

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

## March 18, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes

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Be it remembered that the Cumberland County Commission met in monthly session on Monday, March 18, 2024 at the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville, Tennessee. Cumberland County Sheriff Casey Cox called the meeting to order at 6:00 o'clock P.M. Present and presiding was Mayor Allen Foster who asked Danny Smith of Crab Orchard Christian Church to deliver the invocation. Mayor Foster led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Also present at this meeting were County Clerk Jule Bryson, Finance Director Jennifer Turner, Director of Schools William Stepp, Library Director James Houston and the following County Commissioners:

Dewey Walker (ABSENT)	Sue Ann York
Tom Isham	Nancy Hyder
Rebecca Stone	Darrell Threet
David Gibson	Charles Seiber (ABSENT)
Jack Davis (ABSENT)	Terry Lowe
Wendell Wilson	Joseph Sherrill
Mark Baldwin	Jerry Cooper
Greg Maxwell	Deborah Holbrook
Colleen Mall	John Patterson

A quorum being present, the Cumberland County Commission Meeting was opened in due form of law and the following proceedings were had to wit:

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA:**

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Isham, moved to approve the agenda of the March 18, 2024 Cumberland County Commission meeting with the following resolutions bundled for voting purposes: 03-2024-5 through 03-2024-7 and 03-2024-10 through 03-2024-12.

The motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote from the commission present.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING:**

On motion of Commissioner Holbrook, second by Commissioner Stone moved to approve the February 20, 2024 Commission monthly meeting minutes, make a matter of record and file.

The motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote from the commission present.

### **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Karen Frantzen 895 Parnell Road, Crossville spoke regarding the Board of Education budget process. The following Cumberland County residents spoke regarding 03-2024-14 School Voucher resolution: Kenneth Wills, 136 Braddock Street; Jerry Brownstead, 180 Lantana Drive; Chris Goddard, 103 Phyllis Street; Stewart Napier, 63 Roma Lane; Dale Brown, 900 Creston Road; Paula McGee, 40 Knights Way; Ann Quillen, 196 Smee Road; Loretta Reed, 26 Davison Road; Lisa Bolin, 88 Thomas Springs Road; Brittney Tollett, 515 Jack Tollett Road; Vincent Kadletz, 904 Summerwind Drive; Victoria Bain, 469 Fenway Drive; Sarah Sias, 1711 Vandever Road; Walter Tollett, 515 Jack Tollett Road and Jessica Lock, 140 Collins Turnpike, Deer Lodge. William Christner, 1758 Flynn's Cove Road asked for results of a request submitted for information regarding tests on his property near the landfill location.

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### NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Foster announced his appointment of James P. Smith Jr. to the Crab Orchard Utility District's Board of Commissioners with term expiring March 10, 2028.

### 3. RESOLUTION 03-2024-1 – ACCEPTING OFFER(S) TO PURCHASE DELINQUENT TAX PROPERTY OWNED BY CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

On motion of Commissioner Holbrook, second by Commissioner Cooper, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-1.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-1 carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

<u>OFFERER(S)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>OFFER</u>	<u>AD FEE</u>
Happily Ever After Homes, LLC	150G A 052.00 (2034 Shalako Dr)	\$263.90	\$45
	150G A 052.01 (2036 Shalako Dr)	\$264.20	\$45
	150P M 021.00 (5038 Chinook Ln)	\$280.30	\$45
	150P M 052.00 (6117 Pocahontas Ln)	\$276.80	\$45
	150P M 057.00 (6107 Pocahontas Ln)	\$262.80	\$45
	161B C 008.00 (422 Acoma Dr)	\$269.20	\$45
	161B I 045.00 (4002 Saponac Dr)	\$283.00	\$45
	161G A 012.00 (519 Algonquin Ln)	\$270.40	\$45
	162C B 015.00 (521 Brave Ln)	\$270.40	\$45

### 4. RESOLUTION 03-2024-2 – TO UPDATE THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDING CODES SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES:

On motion of Commissioner Sherrill, second by Commissioner Isham, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-2.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-2, updating the Residential and Commercial Building Codes Schedule of Permit fees for Cumberland County effective March 18, 2024 that include the fee schedule for Life and Safety/Occupancy inspections of \$250.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

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**5. RESOLUTION 03-2024-3 – APPROVING THE ADDITION OF A PLAQUE TO THE BACK OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN THE WAR MEMORIAL PARK:**

On motion of Commissioner Isham, second by Commissioner Mall, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-3.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-3, approving the request from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1015 to fund and add a descriptive bronze plaque to the back of the current Vietnam Veterans memorial at the War Memorial PaRk, carried by a voice vote from the commission present.

