

Anderson County Commission

April 16, 2018 meeting

Chair Chair Tim Isbel called the meeting to order. All 16 commissioners were present.

At the Appearance of Citizens, Ron Meredith, owner of WYSH radio, objected to what he called false accusations by Law Director Jay Yeager. Mr. Yeager was said to have accused Mr. Meredith of manipulating bidding on County purchases. Commissioner Wandell moved that Mr. Meredith be advised to take the issue to the County Ethics Commission and, if that failed, to the Legal Service Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

It was noted that the Ethics Commission last met in 2008. Mr. Wandell moved to ask the Nominating Committee to "reconstitute" it. Motion passed.

County Trustee Myron Iwanski presented the results of the EMS audit. He said there were no surprises. The service has been underfunded for years and the plan to pay for the service solely from fees collected is hopeless. Commissioner Meredith moved that Commission follow the advice of the auditors and ask the Mayor and the EMS Director to develop an intermediate and long-range plan for the EMS and bring it to the Commission for review, approval and funding. Motion passed

Commission voted to use \$5,000 from the Solid Waste Fund to help send the Secret City Wildbots, the Oak Ridge High School robotics team, to Houston for a competition.

The Law Director congratulated all those involved in the transformation of the old Daniel Arthur building into the new General Sessions court.

Commissioner Warfield reported that the house in the Anderson County Park is ready to rent. He moved that the house be rented for \$275 a night through Airbnb. Motion passed.

Commission voted to direct 1.7 mill of the tax revenue stream from the General Debt Fund to Capital Outlays in next year's budget. Finance Director Natalie Erb pointed out that the Debt Fund has adequate funding and the move would allow the purchase of EMS ambulances, fire trucks, and cars for the Sheriffs department. The income can move for only one year and will revert to the debt fund in 2019/2020. She repeated her warning that the General Fund is too low and that unless spending is reduced there will have to be a tax increase.

~Willa Reister, Observer