

WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
FINANCE, WAYS, & MEANS COMMITTEE

ORIGINAL

July 7, 2015; 9:00 A.M.

**Finance, Ways, & Means Members Present:** Commissioners Eric Owen, James Westbrook, Dennis Doster, David Hawks, Tommy Jones, Larry Taylor, Roger Donaldson, Greg Usery and Earl Wright.

**Finance, Ways, & Means Members Absent:** None

The Finance, Ways, & Means Committee met on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Weakley County Department of Finance Board Room. Others present included Shawn Francisco - Director of Finance, Jake Bynum – County Mayor, Mike Wilson – Sheriff, Christy Fulcher – Emergency Management Supervisor, Barbara Castleman – Elections Administrator, Charles Ross – County Highway Supervisor, David Tuck – Property Assessor, Marci Floyd – Trustee, Jenny Killebrew – Circuit Court Clerk, Gail Rogers – Office on Aging, Kim Hughey – County Clerk, Donna Snyder – Register of Deeds, Candy McAdams – County Librarian, Regina VanCleave – Clerk & Master, Rita Jeter – County Health Department, Carmen Chandler – County Commissioner, and David Fisher – Dresden Enterprise.

Chairman Eric Owen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Owen called for a motion to approve FWM minutes from May 26, 2015, June 10, 2015, June 11, 2015, June 15, 2015, June 16, 2015 and June 17, 2015. Commissioner Doster made the motion to approve all minutes and with a second by Commissioner Usery the motion unanimously passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fund 101 – General Fund**

Chairman Owen noted that the revenue listed on Page 4, Account 48140 (Contracted Services – Tower) was for the new communications tower at the Sheriff's Department. There would be an offsetting expense for this revenue.

Chairman Owen questioned Page 3, Account 46830 (Beer Tax) and Account 46840 (Alcoholic Beverage Tax) stating they seemed high. Mrs. Francisco noted that the County would receive more money for the month of June but she would double check the numbers. Chairman Owen questioned Page 9, Account 51800 (County Buildings), Line 415 (Electricity) stating that he knew it was probably because of the Election Building but it seemed high. Mrs. Francisco noted that there was one more bill to receive and that she would double check the number.

Chairman Owen called for a report from a member of the Financial Management Committee on Page 11, Account 52100 (Accounting & Budgeting). Commissioner Hawks reported that the Committee approved the budget that includes the hiring of an additional employee to help with new insurance issues, the school funding project, and other issues. Commissioner Donaldson asked if that addition was in Line 119 (Accountants). Commissioner Hawks answered yes. Commissioner Donaldson questioned if the whole \$39,000 plus increase was for the new employee. Chairman Owen answered that the line includes the salary for the new employee, longevity increase for current employees and a 3% increase.

Chairman Owen noted that the #5 salary increase was per line not across the board. Each department head would decide their employees increase if any. Commissioner Westbrook noted that it didn't have to be paid out. Chairman Owen agreed stating any unused money would just go back to revenue.

Commissioner Westbrook commented that the County Mayor should be the one who signs off on raises, hiring, firing, time off, etc. for employees such as the Custodial Staff, Dresden and Sharon Senior Centers, Veteran's Services officer, and Soil Conservation. He noted that this was not a change in policy. It has always been that way.

Chairman Owen turned the attention of the Committee to Fund 158 – Everett Stewart Regional Airport. He noted that it was a flow through fund where the revenue would off-set the expenses.

After some discussion, Chairman Owen opened the floor for questions or comments on any part of the budget.

Commissioner Taylor questioned Page 1, Revenue Line 40110 (Current Property Taxes). Commissioner Taylor referred to a paper passed out by Chairman Owen concerning the tax rate. Chairman Owen stated that the paper he passed out was strictly a proposal for changes to the tax rate and that the current budget was not based on the proposed numbers. Chairman Owen also stated that he would bring that proposal up later in the meeting for discussion.

Commissioner Westbrook commented on Page 22, Account 54110 (Sheriff Department). He stated that several years ago the Weakley County Courts declared the Weakley County Jail as a work house. The inmate labor was to be used for various jobs for non-profit organizations within Weakley County. He commended Sheriff Wilson for this program which had produced an estimated 50,000 man hours from inmates. Commissioner Westbrook went on to say that the law allows the County Commission to give the Sheriff, the Highway Supervisor, the Property Assessor, and the County Mayor an increase in pay above the State minimum. Commissioner Westbrook made the motion to increase the Sheriff's salary by 10% and was seconded by Commissioner Doster. Commissioner Donaldson asked if that meant the County Mayor would also get a raise. Commissioner Westbrook answered yes, that by law the County Mayor has to make 5% more than the highest paid enumerated officer which doesn't include any of the Judges or School Superintendent. Commissioner Donaldson questioned if this shouldn't go before the Public Safety & Works Committee first. Commissioner Westbrook answered that yes in a perfect world that is true. He further stated that time did not allow for a decision from that Committee and in his opinion the FWM Committee is the final vote before the full Commission votes.

Chairman Owen recognized Sheriff Wilson for comment. Sheriff Wilson stated that he didn't put anything in his budget because if the County employees didn't get a raise, he wasn't going to request one. Sheriff Wilson further stated that he had met with each member of the Public Safety & Works Committee and he found no opposition to the request. Commissioner Donaldson noted that the Committee should realize that this is not a one-time deal, once it's in the budget, it stays. Commissioner Westbrook answered that the salary could be dropped down to the minimum salary set by the State Legislator upon the election of new officials. Chairman Owen informed the Committee that the raise would add about \$21,000 in salary and fringe benefits to the Sheriff and County Mayor combined. Chairman Owen asked if there were other questions, hearing none he called for a vote on the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Hawks questioned the increase on Page 39, Account (Agri Extension Services), Line 140 (Salary Supplements). Commissioner Westbrook answered that FWM elected to fund another employee. Commissioner Hawks agreed that he did remember that vote.

