

Anderson County Commission

Regular meeting, July 17, 2017

Fifteen Commissioners attended.

Myron Iwanski has resigned from Commission to take his new job as Trustee. The appointment of a replacement was postponed until the August meeting. The ad for the position failed to make the Oak Ridger and there was an error in the information about the deadline.

Mayor Frank presented her five nominees for the Conservation Board. The current Board was appointed by the Commission and the Mayor has pointed out the she, not the Commission, has the power to nominate members and Commission can only confirm or deny her nominations. Commission voted to accept the two of the Mayor's nominees who are already serving on the Board, Earl Cagle and Brenda Currier. They rejected the Mayor's three new nominees, Christopher Silver, Christine Dixon, and Commissioner Fritts. The Law Director was asked to find out if the old Board can be dismissed before their terms expire if they were appointed "in good faith" and if two members can constitute a quorum.

Mayor Frank stated that the Board's treatment of her nominations showed a lack of respect for the office of the Mayor. Commissioner Wandell pointed out that there are 20 to 30 resolutions passed by the Commission sitting on the Mayor's desk waiting for her signature. He felt that her refusal to sign showed her lack of respect for the Commission.

DOE is renegotiating all their in-lieu-of-taxes agreements. They contend that they should not be paying more than the going tax rate and that payment should be consistent across facilities. Commission Wandell moved to refer the issue to the Legislative Committee.

The Mayor reported on a proposed change in the State law governing the allocation of the oil and gas separation tax. The State now gets two-thirds of the \$425,000 proceeds and the counties where the oil and gas were produced get one-third. Under the proposed change all the money would come to the counties. Anderson County is first in the state in gas production and fifth in oil. Commissioner Wandell moved that Commission write a letter in support of the change. Commission approved.

Commissioner Mead moved that the \$67,000 budgeted for Storm Water Coordinator Richard Burroughs' salary and benefits be eliminated from the budget for next year. Motion passed with Commissions Fritts and McKamey voting against it.

County Purchasing Agent Katherine Ajmeri presented the Purchasing Committee's recommendation that Fish and Associates be hired to do the EMS audit for \$43,000. Commission approved. Twelve people were appointed to the Audit Advisory Committee, including 5 commissioners. Randy Waters, assistant to the finance director, was appointed project manager.

Commissioner Warfield moved that the EMS department be asked to submit detailed reports to Commission monthly. Motion passed.

Commissioner Meredith admitted that he had been unable to find a new site for the Glen Alpine Convenience Center. He moved that the Center be left where it is and the site improved. Commissioner McKamey said that the Solid Waste Committee had plans for

landscaping the site ready to be put out for bid. Commission voted to move ahead with improving the site.

Commission passed with a voice vote a resolution to move regulation of coal mining in Tennessee from the Federal to the State government. There was no discussion.

~Willa Reister, Observer