



BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020
Time: Consecutive After Rules and Legislative
Location: Second Floor Courtroom, Bedford County Courthouse

Present: Mayor Chad Graham; Commissioners Bill Anderson, Sylvia Pinson
Chairman Mark Thomas and Commissioner John Brown via telephone

Absent: none

Others Present: County Commissioners: Greg Vick, Anita Epperson, Julie Sanders, Brian Farris, Brent Smith, Jeff Sweeney, Linda Yockey, Sheriff: Austin Swing, Chief Deputy: Nikia Elliott, EMA Director: Scott Johnson, Assistant Fire Chief: Brian Cantrell, Probation Director: Jason Sudberry, Cindy Herring, Animal Control Director: Maria Hughes, Planning & Zoning Director: Chris White, IT Dept: Austin DaFoe, GIS/Media Manager: John Carney, Assistant to Mayor Graham: Anna Frazier, EMS: Chris Cox, Randy Saddler with Shelbyville Record Shop, Tracey Strassner, Brian Brenton, Duane Smith, and others not identified

Via Phone/Internet: Commissioners John Brown, Mark Thomas, and others not identified

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Bill Anderson, 5:47 PM
- 2. Prayer:** Mayor Chad Graham
- 3. Roll Call:** Commissioner Brown and Thomas participating via telephone.
- 4. Approval of May 19, 2020 Law Enforcement Committee minutes:** Motion made to approve, (Pinson, Thomas) unanimous
- 5. Animal Control Report:** Report submitted; Director Hughes was present and said the transition to reopen the shelter has gone smoothly. Animals are not staying long at the shelter. The mindset of her staff has changed as a result of COVID-19 to proactively managing the animal at intake versus the old mindset of taking in animals and suddenly the shelter has 100 or more animals and unsure how to place or care for that many animals. Commissioner Anderson asked for the target date the shelter expects to be fully open. Director Hughes said the shelter is currently fully open including taking in pet surrenders and going on calls.
- 6. Sheriff/Jail/Workhouse Reports/Drug Task Force:** Report submitted; Sheriff Swing was present. Sheriff Swing had with him the May report for the 17th judicial drug task: 28 investigations were conducted, about 150 grams of meth/ice was confiscated and arrests were made, 250 ecstasy tablets, 57 hits of LSD, 10 grams of heroin, 1,500 grams of marijuana was seized from individuals resulting in forty-nine defendants. Drug Task Force Director, Tim Lane, stated in his report the task force is seeing an increase in availability of ecstasy and LSD in the district. Commissioner Anderson asked for the target date to allow workhouse inmates to work outside the jail. Sheriff Swing said he discussed this with Scott Johnson and they will take a look at it on June 30th.



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Commissioner Yockey asked about procuring body cameras for officers and the thoughts of the committee on the topic.

Commissioner Anderson said the committee needs to look at it, but it would be up to Sheriff Swing. Sheriff Swing said the department has body cameras, but some do not work. In his experience, the technology becomes outdated quickly or the vendor goes out of business rendering the maintenance and upgrade to the cameras unavailable.

Mayor Graham mentioned the previous desire to also have cameras in police cars and said after the budget process is completed there will be time to visit some of the department's capital improvement projects put in place to address these issues.

- 7. EMA Report:** Director Scott Johnson was present. He did not have a report to present due to the ongoing work with COVID-19 but was available for questions.

Commissioner Brent Smith asked how many COVID-19 deaths in the county to date.

Director Johnson said there have been four deaths. Most cases have been asymptomatic.

There was much discussion regarding the Duck River from both a safety and economic perspective. Commissioner Anderson asked about the river collecting with debris at Cortner's Mill and if there is any way to make the water go over the dam.

Mayor Graham received a letter a couple of days ago from Van Ayers regarding the possibility of commissioning a group to study the over fifty miles and at least 14 access points of the Duck River located in Bedford County.

Director Johnson said the issue is the county is overwhelmed by the thousands of people from outside the county, mostly from Coffee, Franklin, Warren and Rutherford counties utilizing the river. One kayak vendor has sold about 3,000 kayaks in the past 90 days. John Carney has been helping EMA with safety blitzes in the above-mentioned counties about the river. The counties have been good about publishing the information to their residents.

Commissioner Yockey requested Van Ayers as a member of the Duck River study group.

Commissioner Thomas said he will meet at a later date with Curt Cobb who has some good ideas to generate revenue to offset the expense of the rescue equipment used on the river.

- 8. Juvenile Reports:** Report submitted; Director Kellee Smith was not present.
- 9. Probation Report:** Report submitted; Interim Director Jason Sudberry was in attendance. Director Sudberry said there is a transition plan in place to bring the clients back into the office. The office is generating more revenue as clients come to the office to make their payments.
- 10. Motion to Approve all Reports Submitted:** (Pinson, Graham) unanimous.
- 11. Old Business:** None.
- 12. New Business:** None.
- 13. Announcements:** None.
- 14. Adjourn:** (Pinson motioned, Graham second) unanimous. 6:21 P.M.