

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

May 05, 2022, 6:00 PM

Members:

Aaron Frazier (in for Daniel McInturff)

Robert Acuff - Present

Randall Jenkins - Present

Charles Von Cannon - Present

Thomas Proffitt – Present

Layla Ward - Present

Isaiah Grindstaff – Present

Nancy Brown (in for Mike Miller)

1. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Robert Acuff 6:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Present:

Aaron Frazier

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Nancy Brown

Absent:

Daniel McInturff

Mike Miller

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Isaiah Grindstaff, second by Thomas Proffitt to approve agenda.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier

Robert Acuff

Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon

Thomas Proffitt

Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff

Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

4. Public Comments

Shannon Burchett from the Highway Department stated that she was there on behalf of Road Superintendent Colbaugh to show support for the Bonus for the employees to come from the ARP funds.

Daniel Estes, City Manager came to thank the committee for consideration for the ladder truck, but, because there are so many projects needing funding, he is withdrawing his request.

5. ARP Funding and Prioritization Issues

Charles Von Cannon asked Chairman Acuff how far over budget are the requests for funding from ARP. Chairman Acuff replied that they are \$4. Million over budget and he just got a request for \$1,224,750 for a waste treatment facility to service up around Watauga Lake. He reminded the committee that there are two pots of money here. TDCE at \$7,478,770.57 and the ARP at \$10,953,291. Already committed money from the ARP fund is \$1,314,637.60. Remaining ARP funds are \$9,638,653.40.

Proposal List

#4 Carter County Essential Employees Bonuses 306 x 12,000 = 3,624,000

Nancy Brown asked what is being considered for the employees? Discussion began about what other neighboring counties have done and what the qualifications are for a bonus. There were suggestions that the office holders certify who worked and if they qualify for the money. Carolyn Watson, Finance Director stated that she would get the exact dates that qualify. Mayor Woodby stated that she agreed that the employees should get a bonus, this fund does stipulate that employees can receive money as a bonus for hours worked, we have to take care of our employees. The Finance Department will not be able to tell who worked from home and who didn't, other counties are giving a set amount across the board. She also informed the committee that neighboring counties were giving \$3000 to \$5000. Aaron Frazier stated that there would not be the 306 employees that would qualify, he estimates that it would be more like 250. Qualifications for receiving the bonus is being employed or hired during March 2020 and November 2021 and still employed by the county.

Motion by Nancy Brown, second by Thomas Proffitt to provide a bonus to qualifying employees in the amount of \$5000.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier

Charles Von Cannon

Nancy Brown

Robert Acuff

Thomas Proffitt

Randall Jenkins

Layla Ward

Abstain:

Isaiah Grindstaff

With seven (7) yes votes, one (1) abstain, motion carried.

They will wait on the Finance Department for the final figures.

#1 Carter County / Skyline / Skybest Fiber Based Internet \$3,200,000 (\$2,500,000 from ARP with \$600,000 coming from the general fund and \$100,000 from Carter County Schools)

Chairman Acuff stated that the grant has already been submitted, they asked for \$9.9 million. This meets all requirements for the ARP funding.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Aaron Frazier to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier

Charles Von Cannon

Isaiah Grindstaff

Robert Acuff

Thomas Proffitt

Nancy Brown

Randall Jenkins

Layla Ward

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#2 Carter County EMS – Ambulance \$241,124.

Mr. Frazier stated that there was some confusion in the Budget Committee while looking at the outside agencies. There are several ambulances on the list. The Rescue Squad, and Elk Mills, Poga Project. There was also the question if the EMS was going to be able to man a new ambulance. Mr. Frazier also stated that he has heard that there are several that are sitting and not being used. Mr. Grindstaff asked if we want a new ambulance sitting in a station where it doesn't get used very often. It was suggested that they skip this and come back to it after there is more information with all requests for ambulances.

#3 Carter County Health Department \$127,700.

