



## Bedford County Board of Commissioners Courthouse and Property Committee Minutes

Date: **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**  
Time: Meeting to be held consecutively after Law Enforcement Committee Meeting.  
Location: Bedford County Historic Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Community Room

### **Minutes**

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#### Courthouse and Property Committee Members

Commissioner Julie Sanders, Chair  
Commissioner Adam Thomas  
Commissioner Drew Hooker  
Commissioner Troy Thompson  
Commissioner Diane Neeley

#### **Call to Order**

#### **Prayer**

#### **Roll Call**

#### **PRESENT**

Julie Sanders

Adam Thomas

Drew Hooker

Troy Thompson

Diane Neeley

#### **Minutes Approval:**

1. Approval of October 18, 2022 Courthouse & Property Committee minutes.  
*Motion to approve by Neeley, Seconded by Thompson.*

#### **Reports:**

2. **Planning/Zoning Report** - Report Not Enclosed.  
*Chris White was out of town and will get report to committee. Commissioner Hooker asked if a report had been distributed the previous month.*
3. **Codes Report** - Report not enclosed.  
*Director Amy Peterson reviewed the report handed out and noted that building permits have dropped off slightly although still above five-year trend. Building revenue is up. Chairman Sanders thanked the director for her excellent report.*
4. **IT Department Report**- Report Not Enclosed.  
*IT Director reviewed the report he distributed. IT is working with law enforcement on several reporting capabilities. They have maintained some of the data being used on older systems and are working to convert a Legacy system the sheriff is using and moving those over. He noted that he was aware of the tablet initiative and felt the sheriff's department had done their due diligence and that not having the extra burden of security to our network would be nice. ISOMS is running smoothly. There were 100 work order tickets this month which is less than normal, but good. IT works to maintain systems and are constantly considering cybersecurity. IT has also been working on new projects in the courtroom.*
5. **Fire Department** - Report Enclosed.  
*Mark Thomas said he was proud of his department's employees response to a large tank fire three weeks prior that took 700-800 gallons a minute. They were moving a large amount of water and exposure to products was kept at a minimum. Mayor Graham said it showed how the hard work and strategic planning for water management had paid off.*

6. **E911 Report** - Report Enclosed.

*Report reviewed.*

7. **GIS Report** - Report Enclosed.

*Mayor Graham noted that GIS and Media are Director Carney's strong suits and that he continues to evolve in his roles. Now with Planning and Zoning, Blake Burleyson has also stepped up. Mayor Graham – "We are starting to get a vision for the benefits of GIS..beauty of GIS is sharing data across a platform." Director Carney said that he and Mr. Burleyson have been working on getting a digital version of the GIS map up and are learning more and more. They both participated in a webinar recently that could have an impact on how they take GIS maps and put them in a form that can be shared with citizens. Mayor Graham – "As we grow as leaders and make predictions and study the future, the more real time info we can have in front of us...it is critical that GIS continue to evolve in Bedford. We are making progress."*

**Approve Reports:** *Motion to approve by Neeley, Seconded by Thomas (unanimous).*

**Other Reports - For Information Only:** *None.*

**Old Business:** *Mayor Graham gave an update on property as follows: "Some new commissioners may not realize that before I was mayor, the Commission was on a journey to look at properties that were not needed. When I came on the scene the old gym was filling in on itself, we got rid of. Moved some stuff over to the workhouse. There were some interest from the city but wouldn't work so then the conversation was to get properly cleaned up and ready to go in case it could be off-loaded. We are now reaching the point where we are resetting that location and are in the process of doing that. We are following the rules on what we can get rid of and destroy. Next stop is the old jail. Not the historic rock jail. Old jail has already been determined uninhabitable. We need to go through and harvest out all that can be salvaged or done away with. It will lower cost of taking building down and it won't go into garbage. If we go in there and give public a chance to bid on taking metal or wire out of it...to scavenge it will save and potentially make some money. We need to figure out how to make that known. Also where jail and juvenile is has got to be done away with." Chair Sanders said an in-depth study had been done with juvenile services and Charles Rich and we have that data and pros and cons of keeping them here or housing them elsewhere and said she would share all that information when that point is reached. The Mayor said the current juvenile facility is "all to pieces" and we cannot continue to operate there. The choices are to transition to another facility or build a facility. Moving them to the workhouse had been looked at but state said no. The current facility is not unsafe but in poor condition just as the sheriff's office was, prompting move to justice center. Mayor Graham – "The vision was that we would get workhouse to where it could be off-loaded or another purpose for it and everyone was in agreement that old jail has got to come down. Behind that, we have got to be prepared to debate and decide where we go with juvenile detention. That would be a debate and in the end, the commission would make that decision. Commissioner Sanders is working with Ronda Clanton to get an updated property list.*

*Commissioner Thompson asked if there was any idea of what proceeds could be gained from selling the workhouse and the Mayor said his office does have that info and will share. Commissioner Hooker asked about the property of the old jail. Commissioner Yockey said that we don't want to lose that ground mentioning green space and that she would love to see the historic jail improved and a tourist spot made of it. The Mayor mentioned that the old stays locked but is still being pilfered and state says it is in deplorable condition so it would make sense to take it down and for it to be used as parking or green space or possible festival area. He added that the commission can control that and decide what it should look like. Commissioner Hooker asked about surplus and the Mayor explained that after old things were surplused out of gym, it had started to pile up again and his thought was that there should be an even smaller location for surplus and suggested a small pole barn could be built on the grassy area at finance to hold down the volume of surplus.*

**New Business:**

8. **Standing Committee Membership Annual Review** - The Rules and Legislative Committee, acting as a nominating committee, shall submit nominations for the Standing Committee positions to the Board of Commissioners based partially on seniority and individual preference. All Standing Committees of the Board of Commissioners shall be elected annually by a majority of the Board of Commissioners at the January term of the Board. Nominations are requested by the December 20, 2022 Rules and Legislative Committee meeting.

*This item was noted.*

*Johnny Reed reported that when his office moved to the courthouse annex they lost 800 sq. feet and with the big building boon his plat cabinets are almost full and he needs more space. He also said that there is one exit/entrance into the office which concerns his staff. Commissioner Sanders asked if he had looked at scanning but he said that right now the law still requires that he have paper form as well. Mr. Reed had brought a drawing of a proposed solution to open a door in a workroom and gain some unused space. Commissioner Sanders asked if there was money in Mr. Reed's budget for the cabinets and copier he is needing. Commissioner Hooker explained that this issue came up when he did his departmental reviews and that he had asked Mr. Reed to come tonight. Commissioner Sanders noted that when the annex was renovated she didn't recall the one door being addressed as a security issue and that it had not been that long since the updates were finished. She asked about the cost of cabinets which are \$10k and Mr. Reed said he could get by with one. A plat copier cost is \$12-16k. The Mayor said that they can work with the capital project fund and that he may have another option that would give Mr. Reed's department more space than proposed. It was suggested to check with codes regarding structural issues and reconstruction of the building meeting fire codes. Commissioner Hooker suggested that the committee let the Mayor and Mr. Reed come up with a solution. Mayor Graham said he has a couple of options already in mind.*

## **Announcements**

### **Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn by Thompson.*