

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEMAN COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BODY MARCH TERM
REGULAR SESSION JUNE 20TH, 2023**

Be it remembered that a Regular Meeting of the Legislative Body for the County of Hardeman, State of Tennessee was conducted in the Hardeman County Courthouse in the City of Bolivar, on the 20th day of June, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Hon. Todd Pulse, County Mayor, was present and presiding, and a quorum of Commissioners, namely, Hon. David Bell, Hon. Russell Deberry, Hon. Mark Gilliam, Hon. Brad Grantham, Hon. Bobby Hensley, Hon. Joe Jenkins, Hon. Jeff Kennamore, Hon. Chandra Y. Lake, Hon. Johnny M. Lanier, Hon. Bethany Miller, Hon. Johnny Weems, Hon. Jackie Sain, and Hon. John Vickers were present and Hon. Cory Bufford, Hon. Thomas Polk, and Hon. Bobby Wright was absent. County Clerk, Tonet Griggs and County Attorney, Dale Conder Jr. was present and the meeting was opened in due form of the law and had to wit:

13 PRESENT 3 ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hon. Jackie Sain made a motion and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 16th, 2023.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

APPROVAL OF NOTARIES

Hon. Brad Grantham made a motion to approve the notaries for this month and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded to approve the list of notaries.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

BOARD OF EDUCATION – SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTY SMITH

Superintendent Smith presented several amendments needed to clean up the 2022-2023 budgets so they can close the books for the fiscal year end. Hon. Brad Grantham made the motion to accept the amendments and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SUPERINTENDENT CASEY SWIFT

Casey stated that there are no changes to the budget for the highway department. Hon. Deberry asked about Hwy 125 north. Casey informed him that that part of the highway was not the responsibility of the Highway department and PRI are the contracted company for that portion.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – JOSH PULSE

No report

ELECTION COMMISSION – AMBER MOORE

Amber informed us that the new ballot machines should arrive by next week.

LITTER GRANT -- SHERIFF DOOLEN

Sheriff Doolen gave an update on the pounds collected in June. They have collected 7960lbs in June and a total of 126,400lbs to date.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE – COMMISSIONER JOHNNY WEEMS

No Report

AUDIT REPORT – COMMISSIONER MARK GILLIAM

Hon. Mark Gilliam said that the deficits are higher than they would like to see. The county had a total of 12 findings. Hon. Gilliam checked with the other 91 counties in Tennessee and the average was about 3.38 findings. Emails were sent out to each department requesting a response with the proposed corrective action by June 30th 2023. Hon. Chandra Lake asked “How many reports had the audit committee received back?” Hon. Gilliam said that two reports out of the five have been received and they were from the Trustee and the Director of Schools. The committee is still waiting on the Mayor’s Office, Highway Department, and the Sheriff’s Department.

EMS – JAMIE BURNETT

The ambulance department has had 207 total calls, 178 transports. Three of those transports were non-emergency and 175 were emergency transports. Sixty-one of those transports were to Bolivar General, 55 transports were to Jackson General, 12 transports were to Memphis, 13 transports to Magnolia Manor, and providing mutual aid to Fayette County.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – COMMISSIONER JOHNNY LANIER

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Budget amendments 1 through 20 were approved through the budget committee with no need to go to the full commission. There was a change made to #33 the debit column for travel from \$120 to \$125 as to have the debit and credit balance match. Budget amendments 21 through 34 all come with positive recommendations from the budget committee.

1. Other Board #1 (SEE ATTACHED)
2. Purchasing #2 (SEE ATTACHED)
3. Reappraisal Program #4 (SEE ATTACHED)
4. Development #5 (SEE ATTACHED)
5. Ambulance Department #6 (SEE ATTACHED)
6. County Buildings #7 (SEE ATTACHED)
7. Hardeman County Extension #8 (SEE ATTACHED)
8. Other Facilities #9 (SEE ATTACHED)
9. Register of Deeds #10 (SEE ATTACHED)
10. County Mayor #11 (SEE ATTACHED)
11. Property Assessor #13 (SEE ATTACHED)
12. County Commission #16 (SEE ATTACHED)
13. Workhouse #21 (SEE ATTACHED)
14. Sheriff’s Department #22 (SEE ATTACHED)
15. County Buildings #23 (SEE ATTACHED)
16. Hardeman County Health Department #30 (SEE ATTACHED)
17. Litter Grant #31 (SEE ATTACHED)
18. Hardeman County Extension #32 (SEE ATTACHED)
19. Soil Conservation #33 (SEE ATTACHED)
20. Airport #34 (SEE ATTACHED)
21. Juvenile Services #3 (SEE ATTACHED)
22. General Sessions Court #12 (SEE ATTACHED)
23. Juvenile Court #14 (SEE ATTACHED)
24. Chancery Court #15 (SEE ATTACHED)