Chairman Acuff stated that this is a match of grant money coming from the state.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Nancy Brown to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Vote as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#5 Carter County 911 – Mobile Ready Emergency Center \$47,375.

Motion by Isaiah Grindstaff, second by Thomas Proffitt to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#6 The Grief Recovery Method (\$200 / attendee).

Chairman Acuff stated that he has not gotten any more information on this.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Aaron Frazier to remove this from the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#7 Carter County Fire Association 4 x \$150,000 =\$600,000

#8 Carter County Watauga VFD \$150,000.

Thomas Proffitt suggested that they put number 7 and 8 together.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Layla Ward to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#9 City of Elizabethton Fire Department Ladder Truck Request \$1,500,000.

City Manager Daniel Estes withdrew this request.

#10 Friends of the Animal Shelter Spay and Neuter Facility \$655,000.

Motion by Thomas Proffitt, second by Nancy Brown to leave this on the Proposal List but ask for more information.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#11 Carter County Drug Prevention \$60,000.

Motion by Aaron Frazier, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to remove this from the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#12 Poga, Elk Mills CC Ems \$553,674, Ambulance \$225,510, Fire Pumper \$312,550.

Revisit with the request for ambulances.

#13 Constables of Carter County \$48,000.

Motion by Nancy Brown, second by Aaron Frazier to keep this on the Proposal List but to allocate the money to the Constables Association and let them distribute it as needed.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#14 Danner Bridge Replacement, 1st Utility District \$13,898.15 (Est)

#15 Blevins Hollow Bridge Replacement, 1st Utility District \$55,212.15 (Est)

It was suggested that #14 and 15 be voted on together.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#16 United Way of East TN Highlands in Carter County, \$50,000.

Finance Director Carolyn Watson stated that she would add a stipulation that they have to provide the organizations that were given the money and what they did with it.

Motion by Charles Von Cannon, second by Randall Jenkins to keep this on the Proposal List with the stipulation that they provide where the money went and what it paid for.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#17 Carter County First Responders Radio Communication, \$3,700,000 (Est)

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Nancy Brown to keep this on the Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

TDEC Project List

#1 Peter's Hollow Water / Utility \$200,000

Mayor Woodby stated that she has been informed that this project does not meet the criteria for the TDEC funding and will need to be moved to the ARP Proposal List.

Motion by Thomas Proffitt, second by Aaron Frazier to move this to the ARP Proposal List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier	Charles Von Cannon	Isaiah Grindstaff
Robert Acuff	Thomas Proffitt	Nancy Brown
Randall Jenkins	Layla Ward	

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#2 Big Springs Water / Utilities
Remover from TDEC Project List

#3 City of Elizabethton Water / Utility Service to County Residences (the total TDEC funding for the county is \$7,478,770.57. The city's request is 35% of the \$7.4 million number. Carter County's 35% of these funds would be \$2,617,570)

#4 Laurels Water Line \$540,000

City Manager, Daniel Estes state that the city would do the work to reduce the cost of #4 by \$250,000. Increasing #3 to \$2.9 million would cover both projects.

Motion by Randall Jenkins, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to keep #3 and #4 on the TDEC Project List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

#5 Carder View Utility System (\$400,000 from Carter County and \$400,000 from Johnson County)

Motion by Nancy Brown, second by Thomas Proffitt to keep this on the TDEC Project List.

Voice Roll Call as Follows:

Yes:

Aaron Frazier
Robert Acuff
Randall Jenkins

Charles Von Cannon
Thomas Proffitt
Layla Ward

Isaiah Grindstaff
Nancy Brown

With eight (8) yes votes, motion carried.

6. Commissioner Comments

Chairman Acuff thanked the committee for all the hard work but reminded them that some of these will have to be negotiated or removed.

Isaiah Grindstaff stated that with what was in the TDEC funds there will be about \$4.5 million dollars left after these projects.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Nancy Brown, second by Isaiah Grindstaff to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.