

Roane County Commission

Regular meeting, May 14, 2018

Hearing of Delegation: Of 12 people speaking, three spoke in favor of the proposed consolidation of Roane County High School, citing better resources and the progression of education in general. They made the central point about the children being the most valuable asset of the community. Two voiced concerns about how this consolidation would affect the county over time and misconceptions about whether the school would be zoned in Harriman or Rockwood.

Six urged a voter referendum on the issue of the Wheel Tax and expressed general cost concerns.

County Attorney: A lawsuit was settled in the Tony Clough Estate. Chancery Court ruled that Roane County would be responsible for returning \$8,234 in taxes paid by tenants.

County Executive: Among a number of issues discussed was the annual jail report. The jail has 170 certified beds; currently 255 inmates are housed there.

New Business: Ten resolutions were passed.

Regular meeting, June 11, 2018

Hearing of Delegation: Jerry White, President of the Oliver Springs Historical Society, announced their event on July 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The public is invited.

Roberta Dennis talked about an informative program on addiction on the History Channel. She then proceeded to say that she would not recommend Charles Elmore as a new board member of the Regional Library Board. She said that person needs to be experienced and trustworthy.

John Dennis talked about the Constitution and lauded Presidents Kennedy and Trump.

Charles Elmore responded to Roberta Dennis' negative comments. He does not know her, he has never met her and she has never contacted him about any issues. He has 15 years of library experience, five degrees with two of them in library science, and one in accounting..

Special Orders: Charles Elmore was unanimously appointed to the Regional Library Board. The new term will expire June 30, 2021. Several Commissioners spoke up and praised his community service and a number of citizens later congratulated him. Jinx Watson was also appointed to that board with a term ending in 2019.

Larry Clark was confirmed to the County Board of Public Utilities due to the expiration of George Yarboroug's term. He did not want to continue. His term will expire June 30, 2021.

New Business: a resolution authorizing the County Executive to execute a five year agreement with Fleanor Security Systems for the installation and monitoring of the Panic Button and Burglary system in the Courthouse was deferred with a 12 to 3 vote. No explanation was given. Commissioner David Bell tried to address the issue, stating that the system was needed and he did not want it deferred. He was told by Chairman Berry that he was out of order.

Eight additional resolutions were passed.

~Hella Peterson, Observer