**Fund 116 – Solid Waste**

No questions or changes.

**Fund 122 – Other General Government**

No questions or changes.

**Fund 131 – Highway**

Commissioner Taylor questioned if the budgeted amount of \$465,000 on Page 8, Account 68000 (Capital Outlay), Line 714 (Highway Equipment) was part of the note. Chairman Owen answered no, this was coming from the Highway budget. Chairman Owen asked Mr. Ross if a decision had been made on what to do with the older equipment. Mr. Ross answered no, but a sale would be necessary in the future.

**Fund 141 – General Purpose School, Fund 142 – School Federal Projects, and Fund 143 – Child Nutrition**

No questions or changes.

**Fund 151 – Debt Services**

Commissioner Westbrook questioned Page 5, Account 99100 (Other Uses), Line 590 (Transfer of Other Funds) stating that you couldn't transfer money out of Debt Service; it would have to be a payment of a Capital Outlay note.

Commissioner Taylor questioned Page 6 stating that the ending fund balance of \$1,323,116 did not match the June 30<sup>th</sup> Trustee balance of \$1,176,261. Chairman Owen answered that a lot of the numbers would change because everything is not finalized. Commissioner Taylor questioned if the number would be changed to what was in the Trustee's office. Commissioner Westbrook reminded Commissioner Taylor that the Trustee's Office worked on a cash balance and that there were receivables still outstanding. Commissioner Taylor expressed that he thought the balance should reflect what was in the Trustee's Office to be on the conservative side.

Chairman Owen moved on to funding requests from various non-profit organizations.

- 1.) **Weakley County Backpack Program:** There was a letter of request but it did not specify a dollar amount. Mr. Bynum spoke on behalf of the program noting that it cost \$200 per child for one year; approximately \$50,000 per year for the whole County. He noted that the funding received from United Way had decreased by \$3,500. He further stated that the program would be happy to receive anything the County could provide. No action taken.
- 2.) **Red Cross:** No action taken.
- 3.) **West Tennessee Hearing and Speech:** The program requested \$2,000. Mrs. Francisco stated that the County had not funded this program in several years. No action taken.
- 4.) **Transitions of Dyer County:** This is a group that aids abused women and children. No action taken.
- 5.) **Jacco:** No action taken.

Chairman Owen recognized Mrs. VanCleave. Mrs. VanCleave requested a budget increase of \$1,700 for Account 53400 (Chancery Court – Clerk & Master), Line 337 (Maint/Repair – Equipment) for replacement of the Courtroom speaker system. Lowrance Sound has checked the system and found that the speakers are full of humidity and that because of the age of the microphones the backlash from hearing aids and cell phones can't be stopped. Chairman Owen made the motion to place the request on the floor for discussion and was seconded by Commissioner Usery. Commissioner Hawks questioned if the \$1,700 was to be added to what was already in the line. Mrs. VanCleave answered yes making a total of \$2,700. Having no other questions the Committee unanimously voted for the request.

Chairman Owen recognized Mrs. Rogers. Mrs. Rogers voiced concern that Account 56100 (Weakley County Adult Activities), Line 189 (Other Salaries) may need to increase. Mrs. Rogers stated that she would be hiring two part-time employees. These employees would be paid \$9.00 per hour for working with in homes of Weakley County citizens. The County would be reimbursed \$20.00 per hour. The amount listed would not be enough to cover her current part-time worker plus the new workers. Since Mrs. Rogers didn't have the exact number of clients the Center would be getting, Chairman Owen assured her that as the revenues were received the line would be changed.

Chairman Owen recognized Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross questioned Account 66000 (Employee Benefits), Line 210 (Unemployment Compensation) stating that he would have at least two people who would be eligible for the 26 week benefits and thought the line should be increased. Chairman Owen made the motion to increase Account 66000(Employee Benefits), Line 210 (Unemployment Compensation) to \$15,000 and with a second by Commissioner Westbrook the motion unanimously passed.

Having no other questions or comments from the floor, Chairman Owen presented his proposal for the tax rate. Chairman Owen made the motion to set the tax rate at:

General Fund	70.8¢
Solid Waste Fund	.0052¢
Highway Fund	20.7¢
School Fund	70¢
Debt Service Fund	51¢
	\$2.1302

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Westbrook. Chairman Owen opened the floor for discussion recognizing Commissioner Taylor. Commissioner Taylor noted that under the old tax rate the Highway fund balance seemed low. He questioned if a penny of the proposed increase to the General Fund be directed to the Highway Fund. Commissioner Westbrook answered that \$2,000,000 was needed to in the General Fund the months of July, August and September because of low tax collections and if we put money into the Highway Fund there is a thing called "maintenance of effort" and you can never take that money back or the County will lose State funds. After further discussion the motion unanimously passed.

Hearing no other questions or comments Chairman Owen called for a vote on all of the 2015-2016 budgets. The motion unanimously passed.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairman Owen announced the next meeting of the FWM would be for the Public Hearing on July 28, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

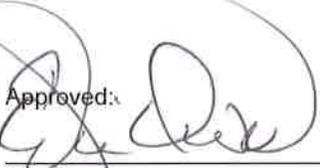
Having no other business Commissioner Usery made the motion to adjourn at 9:49 a.m. and with a second by Commissioner Donaldson the motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kellie Thayer, Secretary  
Finance, Ways, & Means Committee

Approved:

  
Eric Owen, Chairman  
Finance, Ways, & Means Committee  
Date: 11/10/2015