**6. RESOLUTION 03-2024-4 – TO APPOINT TWO (2) JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

On motion of Commissioner Gibson, second by Commissioner Threet, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-4.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-4, appointing Jennifer Phillips-Cross to a two-year term and Felicia Hedgecoth to a one-year term as Judicial Commissioners for Cumberland County, Tennessee, carried by a voice vote from the commission present.

**7. RESOLUTION 03-2024-5 – GENERAL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, COUNTY CLERK:**

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Mall, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-5.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-5, approving General Fund budget amendment for County Clerk technology in the amount of \$1,759.90, carried by a unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**8. RESOLUTION 03-2024-6 – GENERAL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, CIRCUIT/SESSIONS COURT:**

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Mall, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-6.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-6, approving General Fund budget amendment for Circuit/Sessions Court for audio system upgrades in the amount of \$7,700.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**9. RESOLUTION 03-2024-7 – GENERAL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, CLERK & MASTER:**

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Mall, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-7.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-7, approving General Fund budget amendment for Clerk and Master for computer technology upgrades in the amount of \$15,000.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**10. RESOLUTION 03-2024-8 – SANITATION FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, RECYCLING CENTER:**

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, second by Commissioner York, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-8.

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The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-8, approving Sanitation Fund budget amendment Recycling Center for purchase of separation conveyer in the amount of \$40,000.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**11. RESOLUTION 03-2024-9 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

On motion of Commissioner Stone, second by Commissioner Gibson, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-9.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-9, approving Highway Department budget amendment for negotiation of legal agreement between individuals and the county for Byrd's Creek bridge repair in the amount of \$64,550.00 paid directly to the contractor making the repair, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**12. RESOLUTION 03-2024-10 – GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT:**

On motion of Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner Maxwell, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-10.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-10, approving General Purpose School fund budget amendment for ISM Grant for change in needs and to clean up the account in the amount of \$17,000.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**13. RESOLUTION 03-2024-11 – GENERAL PROGRAM SCHOOL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, SAFE SCHOOLS:**

On motion of Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner Maxwell, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-11.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-11, approving General Program School Fund budget amendment from the Safe Schools grant in the amount of \$132,280.46, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**14. RESOLUTION 03-2024-12 – GENERAL PROGRAM SCHOOL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, TISA FUNDS:**

On motion of Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner Maxwell, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-12.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-12, approving General Program School Fund budget amendment from Outcome Based TISA funds in the amount of \$168,000.00, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

**15. RESOLUTION 03-2024-13 – FEDERAL PROGRAM SCHOOL FUND, BUDGET AMENDMENT, STATE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT:**

On motion of Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner Wilson, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-13.

The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-13, approving Federal Program School Fund budget amendment from the State School Improvement Grant (SSIG) in the amount of \$192,793.70, carried by unanimous roll call vote from the commission present.

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### **16. RESOLUTION 03-2024-14 – OPPOSING GOVERNOR LEE’S PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS:**

On motion of Commissioner Patterson, second by Commissioner Sherrill, moved to defer resolution 03-2024-14 to the Schools and Education Committee for review before a full commission vote.

Discussion: Commissioner Mall agreed with deferring this resolution as the Chair of the Schools and County Education Committee. She would like to wait on the Board of Education’s input before a vote. Commissioner Threet stated that he felt that the Commission should vote now. He wanted to send the message to fund the public schools fully before the state starts providing funds to the private schools. Commissioner Stone stated she had raised four (4) children in the public school system but at this time she does not feel this resolution should be voted on until more information provided. Commissioner Isham sided with Commissioner Patterson to send this resolution to the Schools and County Education Committee before a vote. Commissioner Patterson stated our school system is in the 50th percentile and doing a wonderful job in teaching our students. Commissioner Sherrill would like more conversation on this resolution. He has constituents on all sides and in the middle of this voucher discussion. Commissioner Holbrook ask if there was a timetable coming through the legislature to consider in this vote. She felt fundamentally the vouchers system is not ideal for the public education system. She doesn’t want to miss the opportunity to state what the county commissions stand is on the vouchers. Commissioner Wilson also stated he felt the danger in not voting would eliminate the chance to voice the Commissions opinion on this resolution. He is concerned with the accountability that this legislation has not addressed at this point. Every student, teacher and administrator in the public education system is expected to perform at a standard that the private sector is not held to. This has not been addressed as of yet. Commissioner Isham stated the state of Tennessee has surplus of funds to be provided for educating the students of Tennessee. He feels this would help many people to be able to make a decision as to where their children would be educated. Commission Threet states he feels that Cumberland County public schools would lose a substantial amount of funds if students go to private schools.

