

**Bedford County Board of Commissioners
Special Called Commissioner Board Meeting**

Date: **Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

Time: **7:00 PM**

Location: **Bedford County Historic Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Courtroom**

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman, Mayor Chad D. Graham

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Open Meeting: Sheriff Austin Swing

Roll Call: County Clerk Donna Thomas

PRESENT

John Boutwell
Jason Boyette
Janice Brothers
Biff Farrar
Drew Hooker
Scott Johnson
Eric Maddox
Diane Neeley
Sylvia Pinson
Julie Sanders
Tony Smith
Adam Thomas
Mark Thomas
Troy Thompson
Greg Vick
Linda Yockey

ABSENT

Bill Anderson
Anita Epperson

New Business:

1. Issuance of General Obligation School Bonds

Motion to approve and waive the reading was made by Yockey. Seconded by Mark Thomas.

Boutwell said that according to the 2020 census Bedford County gained 709 students between 2010 and 2020. Currently there are 450 students in portables. The University of Tennessee projects that by 2030 the county will have 1247 more students. He said adding on to schools is not plausible due to cafeteria constraints. He is in favor of the resolution.

Hooker asked if the resolution will require a tax increase. Finance Director Robert Daniel said it will not. Hooker asked if it will require an increase in the operating budget for This year and Daniel said not for this year, but probably in the future due to utilities, etc. Hooker asked if there will be additional funds needed for this project and Daniel said no, actually the project could come in under budget. There is a guaranteed maximum price and if the project comes in under budget the county gets 70% of the savings.

Yockey asked John Werner of Cumberland Securities to explain the variable rate option. Werner said that currently the variable rate and fixed rate are almost the same, but the variable rate gives the County flexibility to only draw the funds as needed and pay interest only on the draws. At any time the County can choose to refinance and go with the fixed rate. Thompson asked what is the rate? Werner said 4%.

Neeley asked where will the funds come from to make this payment? Daniel said from debt service. He said that we will have debt falling off that will free up funds for the payment. Neeley asked what the expected payment will be and Daniel said around \$10M per year. Farrar asked when the debt would be paid off and Daniel said this is a 25 year bond.

Hooker asked when we would be able to take on additional debt for future projects. Daniel said there will be some debt dropping off in 7 or 8 years but other than that there will have to be a tax increase. Graham stated that interest rates could decline, or as in the past, there may be opportunities to refinance and gain savings.

Neeley noted that furnishings are included in the \$43.5M and asked if it would be possible to purchase those separately. Daniel said they are included in the "not-to-exceed" cost. Dr. Tammy Garrett, School Superintendent, said that when you take that money (approximately \$960K) out of operating expenses you affect academics.

Maddox asked what is the anticipated construction cost over all? Tyler Powell, representing Bell Construction, said the current estimate is \$39.1M. Hooker asked if the project comes in under budget, where will the savings go? Daniel said since this is a bond issue the savings will go back into that project other like projects.

Vick called the question.

Voting Yea: Boutwell, Boyette, Brothers, Farrar, Hooker, Johnson, Maddox, Neeley, Pinson, Sanders, Smith, Adam Thomas, Mark Thomas, Thompson, Vick, Yockey

INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED FORTY-THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$43,500,000) GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF BEDFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Bedford County, Tennessee (the "County") has determined that it is necessary and advisable to borrow funds and incur indebtedness for certain public works projects as more fully set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Bedford County, Tennessee, for the purpose of providing funds for (i) constructing, improving, repairing, renovating and equipping of schools and other educational facilities, parks and recreation facilities and other public buildings, including any equipment required therefor; (ii) payment of legal, fiscal, administrative, architectural and engineering costs incident to all of the foregoing (collectively, the "Projects"); (iii) reimbursement to the appropriate fund of the County for prior expenditures for the foregoing costs, if applicable; and (iv) payment of costs incident to the issuance of the debt authorized herein, the County is hereby authorized to borrow money and incur indebtedness in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$43,500,000 by the issuance of, bonds, in one or more emissions, or by obtaining loans by entering into one or more loan agreements with a public building authority in Tennessee. Such indebtedness shall bear interest at a rate or rates not to exceed the maximum interest rate as permitted by applicable Tennessee law and shall be payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes to be levied on all taxable property within the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Bedford County, Tennessee that the County Clerk be, and is, hereby directed and instructed to cause the foregoing initial resolution relative to the issuance of general obligation bonds or general obligation loan agreements to be published in full in a newspaper having a general circulation in the County, for one issue of said paper followed by the following statutory notice:


NOTICE

The foregoing resolution has been adopted. Unless within twenty (20) days from the date of publication hereof a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the County shall have been filed with the County Clerk protesting the issuance of the County's bonds and/or the County entering into one or more loan agreements, such bonds will be issued and/or such loan agreements shall be entered into as proposed.

Donna Thomas, County Clerk

This Resolution shall be in immediate effect from and after its adoption, the public welfare requiring it.

Adopted and approved this 24th day of January, 2023.



County Mayor

ATTEST:




County Clerk

STATE OF TENNESSEE)

COUNTY OF BEDFORD)

I, Donna Thomas, certify that I am the duly qualified and acting County Clerk of Bedford County, Tennessee, and as such official I further certify that attached hereto is a copy of excerpts from the minutes of a regular meeting of the governing body of the County held on January 24, 2023; that these minutes were promptly and fully recorded and are open to public inspection; that I have compared said copy with the original minute record of said meeting in my official custody; and that said copy is a true, correct and complete transcript from said original minute record insofar as said original record relates to an initial resolution for not to exceed \$43,500,000 indebtedness of the County.

WITNESS my official signature of said County on this the 24th day of January, 2023.



County Clerk

Announcements

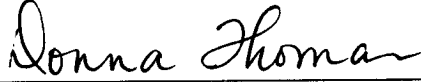
- Homelessness Task Force will meet on February 14 at 5:15 p.m.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

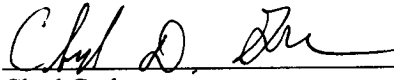
Attestation

I certify that the minutes were completed on the 26th day of January, 2023 and delivered to the Bedford County Mayor's office.



Donna Thomas
Bedford County Clerk

I certify that I received these minutes on the 31 day of January, 2023.



Chad Graham
Bedford County Mayor