

-Commissioner Ed Elkins presented a finance committee recommendation to make a motion to have county attorney Joe Byrd draw up a lease agreement, subject to city participation, for two EMA towers. The lease agreement would include protecting the land and properties associated with the towers. Commissioner Lisa Stanbery had concerns that the Forestry Service would negotiate the terms if the lease is non-transferable. County Attorney Joe Byrd stated that he would do research and review lease conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

-Commissioner Jeff Yarber made a motion to ask Bradley

Government Watch - County Commission

A look at what is happening in Bradley County..... by Ashley Murphy

County Mayor D. Gary Davis to request an ISO evaluation. A high score on an ISO evaluation of county fire departments could lower fire insurance rates for home owners in Bradley County. Commissioner Stanbery said that by holding back on an ISO evaluation the commission have, in a way, "held the taxpayers hostage" to paying higher insurance prices. Commissioner Ed Elkins stated that if the motion passes, the evaluation should be done after bringing

the Tasso Fire Station online. Commissioner Howard Thompson said there would be a ninety day turnaround after the station goes online and that an ISO evaluation now would be premature. The motion was passed with Commissioners Jim Smith, Howard Thompson, Bill Ledford, and Roy Smith voting no.

-A motion was made by Commissioner Connie Wilson to form a joint committee to study the fire department consolidation. Commissioner Jim Smith then made a substitute motion

to have this issue brought to a work session for discussion instead of voting on it now. Substitute motion failed. County Attorney Joe Byrd stated that he and City Attorney John Kimball, will have to take limited roles due to conflict of interest. That being said, the original motion passed 9-5.

-Mayor D. Gary Davis read a letter from the county attorney on February 17 for a resolution to appoint Judicial Commissioners. This appointment

would be a short term, quick fix due to its urgency. Bradley County currently doesn't employ a magistrate or warrant writer, so this would allow the employees of the 911 center to sign affidavits. Joe Wilson, Director of the 911 center, was willing to work to help out. Commissioner Brian Smith put the resolution into a motion and the motion passed. Gayla Miller appeared before the Commission on February 23 and told them the problem has been re-

solved and as soon as County Attorney Joe Byrd gives her written approval the matter will be taken out of the 911 center and put back into her office. However, come budget time, the issue will have to be voted on again.

Bradley County Commission meetings and County Committee meetings are open to the public. Commission voting sessions are on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and work sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the commission room at the Bradley County Courthouse. Committees meet as needed.

Government Watch - City Council

A look at what is happening in the City of Cleveland

The following are highlights from the February 2009 Cleveland City Council meetings.

Director of Public Works, Tommy Myers, gave a brief report on solid waste within the city, saying that the overall residential waste tonnage is down. He said that this is most likely due to more residents recycling. Public works also picks up brush and tree trimmings, but the department has had problems recycling all that has been picked up because the brush chipper has been down due to maintenance problems.

Vice Mayor Avery Johnson stated that he had several complaints regarding the City of Cleveland not giving out applications to those who had inquired about them. It was explained that the potential applicants were going to the Cleveland Municipal building, which does not have application forms. Melinda Carroll said that applications are located in the Human Resource building and are available for the public to pick up and fill out. The application forms are for any job within the City, will be put on file for up to one year, and applications will only be reviewed when positions become available. A list of open positions is also available to the public on the City of Cleveland website,

www.cityofclevelandtn.com.

A resolution was presented for the County Commission and the City Council to jointly establish a fire department merger committee. Members of the finance committee would include Gary Davis, Ed Elkins, Janice Casteel, Julian Sullivan, and Flavis Casson. Members of the structure committee would include Dewey Woody, Chuck Atchley, Danny Lawson, George Poe, and Connie Wilson. The legal committee

would include John Kimball, Richard Banks, Joe Byrd, and James F. Logan, Jr. The motion was unanimously passed.

Several local residents were present at the February 29th meeting to voice their concerns about the Housing Authority administration, Paul Dellinger, Charlotte Hagen, Tom Lay, and Brian Gillingwater. Nancy Ledford was one very concerned resident who said that the public is not allowed to speak during public meetings and that communication has basically been "cut off" with the Housing board. Ledford added that since Paul Dellinger has been over the Housing Authority, he hasn't given anyone the money owed to them under HUD regulations. According to HUD, there should be \$25.00 given for every unit in the complex. "If we aren't getting our money, then where is it going?", she asked.

Robert Patterson and Delmer Owen were also present to voice their concerns and both residents had issues with maintenance work. HUD has funding that is supposed to help those living on a fixed income in these types of situations. However, the men were either charged or know someone that was charged for maintenance work, even though the issues weren't at the fault of the resident. Several of the council members wanted to call an official investigation on the Housing Authority, but it was suggested that the housing administration, along with the housing board, be present at the next council meeting to be included in the discussion. Councilman Richard Banks then made a resolution to respectfully request that the administration and the board be present at the March 9, 2009 four o'clock City Council

meeting. The motion passed unanimously, but later an additional meeting was called for March 2 at 2 pm.

Melissa Woody, from the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, presented the council with pricing for Civil War signage. There is a possibility that Hamilton County is getting signs and she doesn't want Cleveland and Bradley County to be passed by, because this is a good chance for the city and county to get revenue. Signs are \$5,500, but there is a signage grant that matches \$1,100. This would make the two signs \$550 each if both the cities of Cleveland and Charleston agree to the match.

Cleveland Police Chief Wes Snyder gave the 2008 Cleveland Police Department Benchmarking Report. The CPD has six patrol teams that work ten hour shifts and provide service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. During the 2008 year, there were over 55,000 calls for service, but there was a 17% overall crime reduction and a 7% reduction in traffic crashes. The report also included an update on the red light cameras and citations issued during the October, November, and December 2008 months. During October, there were \$9,400 in citations issued. There were \$17,900 issued in November and \$20,750 issued in December. Of the \$48,050 in citations that were issued in 2008, only \$40,088 have actually been paid. The city is currently paying about \$16,000 for the red light cameras every month.

The Cleveland City Council meetings are open to the public each month at the Municipal Building. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month with the work session at 2pm and the voting session at 4pm.

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