation for their efforts, and noted some large school boards do not receive compensation.

Barbara Gilbert, 193 Pin Oak Drive, opined the current school board members knowingly sought office at the current rate of pay, and submitted a significant pay increase for board members will negatively impact the morale of our teachers scheduled to receive a three percent (3%) increase and no assistance with out of pocket expenses for classroom preparation and supplies.

Deborah Gleason, 295 Corvin Road, asked who determines school budget increases. Gleason asked if the PIE Center would continue to be supported by tax dollars and questioned the necessity of artificial turf for the football fields.

Ed Elkins, 222 Champion Drive, opined the proposed three hundred percent (300%) increase in compensation for the school board members is a little extravagant.

Dan Rawls, Hall Norwood Road, noted the current inflation rate is fourteen percent (14%) and continues to rise. Rawls said he was appalled at the suggestion to increase board members compensation by three hundred percent (300%) while paying employees two percent (2%) or three percent (3%).

Bobby Kite, 4964 Cindy Circle, suggested the school board should not try to keep up with the Joneses by increasing compensation to equal the City Schools school board compensation. Kite asked Commissioners with relations and ties to the current school board members to recuse themselves from the upcoming vote.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- \*Next meeting, Voting Session, June 21, noon, Courthouse
- \*Agriculture Committee, today, 5:00pm, Agriculture Office
- \*Elks Lodge Flag Day Ceremony, today, 6:00pm, Elks Lodge
- \*SPCA, June 16, noon, Commission conference room
- \*Master Utility Study stakeholders meeting, June 17, 9:00am, Courthouse
- \*Board of Zoning Appeals, June 17, 5:30pm, Courthouse
- \*Planning Committee, June 17, 6:00pm, Courthouse
- \*Friday Festival, June 18, 7:00pm-9:00pm, First Street Square

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.