

**AGENDA**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEAKLEY COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 15, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 1999 MEETING

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:**

LeAnne Moore, County Attorney  
Chad Clifton, Tennessee Vols 1998 National Champions - Offensive Left Tackle  
Ashley McElhiney, Class A - 1999 Miss Basketball  
Gleason Lady Bulldogs - TSSAA Class A Girls 1999 State Basketball Champions, Randy Frazier, Coach  
Gleason Bulldogs Cheerleaders - State Tournament Class A 1999 Sportsmanship Award, Kay Hutson, Sponsor.

**REPORTS:**

Trustee's Report  
General Fund Report  
Highway Dept. Report  
School Dept. Report  
Solid Waste Report  
Capital Projects Committee Report - Jimmy Westbrook, Chairman  
Finance, Ways and Means Committee Report - Dick Phebus, Chairman  
Financial Management Committee Report - Roger Stewart, Chairman  
Health, Education and Welfare Committee Report - John Salmon, Chairman  
Legislative Committee Report - Jack Vincent, Chairman  
Personnel Committee Report - John Salmon, Chairman  
Public Safety Committee Report - John Bucy, Chairman  
Public Works Committee Report - George Broussard, Chairman  
Nursing Home Report - Vernon Dunn, Chairman  
Emergency Management Report - David McAlpin, Director  
Veterans Service Officer's Report - David Bradley  
State of the County Address - Ron Gifford, County Executive

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution No. 1999-48 - Resolution to Appoint a County Attorney for Weakley County  
Resolution No. 1999-42 - General Purpose School Resolution  
Resolution No. 1999-43 - General Fund Resolution - Juvenile Office *Tabled*  
Resolution No. 1999-44 - Emergency Management Resolution  
Resolution No. 1999-45 - General Fund Resolution  
Resolution No. 1999-46 - CDBG Grant  
Resolution No. 1999-47 - Highway Dept. Road Addition - Turner Lane Extension  
Resolution No. 1999-49 - Resolution to Authorize Amendment to Section 218 Social Security Coverage Agreement with Respect to Exclusion of Services Performed by a Student in Employ of a School, who is enrolled and Regularly Attending Classes at such school.

Miscellaneous announcements and statements

Election of Notaries Public

**ADJOURNMENT**

WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY  
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 15, 1999

WEAKLEY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING: March 15, 1999, 7 P. M.  
County Executive, Ron Gifford called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Mac Buckley.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

ROLL CALL by the County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough with nineteen present and one absent. Commissioner Farmer arrived later in the meeting.

Approval of the January 19, 1999 minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Phebus and seconded by Commissioner Parham. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, nineteen for and one absent. Motion carried.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Leanne Moore, County Attorney was presented a certificate of appreciation for her service to Weakley County.

Chad Clifton, Tennessee Vols 1998 National Champions - Offensive Left Tackle was presented a certificate of appreciation.

Ashley McElhiney, Class A - 1999 Miss Basketball was presented a certificate of appreciation.

Gleason Lady Bulldogs - TSSAA Class A Girls 1999 State Basketball Champions, Randy Frazier, Coach was presented a certificate of appreciation.

Gleason Bulldogs Cheerleaders - State Tournament Class A 1999 Sportsmanship award, Kay Hutson, Sponsor was presented a certificate of appreciation.

REPORTS:

TRUSTEE'S REPORT  
COUNTY GENERAL FUND REPORT  
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT  
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT REPORT  
SOLID WASTE REPORT

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT - Jimmy Westbrook, Chairman

Commissioner Westbrook, stated that the jail is coming in on time and under budget.

FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REPORT - Dick Phebus, Chairman

Commissioner Phebus, stated that the Committee had met a couple of times. One note under new business, Resolution 1999- 43 was not considered by our Committee. I understand it was tabled in the Public Safety Committee. The rest of the items on the agenda that deal with any finances were approved by the Finance Committee.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - Roger Stewart, Chairman

Commissioner Stewart, stated that they had an active month. Met on February 11, 1999, transaction of business, travel line item for GFOA Conference approved. Resolution for copier leased approved. Health insurance will be bid, and the bids opened on March 23, 1999. An allegation of fraud was brought to the committee in regard to Bettye Tidwell for falsifying accumulated sick leave days pertaining to the Resolution 1998-05 regarding retirement. It was stated that Mrs. Tidwell could not have accumulated the 90 days written down on her payroll sheet. A

motion was made to dismiss Mrs. Julie Chappell from the finance office due to being Mrs. Tidwell's daughter and that was inappropriate. The committee recessed until February 25, 1999, until additional information could be obtained about the allegations.

At the reconvened meeting informational packets were handed out to Committee members regarding the charges from the previous meeting, showing copies of personnel committee meeting minutes changing the sick leave days from 60 to 90 in April of 1996 and a copy of Resolution 1996-37 amended passed in May of 1996 that allowed the 90 days. Mrs. Tidwell and other county employees could have accumulated the maximum number of days by this time so the entry was correct on June 30, 1997.

The issue with Mrs. Chappell being the daughter of Bettye Tidwell and writing her own payroll check was discussed. According to law the state of Tennessee has no laws regarding nepotism and neither does the County. So the Finance Director may hire who they want. The check issue was addressed with their being two payroll clerks and the checks are computer generated.

There were some more information handed out with regard to the time sheets of the Director we have to look at.

A copy of Attorney General's ruling was handed out to explain the relationship any County Executive has with the Finance office. A copy of the Financial Management act was mailed to the people of the Committee that did have access to the material. This was done awhile before. This will help the committee to have all equal footing when we start writing policy. That is one of the things the Committee is to do is to write and enforce policy in the Finance Office.

