

BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
May 22, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT
Matthew Shoaf, Chairman
Jeremy Mansfield, Vice Chairman
Jerry Becker
Bob Brown
Mark Harrison
David Klein
Don Schmit
OTHERS PRESENT
David Lawing
Bethany Browning
Jessica Allison-Minute Taker
Eric Sittler
Steve Weiner
Mayor Clary
Brad Williams
Wayne Drown

- I. CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Shoaf at 5:30pm in Room 112 of the Sumner County Administration Building in Gallatin, TN.
 - A. Invocation-Led by Commissioner Harrison.
 - B. Approval of Agenda- Chairman Shoaf moved item III.L (Veterans Services) to III.A. and added items III.N.and V.E. Motion to approve amended agenda by Commissioner Harrison, second by Commissioner Schmit, unanimous approval.
 - C. Recognition of Public-None

II. REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN-None

III. REPORT OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR

- A. Overall Budget (Draft 2 on website)- Finance Director Lawing explained the difference between revenues and expenditures, in his opinion, should be reduced in this budget to be no more than \$5.2M, right now it is \$5.4M. He explained the State Director of Local Finance recommends the highway department have two months of expenditures, and if we don't have at least one month, they will give us a note because it is so concerning on our budget. He explained the state's projections of gas tax is much less than what they expected it to be, so the committee probably needs to revisit the highway fund. Finance Director Lawing explained the debt service fund should pick up approximately \$3.8M, and he explained the maximum allowed, based on arbitrage rules. Finance Director Lawing mentioned the life insurance has changed due to the recent life insurance bid. There was lengthy discussion.

Commissioner Klein made a motion to suspend the rules, allowing discussion, second by Commissioner Harrison, unanimous approval.

IV. SECOND BUDGET HEARINGS – DEPARTMENTS

- A. Veterans Services- Veterans Services Director Jeff Oakey provided the attached handout and presented.
- B. Development Services- Development Services Director Suddath presented.
- C. Human Resources- HR Director Cheryl Lewis-Smith presented.
- D. Sheriff's Office- Chief Deputy Craddock presented.
- E. Election Commission- Not present.
- F. County Mayor- Mayor Isbell presented.
- G. Consolidated Dispatch- ECC Director Christie Davis presented.
- H. Clerk and Master-Not present.
- I. Agricultural Extension- Kim Davis presented.
- J. Circuit Court Clerk- Circuit Court Clerk Strong presented.
- K. Libraries- Diane Johnson presented.
- L. General Sessions II- Judge Howard presented.
- M. EMS- Interim Chief Poss presented.
- N. Highway-Finance Director Lawing spoke to this.

Chairman Shoaf stated the rules were suspended earlier, and there is a representative from the volunteer fire departments here to speak. Wayne Drown, Oak Grove Volunteer Fire, spoke to the committee regarding ARPA funds and a building to store their trucks.

V. WORKSHOP

- A. Discussion of Funds for Hendersonville Exit 8- Mayor Clary spoke to the attached. Commissioner Becker made a motion to use one penny from debt service, for the next three years, to help fund this project, second by Chairman Shoaf, motion passes 4-3, with Commissioners Klein, Mansfield, and Schmit opposing.
- B. Discussion of Volunteer Fire Departments- Brad Williams from White House Community Volunteer Fire spoke on liability regarding the county and volunteer fire departments.
- C. Overall Budget Completion- Finance Director Lawing pointed out that the schools put in the same amount of revenue as last year, which is maintenance of effort (MOE). He stated his estimates, based on the current tax rate, are significantly more. Finance Director Lawing asked the committee if they wanted to leave the tax rate as is with the school budgeting MOE. The committee agreed they did.
- D. Discussion of tax rate- The tax rate was adjusted to the following:

Fund	Budgeted Rate
General	\$ 0.5700
General Debt Service	0.2423
Highway/Public Works	0.0123
General Purpose School	1.3709
Capital Projects	0.0665
Total	\$ 2.2620

- E. Waterlines funding- Commissioner Harrison made a proposal to remove \$2.5M from broadband and add it to the \$10M that is already appropriated for water in the ARPA funds. There was lengthy discussion, but no action taken.