25. Dental Health Program #17 (SEE ATTACHED)
26. Animal Control #18 OMITTED (SEE ATTACHED)
27. Special Patrol #19 (SEE ATTACHED)
28. Civil Defense #20 (SEE ATTACHED)
29. Workhouse #24 (SEE ATTACHED)
30. Election Commission #25 (SEE ATTACHED)
31. Civil Defense #26 (SEE ATTACHED)
32. Other Public Safety #27 (SEE ATTACHED)
33. Animal Control #28 (SEE ATTACHED)
34. Ambulance Dept #29 (SEE ATTACHED)

Hon. Bethany Miller made the motion to accept the budget amendments with the corrections and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

AIR MED CONTRACT RENEWAL

The Air Med Contract is due to be renewed. This emergency air flight service is paid for through the ambulance department or Sheriff's Department. The contract amount is \$67,500. Hon. Jackie Sain made the motion to approve the contract renewal and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

WEST TN MEDICAL CENTER EMS DISCUSSION

Mayor Julian Mctizic spoke on the importance of the contract with West TN Health Care. He said this is not a new issue and it has been discussed over the course of the past two years. West TN Health Care was contracted in October 2018 because there was a lack of coverage for the city. When it was brought forth there were no actions taken during that counsel meeting. West TN offered to provide one 12 hour service and one 24 hour service for free of charge. December 2018 a passing agreement was made and the contract was signed Jan 01, 2019.

Mayor Mctizic stated that he is concerned that two ambulances will not be enough for the entire county. He gave his opinion on the course of action, which were three options. The first was to not accept the West TN Health Care contract. The second was to keep our EMS and add other revenues to bring the department to increase productivity. The third is to accept the proposal by West TN Health Care. In his personal opinion, the third option is the best option because our EMS team is overworked and short staffed at this current moment.

West TN Health Care asked for a supplement of \$867,000. Hon. Bell asked Mayor Mctizic to help him understand why we would pay another EMS service company to help. Mayor Mctizic then pointed out that the county should be responsible for paying for the contract if renewed.

FINAL BUDGET READING – COMMISSIONER JOHNNY LANIER

Hon. Lanier wanted the commissioners to note that the changes in the booklet are highlighted in yellow. The revenues for the 2023-24 fiscal year are located on page 8 of the booklet, expenditures are located on page 29, and the summary for the fiscal year is on page 30. On column six that top number of \$321,242 is the surplus for the fiscal year. Hon. Lanier stated that he wanted the surplus number to be higher than \$287,896. This was needed because the county has to pay for the new ballot machines upfront. The reimbursement for the ballot machines will be after June 30th of the next fiscal year. After paying for the ballot machines the county surplus will be \$33,346. Hon. Johnny Lanier made motion to accept the

final budget reading with the corrections and Hon. Chandra Lake seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTIONS:

TAX LEVY RESOLUTION – Beginning July 1st, 2023 the combined property tax rate for Hardeman County, Tennessee shall be \$1.8102 per \$100 of taxable property. (SEE ATTACHED) Hon. Chandra Lake made the motion to accept the resolution and Hon. Jackie Sain seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTION 06-20-002 – Resolution that solidifies appropriations designated to non-profitable organizations of Hardeman County, Tennessee. Hon. Brad Grantham made the motion to accept this resolution and Hon. Johnny Lanier seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

RESOLUTION 06-20-003 – This is a resolution Appropriations for the various departments, institutions, offices, and agencies of Hardeman County. Hon. Johnny Lanier made the motion to accept this resolution and Hon. Johnny Weems seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

PUBLIC-COMMENT POLICY RESOLUTION – Public forum is to be adopted and made available for the public to comment on the agenda items during the County Commissioner’s Meeting.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

AIRPORT COMMISSION – COMMISSIONER BRAD GRANTHAM

Hon. Grantham informed us that this project for the new terminal started off as a \$3 million dollar project with 50/50 grants. Our airport is one of the last to update our terminal. Phase 1 deal with entrance relocation so that it will be in compliance with Tennessee Agronomics. This was previously going to cost \$190,000 but with the help of the Superintendent Casey Swift and the Highway department and the grant which is 95/5 this cost for the county will now be around \$4,000. This phase will start July or August as soon as the contract is received. Phase 2 focuses on site prep. This deals with moving fences, electrical issues, etc. This was going to cost \$1.2 million, but after sorting through the cost went down to \$800,000 which with the 95/5 grant we are looking at \$40,000. Phase 3 is working on the terminal building which involves a lot of lighting. The grant for this is also a 95/5 grant, which the county portion of the 1.3 million will be \$65,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

S.M. LAWRENCE BID – CJC HVAC REPLACEMENT

S.M. Lawrence is the only one bid received for the CJC HVAC replacement. They will start within the next three weeks.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 13 AYE 0 NAY

JUDGE W. BOYETTE DENTON

Judge Boyette was not in attendance. There was not enough money through the designated fund to pay for the Magistrate position so he will not be working towards hiring for this position.

CARRIED BY ACCLAMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

Hon. Johnny Lanier made a motion and Hon. Brad Grantham seconded to adjourn.

The next meeting is July 18th, 2023.

COUNTY MAYOR 

COUNTY CLERK 