

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

September 7, 2021, 6:00 PM

Members:

Dr. Robert Acuff - present
Open
Brad Johnson - present
Thomas Proffitt - present

Ginger Holdren - present
Randall Jenkins - present
Daniel McInturff – absent
Isaiah Grindstaff - present

Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff at 7:42 pm.

I. Roll Call

Same as previous meeting

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by, second by Randall Jenkins to approve the agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous meeting

Skipped

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Noise Ordinance – Commissioner Holdren

Commissioner Holdren shared an email with the committee from a citizen concerned about the noise in the neighborhood. She stated in the email that the neighbors drink and allow children to use fireworks unsupervised. Her concern is that she and other neighbors around her have oxygen in their homes and she is concerned that it could cause an explosion if her home were to catch fire. She questioned the Fire Departments selling fireworks when they work so hard to prevent and put out fires. Captain Smith asked if she has called 911. If there are drunk individuals with fireworks there are things that can be done. They can be charged with public intoxication, and endangerment. Ms. Holdren stated that the sheriff's department has responded to the area, but she doesn't know if this person has called or not.

VI. Broadband Internet Update

Chairman Acuff stated that Dr. McAbee was going to add it to the School Board Agenda this month. Mayor Woodby stated that the Governor has a grant that is \$400 million with a 70/30 split. Chairman Acuff stated that he would like to add another 600,000 and have 1.2 million in reserve to go along with what Dr. McAbee can bring in.

Motion was made by Bradly Johnson, second by Ginger Holdren to increase the money for broadband from \$600,000 to \$2.5 million to the reserve, to be presented to the budget committee.

Voice Roll Call Vote as Follows:

Yes:

Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins
Bradley Johnson

Thomas Proffitt
Ginger Holdren
Isaiah Grindstaff

Absent:

Daniel McInturff

With six (6) yes, zero (0) no, **motion carried.**

VII. Direct Primary Care Clinic – ETSU Family Physicians – Workforce Development?

Mayor Woodby stated that Dr. McAbee reached out to her about the idea of a nurse practitioner to service the county, possibly at the Workforce Development. Chairman Acuff stated that he would like to see the county move into a Direct Primary Care Clinic for employees with a pharmacy component as well. Mayor Woodby stated that this would be another way to enhance the Workforce Development and students in the count. Chairman Acuff stated that this would be the first in the country to have a primary care clinic serve the employees.

VIII. Homeless Taskforce Update – Carter Compassion Center

Chairman Acuff stated that Brandon Young would be at the commission meeting in September

IX. Old / New Business

None

X. Commissioner Comments

Captain Smith stated that he worked patrol over the weekend and there were 2 accidents with severe injuries. The wait time for Ambulance was 45 minutes, they called Wings and there wasn't any available. Talking to the EMTs there isn't enough people to man the trucks. Chairman Acuff stated that he is on the Rescue Squad Board and stated that one of the problems is that Ballad Health is so short staffed that Ambulances are getting held up at the emergency rooms because they can not leave a patient until there is a bed to transfer them to. They are spending 3 to 5 hours sometimes sitting at the ER waiting for beds to empty but with they are so short staffed. Commissioner Johnson stated that everyone was having the same problems. Captain Smith stated that the pay is too low, and they can make as much working fast food and not have the stress of the job. Chairman Acuff stated that they were aware of the problems and discussion is happening. Mayor Woodby stated that other areas are having the same issues, people are afraid of COVID, and the pay isn't enough to keep them. She stated that she is meeting with Terry Arnold and will be discussing the contract at that time.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Grindstaff stated that he would like to see the body be more forthcoming and open with employees about the increases in insurance. Mayor Woodby stated that she would like to see an HR person hired to handle the communications, to keep the employees informed of changes.

XII. Adjourn

A motion to Adjourn was made by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gwen Crowe