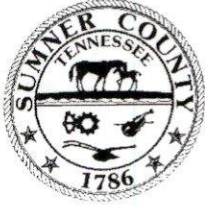
- The committee agreed to fund development services as presented.
- The committee agreed to the change the fee structure that is included in the packet for development services. Motion to approve by Commissioner Becker, second by Chairman Shoaf. Commissioner Mansfield made an amendment for the additional funds from the new fee structure to go directly into the general fund for education, second by Chairman Shoaf. Commissioner Becker made an amendment regarding the additional \$98,000 from the new fees, for \$15,000 to stay in the Development Services department and for the remaining \$83,000 to go to the general fund to be earmarked for education, second by Commissioner Klein, motion passes 6-1, with Commissioner Mansfield opposing. Finance Director Lawing pointed out there may be possible issues with this. The committee agreed to put this item on old business at the next meeting.
- The committee agreed to a \$25,000 raise for the Director of Development Services, \$20,000 raise for the County Engineer, and a \$5,000 raise for the Stormwater Manager.
- The committee agreed to fund the election commission the same as last year; except, election workers funded at the lower requested amount and benefits adjusted appropriately, plus COLA.
- The committee agreed to place \$5,000 back into county buildings for maintenance of buildings that was removed earlier.
- The committee agreed to fund consolidated dispatch as presented.
- The committee agreed to give the additional funds requested for an employee in Agricultural Extension in the amount of \$2,308.
- The committee agreed to give 2% on the clerks line item in the circuit court clerks office. Motion to roll up the salaries into one line item for COLA, and mandate what will happen next year by Commissioner Becker, second by Chairman Shoaf, unanimous approval.
- The committee agreed to allow the sheriff's office to dissolve two new deputy positions and make it one lieutenant.
- The committee agreed to give two employees in the General Session II office an additional \$1,213 plus benefits.
- The committee agreed to a part time position for the veterans services office. Motion to approve by Commissioner Harrison, second by Chairman Shoaf, unanimous approval.
- Finance Director Lawing provided a letter regarding gas tax to the committee. The committee agreed to reduce asphalt in the highway department's budget by \$400,000, and added \$400,000 of ARPA funds for asphalt. The committee also adjusted gas tax estimates down due to recent information received. The committee also removed an additional \$400,000 from asphalt so that the highway department would have a minimum of one month's of appropriations, in estimated ending fund balance.
- Chairman Shoaf made a motion to take two pennies from debt service and distribute amongst all employees for a 3% cost of living (COLA), except those who received COVID pay, and they will receive 2%.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Budgeted Rate</u>
General	\$ 0.5900
General Debt Service	0.2223
Highway/Public Works	0.0123
General Purpose School	1.3709
Capital Projects	0.0665
Total	\$ 2.2620

- Commissioner Schmit made a motion for all elected officials to not receive COLA in their first year in office. Finance Director Lawing explained the state statutes for this and it is not something that can be achieved.
- Commissioner Becker made a motion to give \$406,000 to Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department to build a building to store their trucks, and to split the remaining funds from the money allocated for the fire departments, \$294,000 amongst the other volunteer fire departments, second by Commissioner Harrison. Chairman Shoaf made a motion to amend that the \$406,000 come from ARPA, with the remaining balance going back to the general fund, contingent on the resource authority doing a quick claim deed, second by Commissioner Schmit, unanimous approval.
- The committee agreed to allow Finance Director Lawing to adjust the utilities for ECC.
- The committee agreed to move the \$56,000 Meraki software from the capital projects fund to the general fund.
- Finance Director Lawing pointed out that there are no final numbers for the jail elevator yet. No action taken.
- Chairman Shoaf made a motion to give the HR Director sixty days pay, beginning July 1, 2023, to help transition the duties, and dissolve the department, second by Commissioner Mansfield, motion passes 5-2, with Commissioner Becker and Commissioner Harrison opposing.
- Commissioner Becker made a motion to appropriate \$80,000 for contracted HR services. Chairman Shoaf seconded, with the amendment that it is only for one year and with very specific terms, Commissioner Becker agreed; motion fails 3-3, with Commissioner Klein, Commissioner Mansfield, and Commissioner Schmit opposing.

