

# Carter County Commission

## Minutes of:

### Health & Welfare Committee Zoom Meeting

November 5, 2020 6:00 PM

#### Members:

Dr. Robert Acuff - present  
Mike Hill - present  
Brad Johnson - present  
Thomas Proffitt - present

Ginger Holdren - present  
Randall Jenkins - present  
Sonja Culler - present  
Isaiah Grindstaff - absent

#### I. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Dr. Robert Acuff at 8:05 pm.

#### II. Roll Call

All members present except for Isaiah Grindstaff.

#### III. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Hill, second by Randall Jenkins.

##### Roll Call:

Randall Jenkins - yes  
Mike Hill - yes  
Robert Acuff - yes  
Brad Johnson - yes  
Thomas Proffitt - yes  
Ginger Holdren - yes  
Sonja Culler - yes  
Isaiah Grindstaff - absent  
The motion passed.

#### IV. Public Comments

None

#### V. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Hill, second by Ginger Holdren to approve the minutes from the September minutes.

##### Roll Call:

Randall Jenkins - yes  
Mike Hill - yes  
Robert Acuff - yes  
Brad Johnson - yes  
Thomas Proffitt - yes  
Ginger Holdren - yes  
Sonja Culler - yes  
Isaiah Grindstaff - absent  
The motion passed.



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11-13-2020

8:25 AM

**VI. Broadband Internet Discussion / Action**

Chairman Acuff informed the committee that he emailed Brad Shields at Ridgeline and he replied to the committee that District 6 should be top on the list for any grants we apply for. Chairman Acuff also forward the email to Ken Rae. He believes that we should continue working with Ridgeline and anyone they determine to partner with. They are ready to begin the engineering portion of the project They Have already looked at running fiber from Roan Mountain to Little Milligan. They believe this should be the first project. He believes it makes good sense to work with Ridgeline because they own the most fiber that has been ran in the county. He asked the question, what does the committee want?

A motion was made by Sonja Culler, second by Mike Hill for the county to work with Ridgeline to run the fiber in the county because they have the largest presence in the county.

Mr. Johnson asked if District 1 and 2 be better served by the other company. Dr. Acuff stated that they didn't have any presence in the county so it would serve the county better to go with Ridgeline. The hope would be that Ridgeline would partner with Skybest because they are already in Johnson County and Shady Valley. Mr. Hill stated that his understanding is that Ridgeline is the backbone of the operation and the other companies would go off them.

Roll Call:

Randall Jenkins – yes

Mike Hill - yes

Robert Acuff – yes

Brad Johnson – yes

Thomas Proffitt – yes

Ginger Holdren – yes

Sonja Culler – yes

Isaiah Grindstaff – absent

**VII. Discussion of Wellness Incentives (Sequoyah PowerPoint provided)**

Chairman Holdren brought Sequoyah to the table at financial committee and Chairman Acuff brought the PowerPoint presentation to this committee. On slide 30 it shows how many people are not taking advantage of the free screenings. One of the things that the city does to encourage the employees to take advantage of these screenings they give a day off when they have turned in the report that they did the checks. Mr. Proffitt stated that at his place of employment the incentive is when all screenings are done at the end of the year you get a 15% discount on your premium. Mr. Johnson stated that it was frustrating to put all the work that goes into getting the county employees the best insurance for the best prices and then people won't go get the free screenings. Mr. Hill asked Attorney Hardin if they could mandate the employees get the screening. Attorney Hardin stated that you can't make them get it. You can't penalize employees for not doing what you want but you can incentivize those that do. Mr. Johnson asked if there could be two plans, one if you get your screenings and one if you don't. Attorney Hardin stated that he wasn't sure that would be a possibility. He still believes the that an incentive will be the way to go. Mr. Jenkins stated that he thinks what Mr. Johnson and Mr. Proffitt have valid ideas and maybe we could do a combination of the two. Mr. Hill asked where would that discount come from? Does Sequoyah help with this or do we find this money somewhere. Chairman Acuff stated that if we give them a day off or reward. Mr. Hill stated that it would still be a cost to the county. Mr. Johnson thinks that the idea of a yearly discount if the screenings are done, be taken it to Financial Management and see what they think of the idea. Ms. Culler asked what will happen with the ones that are 100% paid by the county. Mr. Jenkins thinks that will be something to look at but for the ones that are paying 80/20 that will be a nice incentive to have an additional 5 or 10 % paid by the county. Ms. Holdren will take the idea to the Financial Management committee and report back to the committee.

### **VIII. Old / New Business**

Chairman Acuff spoke to Brandon Young and he is going to try to bring the homeless task force together next week. He has been sick and not able to pull a meeting together. The zoom meeting will be next Thursday.

Chairman Acuff wanted to speak about the workshop that was done with Dr. Dave Kirschke, Regional Medical Director and Caroline Hurt, Director Carter & Johnson Counties Health Department. He asked what the thoughts of the committee was. Do we need send a recommendation to the full committee? Can the meeting be recessed so the commissioners can go to their constituents to see what the people want? Attorney Hardin stated that the meeting can be recessed or there can be a special called meeting. Mr. Hill wanted to allow the constituents to send questions in to be asked of the candidates. Chairman Acuff wants to get the input from them as well. There will be a broadcast of the meeting. The meeting can be broadcast into a classroom so the citizens can let their thoughts be known. Ms. Culler stated that she believes they made the right decisions to do the workshop remotely.

Mayor Woodby wanted to let the committee know that the 2000 Chromebooks are in and being prepared to be handed out when the kids return to school.

Attorney Hardin has been asked that the commission be asked to do a resolution to support the lawsuit that has been filed by the DA's of the First, Second and Third district have filed on behalf of all the cities and counties. They are concerned that the Attorney General is reaching out to the mayors trying to reach a settlement which will end the lawsuit. So, they are asking for a resolution supporting the lawsuit. Mr. Jenkins asked if this was the one that was talked about. Attorney Hardin stated no but we didn't initiate the lawsuit, but it will go forward either way. We will benefit if a settlement is reached if we do this or not. Mr. Jenkins asked if there were any pros or cons if we do this? Attorney Hardin stated that he didn't believe there was. Either way it wont change much for us.

A motion was made by Sonja Culler, second by Mike Hill to have Attorney Hardin to write a resolution in support of the District Attorney General Baldwins request that we support his efforts.

Roll Call:

Randall Jenkins – yes

Mike Hill – yes

Robert Acuff – yes

Brad Johnson – yes

Thomas Proffitt – yes

Ginger Holdren – yes

Sonja Culler – yes

Isaiah Grindstaff – absent

The motion passed. Attorney Hardin informed the committee that he would have the resolution ready for the full commission meeting this month.

### **IX. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hill, second by Sonja Culler. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted by**

**Gwen Crowe**