



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

Date: **Tuesday, December 20, 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

Drew Hooker  
Troy Thompson  
Diane Neeley

#### ABSENT

Julie Sanders  
Adam Thomas

#### **Minutes Approval:**

1. Approval of the November 15, 2022 Courthouse & Property Committee minutes.  
*Motion made by Thompson; Seconded by Hooker (unanimous).*

#### **Reports:**

2. Codes Department Report - Report Enclosed  
*Director Peterson had nothing to add to her enclosed report. Commissioner Hooker thanked her for her detailed reporting.*
3. Fire Department Report - Report Enclosed.  
*Chief Thomas had nothing to add to the enclosed report.*
4. E911 - Report Enclosed.  
*There was no one on hand to expand on the enclosed E911 report.*
5. GIS - Report Enclosed.  
*In addition to the information in his enclosed report, Director Carney noted that he had updated the county website with the new photographs of commissioners.*
6. Planning/Zoning Report - Report Enclosed.  
*Commissioner Hooker said that over the last six weeks District 1 has had properties go to zoning and that he and Commissioner Maddox didn't receive prior knowledge about it but learned of it at the meeting. Director White said that his secretary has added commissioners to the mailing list for planning commission. Commissioner Hooker asked if the county commission and the planning commission have the same time clock for subdivision approval that forces them to act. Commissioner Linda Yockey (from the floor) said she has discussed with Attorney Ginger Shofner and the planning commission "goes by the book". She added if you had a reason to delay you could, but it musn't be capricious. Just to say look at it for 30*

days, would not pass muster. She said this was a result of constituents complaining of deferrals they suspected were not above board.

7. IT Report

The IT report was distributed. The department is working on the Health Department Phone System overhaul. The old PBX system was replaced with a new VOLp system. The new phone system will save the health department approximately \$9,000 per year in phone bills. There will be a complete return on the investment within 3 years. The department reported that installation of all audio and video connections has been completed.

**Approve Reports:**

*Motion to approve reports by Hooker; seconded by Thompson (unanimous).*

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

**Old Business:**

*Mayor Graham said that Chair Julie Sanders, who was not present, asked that he let the Committee know that she has continued to work on and should have for them at the next meeting an updated list of county property.*

**New Business:**

*Commissioner Hooker discussed the committee meeting location issue that was brought up earlier in the evening saying that the courtroom of the courthouse is a beautiful facility and he would love to see it be used for this purpose. He added that it would be more accessible for constituents to attend meetings. Commissioner Yockey (from the floor) suggested exploring possibilities with the Mayor's office. Commissioner Maddox (from the floor) said he wanted to put a timeline on the issue and not "kick it down the road." Commissioner Hooker also feels that committee meetings start too early and that he wanted to be as open as possible. He acknowledged that yes, meetings were live streamed but felt the committees need to be as accessible as possible. Commissioner Hooker moved that the Mayor's office come up with a solution to be voted on in 30 days. Commissioner Thompson asked a question and then the motion was rescinded. Commissioner Hooker then suggested that all committee meetings, including finance, be held in the main courtroom to provide a common location for all meetings. Commissioner Yockey again suggested that the Community Room could be expanded. Commissioner Thomas did not feel the acoustics were good in the courtroom for meetings held near the audience. IT Director Josh Carney explained that at previous meetings such as this that were held in the courtroom a mixer had to be brought in for setting up. There are only 2 wireless microphones. Commissioner Neeley asked if it would be possible to bring in a TV screen to place in the hallway. Mayor Graham said that was discussed. Commissioner Hooker moved to place the issue on the full commission's agenda in January that all committee meetings be held in the courtroom. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson (3-0, unanimous).*

**Announcements**

**Adjourn**