The motion to defer this resolution to the Schools and Education Committee failed by 7 ayes and 8 nays roll call vote. Commissioners Isham, Hyder, Stone, Gibson, Sherrill, Mall and Patterson voting aye and Commissioners York, Threet, Lowe, Wilson, Baldwin, Cooper, Maxwell and Holbrook voting nay.

On motion of Commissioner Threet, second by Commissioner Holbrook, moved to adopt resolution 03-2024-14.

Discussion: Commissioner Stone stated she would not be in favor because she felt there are not enough facts to vote on this subject. Commissioner Sherrill stated there has been significant change in the state education process recently. So therefore, he thinks more discussion is needed and can’t oppose something he doesn’t have enough information on. He feels that public will change the law if they do not agree with it. Commissioner Threet disagrees with Commissioner Stone in that the Commission does know what they are voting on. He stated the bottom line is the vote is to not spend taxpayers’ money for private tuition. He feels taxpayers’ money should go to public schools. Commissioner Patterson stated that public schools will improve when faced with competition. Commissioner Mall stated that a no vote does not mean the commission does not support public schools. There are other districts that are performing poorly but Cumberland County is not one of those. She feels there needs to be more discussion before a vote. Commissioner Isham stated there is percentages made public supporting the voucher system. Director of Schools William Stepp spoke giving an estimated amount of \$ 639,000 missing from the school budget for students that have left the public school system. Commissioner Isham state he felt with the money that is purposed to be given for student education the voucher system would benefit all students.

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The motion to adopt resolution 03-2024-14, opposing Governor Lee's for private school vouchers, carried with 10 ayes and 5 nays roll call vote. Commissioners York, Hyder, Threet, Gibson, Lowe, Wilson, Cooper, Maxwell, Holbrook and Baldwin voting aye and Commissioners Isham, Stone, Sherrill, Mall and Patterson voting nay.

### **COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Finance Director Jennifer Turner gave the financial report for the month of February revenue for sales tax for Board of Education, property tax, hotel/motel tax, prisoner boarding and EMS collections. Mayor Foster reported that the Codes Department has issued approximately 78 building code permits bringing in an estimated \$86,000.00 since its inception in January 2024.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Attorney Philip Burnett reported the county's federal lawsuits are not moving along much, with four (4) holding in the pipe line which is a good thing. The two (2) local lawsuits, currently one of them did not settle in mediation but is not too much of a concern for the County. After the passing of resolution 03-2024-9 tonight, there should be some construction work started on one of the lawsuits.

### **17. ELECTION OF NOTARIES:**

On motion of Commissioner Maxwell, second by Commissioner Gibson, moved to elect Sydney Brown, Melody Carey, Jodi Fields, Janelle K. R. Poore, Emily Rollins, Brooke Sawyer, Vicky Scarlett, J. Garth Staley, Paula Steinmann, Delores Turner, Renate Whicher, Denise Yates as notaries public for the State of Tennessee.

The motion to approve the notaries carried by voice vote from the commission present.

### **18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS:**

Commissioner Lowe announced the Cumberland County Livestock Association annual meeting will be held Friday, April 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM. All commissioners are invited to come and enjoy a meal and see the presentations.

Commissioner Sherrill reported the Crossville Chronicle has run an article recently and will be doing so again on the Opioid crisis in our county. The article is asking the community for proposals for issues created due to the opioid crisis. This stems from the commission passing of a resolution regarding the opioid issue.

### **19. ADJOURNMENT:**

On motion of Commissioner Hyder, second by Commissioner Gibson, moved the March 18, 2024 commission meeting to be adjourned 7:25 o'clock P.M.

The motion to adjourn the meeting carried by voice vote from the commission present.

MINUTES APPROVED FOR ENTRY THIS 15 DAY OF APRIL 2024.



Allen Foster, County Mayor  
Chairman, Cumberland County Commission



Julie Bryson, Cumberland County Clerk