The Committee, as stated before, feels the need to write some policy regarding procedures of the office and has finally received some policy manuals from McMinn County and Wilson County. We also have received some information of hiring procedures from the UT System.

As stated before as Chairman of the Committee, we will attempt to write such policy to correspond with employee handbook and the Financial Management act as needed to address problems that we may have in the Finance Office. If such problems arise that the Committee cannot deal with the appropriate agency will be contacted for help solving the problem. We will handle things in a business setting and manner.

Commissioner Stewart, stated "I will support any State-Agency findings to investigate the office as one seventh of the Committee and Chairman."

The final business of the committee was to approve the moving of the Finance Office in with the school department at the new building donated to the county.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT - John Salmon, Chairman

Commissioner Salmon, stated that they met twice and reviewed and approved the transfers in the Education budget, the Election Administrators budget, the Agriculture Extension budget and the Veterans Affairs budget. Approved the transfer of sick leave and vacation leave for VA Service Officer Bradley, from the Nursing Home to Veterans Affairs.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Jack Vincent, Chairman

Commissioner Vincent, stated that the committee met and they do not have any business on agenda. The TV contracts between Cablevisions are still under review.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT - John Salmon, Chairman

Commissioner Salmon, stated that they met twice, and recommended that bids be received for health insurance for employees. Preparing at least one amendment to the Employees Handbook, and I will make a motion pertaining to this amendment later in the meeting. Did some research on benefits for members of boards

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT - John Bucy, Chairman

Commissioner Bucy, stated that they had met once and reviewed transfers and resolutions from the Sheriff's office and the Emergency Management's office and approved both of those. Resolution 1999-43 which was on the agenda, was tabled in the Public Safety Committee to be addressed in the next meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - George Broussard, Chairman

Commissioner Broussard, stated that they had met with the Road Board and would answer any question.

NURSING HOME COMMITTEE - Vernon Dunn, Chairman

Commissioner Dunn, stated that each Commissioner should have a report from the Nursing Home. Next meeting would be the fifth Monday.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT - David McAlpin, Director

Mr. McAlpin, stated that each Commissioner should have a report on the Emergency Management. Mr. McAlpin explained the report to the Commissioners.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT - David Bradley

Mr. Bradley, stated that the Commissioners should have a report on the Veteran's Affairs Office.

County Executive, Gifford stated that there are two items to be included in the reports. First, you should have received a copy of River Talk in your packet. Second item is a letter from our Representative in the Legislature, Mark Maddox receiving our Resolution on Federal Funding for County Roads.

STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS - Ron Gifford, County Executive

County Executive, Ron Gifford addressed the Commission with the State of the County Address.

Motion to approve reports by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Bucy. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Reports approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 1999-48

Motion made to suspend the rules by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Broussard on Resolution 1999-48. There was no discussion. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion made to adopt Resolution 1999-48 for discussion and approval by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Buckley. County Executive, Gifford stated that the firm of Neese, Herron and Miller-Herron to represent the County, with William R. Neese being the primary County Attorney. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-42

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Owen and seconded by Commissioner Salmon. There was no discussion. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-43

Resolution tabled.

RESOLUTION 1999-44

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Phebus and seconded by Commissioner Bucy. There was no discussion. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-45

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Stewart and seconded by Commissioner Salmon. There was no discussion. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-46

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Salmon and seconded by Commissioner Rook. Commissioner Salmon asked that the Resolution be corrected. County Executive, stated that the Community Fire Departments are contributing the local share. Commissioner Phebus, asked if the local cost share had been received. County Executive, stated if all the local cost share is not on deposit, they would not award bids, in the bid openings. Upon roll call by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-47

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Farmer and seconded by Commissioner Broussard. After discussion, it was put to a roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 1999-49

Motion made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Westbrook and seconded by Commissioner Page. After discussion, it was put to a roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

OTHERS ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Westbrook, stated that there has been a number of allegations and charges made about the affairs and records of the Finance Department and more specifically about the Director of Finance. There have also been allegations and charges about certain employees and departments under the direction and supervision of the County Executive. Therefore, I move that the County Attorney be requested to contact the State Comptroller of the Treasury and the District Attorney General and request that the office of the Finance Director and all operations under the supervision of the County Executive be investigated and that all audit findings from the recent audits be investigated and an independent report of misappropriations or illegal activity if any.

Motion made by Commissioner Westbrook to contact the State Comptroller of the Treasury and the District Attorney to investigate any audit findings in the wrong doings in records in

the Finance Office and under the supervision of the County Executive's Office. Also, anyone having allegations to any one, can write or contact the office of County Attorney William R. Neese, within ten days of this meeting and to report back to the next meeting, with a written letter to all Commissioners on all allegations. Motion seconded by Commissioners Castleman. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Salmon, addressed the Commission on the employees hand book for a reclamation for David Bradley, Veterans Affairs Officer.

Motion made by Commissioner Salmon for approval and discussion that the six month probation for the full time employee be waived for Mr. David Bradley, the Veterans Affairs Officers, as he has already served this probation as a part time employee with the Nursing Home and Veterans Affairs Office. Seconded by Commissioner Parham. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS:

William R. Neese, newly elected County Attorney, thanked the County Commissioners for the appointment of County Attorney.

#### ELECTION OF NOTARIES PUBLIC:

Motion was made for approval and discussion by Commissioner Bucy and seconded by Commissioner Phebus. There was no discussion. Upon roll call vote by the County Clerk, twenty for and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Westbrook, to recess meeting until March 29, 1999, at 6 P. M.

Meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

PAT SCARBROUGH, COUNTY CLERK

RON GIFFORD, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

This 15th date of March, 1999.