Finance Director Lawing suggested renouncing the meeting for June 5, 2023, to allow for additional hearings.

VI. ADJOURNMENT- Motion to adjourn at 11:00pm by Commissioner Becker.



SUMNER COUNTY GOVERNMENT
VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE
355 North Belvedere Drive ~ Room 114
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066
Tel (615) 451-6014
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22 May 2023

Veterans Services Office Budget Argument

1. **Highest quality service to our veterans.** Most recent: \$37,000 backpay and \$3,750/mo after your service office uncovered and forced VA to correct 4-year old error for Vietnam vet.
2. Overworked office = underserved veteran population.
 - a. Our ratio: 5700 veterans to each service officer (2nd worst in Middle TN).
 - b. Results: **1+ month delays** for a veteran's 1-hour meeting
 - c. Results: **50-100% less VA funding per veteran** than benchmark counties
 - d. Results: Veterans are starting to leave Sumner County
3. Solution: Fund part-time VSO position (~\$21,000 in salary and benefits)

Thanks for the privilege of letting us continue to serve.

Jeff Oakey, Director

Sumner County Libraries Budget Corrections
May 22, 2023

Hendersonville Public Library - Request made to take the decrease of \$8527 out of Janitorial Services instead of the Electricity line. This correction needs to be made to the FY2024 Budget (Draft #2)

Westmoreland Public Library – Funds were deducted from the Janitorial Services line totaling \$5420 leaving a balance of \$580 for the year. The original budget was \$6000. This is an error as funds were also taken out of the Electricity line. Funds need to be replaced in the Janitorial Services line on the FY2024 (Draft #2)

Millersville Public Library – The salary for the Children’s Librarian was in error listed at \$32,573, instead of \$35, 412 per the Salary Adjustment made in 2022 and before the 2% COLA increase. an additional \$2896 need to be added to the Librarian line totaling \$68,472 on the FY2024 Budget (Draft #2)

Prepared By:

Diane Johnson
Sumner County Library Board, Treasurer
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SLIC Grade Separation & Safety Improvements Project



Illustration of the Future Grade Separated Crossing

Project Description

The Project will:

- Eliminate an existing at-grade rail crossing that is blocked with trains **14 times per day**, causing road traffic to queue up a connecting interchange ramp and onto the SR 386 freeway so that oncoming freeway traffic approaches the vehicle queue at speed (65 mph) with the potential for a serious crash.
- Create a new grade separated crossing to replace the closed crossing and maintain access.
- Create a new road alignment, known as the Saundersville Local Interstate Connector or SLIC, between U.S. 31 (East Main Street) and Local Route 6098 (Saundersville Road), improving access and connectivity.
- Add lights from the interchange along Saundersville Road and to the new connector road to improve visibility.
- Upgrade two nearby signalized intersections and provide signal interconnects for increased safety and coordinated traffic flow.
- Widen U.S. 31 to add turn lanes for the connector road and realign Saundersville Road for a new intersection with the connector road.

The benefit cost analysis for this project is over 2.5, representing a strong return on investment.

The Transportation Challenge

Winston Hills Parkway connects U.S. 31 to the SR 386 freeway interchange with one lane in each direction and an at-grade railroad crossing. Eastbound traffic exiting the freeway for U.S.31 must turn left on Saundersville Road into a right-turn lane for Winston Hills Parkway, cross the CSX tracks, then proceed to U.S.31. The existing Saundersville Road traffic signals at the ramp and at Winston Hills are both tied to the rail crossing signal and are preempted to all red when a train goes through, resulting in a roadway network freeze. There are 14 daily trains (12 freight and 2 switch) traversing this crossing. During these closures, it is common to have vehicles backed up onto the Vietnam Veterans Boulevard during peak hours where cars approach the stationary queue at 65 mph.

The state's Railroad Grade Crossing Priority Listing Report for 2018, the most recent available ranks the Project crossing among the State's top 100 crossings out of over 3,000 crossings statewide.

Project Cost and Funding Gap

The total estimated cost to complete the SLIC Grade Separation and Safety Improvements Project is \$28.138 million. The City of Hendersonville and its partners (CSX and the Tennessee DOT) have secured \$4,019,800 for the project leaving a funding gap of \$24.118 million.