

APPROVED

Carter County Utilities and Cable Committee Meeting(s)
December Meeting

Members present: W. Patrick Hicks, Richard Renfro, Joel Street, Ernest Ritchie, John Lewis,
Steve Lowrance, Sonja Culler and Charles Von Cannon

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hicks who asked to change the agenda to allow Mr. Tom Anderson to make his presentation so he could leave for a Nashville meeting.

The Roan Mountain sewer project study was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Mountain Electric Cooperative. The options for consideration were as follows:

- . Construct a sewer line from the Roan Mountain area to connect with the Elizabethton system
- . Construct an on site treatment plant for approximately 700+ customers in and around the Roan Mountain area.
- . Reduce the scale of service to approximately 100 customers in the immediate village area

The first two options were decided to be cost prohibitive.

The third option would cost between \$1.5 million and 3 million according to the estimate developed by Tysinger and Associates.

The Tom Anderson report was placed on hold until the committee members have a chance to view and study the report.

Chairman Hicks returned to the agenda and opened the floor for nomination of committee officers. Commissioner Hicks was re-elected Chairman-Charles Von Cannon was elected Secretary.

The committee addressed Utilities.

Since the last meeting was February 7, 2011, Chairman Hicks gave us an update on how a cable company is allowed to operate in Carter County.

Chairman Hicks is continuing to develop a user friendly listing of names and telephone numbers that the committee and the public can use to voice their complaints or to secure information concerning cable matters.

Commissioner Joel Street has tried to resolve complaints to little or no satisfaction due to being placed on hold by the cable company customer relations personnel.

Commissioner Ritchie recommended that the committee take a long look at this company due to their past performance and the large number of complaints. He also suggested that a representative of the company appear before the committee if the present cable company continues to serve Carter County.

New business:

Commissioner Lewis presented a petition with approximately 700 signatures requesting a change in how the Hampton Utility District selects their 3 Directors.

The reasoning behind the request was the raising of water rates, the buying of land, and the method of two board members selecting the third member when a member is rotated by term length off the board. The Hampton Utility District has raised rates even though they have an operating balance of over \$500,000.00.

Commissioner Lewis requested the committee go on record to the full commission asking Rep. Kent Williams to write and sponsor a private act allowing the Hampton Utility to set up a system whereby the water customers would elect their directors.

Chairman Hicks pointed out that most utility districts in Tennessee operate by the appointed member method. A private act would go outside present state law.

It was also pointed out that of the hundreds of utility district within the state only 9 are set up to elect district directors via elections.

Commissioner Street stated that he had received calls for and against, however "if it isn't broke don't try to fix it".

Commissioner Lewis made the motion to send the committees recommendation asking Rep Williams to obtain a private act allowing the Hampton Utility District to elect their Board of Directors.

The roll call vote was 4 for and 4 against- in the event of a tie vote the motion technically failed. A motion was made by Charles Von Cannon to table the issue until the committee could study the issue further and possibly obtain a ruling from our county attorney.

In the discussion before the vote Mr. Lewis stated that he felt the issue should not be tabled since it indicated the committee did not trust his judgement.

The roll call vote produced 4 for tabling, 3 against, and 1 pass vote.

It was pointed out that the issue technically failed on the first vote.

Charles Von Cannon brought up the need for fiber optic service at the Tennessee Technology Center, Northeast Community College off campus center, the Elizabethton Airport, as well as the business and industry in the area.

Commissioner Lowrance pointed out that Mr. Anderson is working on this project.

The committee adjourned after some 2 hours. ---Submitted by Charles D. Von Cannon, Sec.

W. Patrick Harris, Chair
Approved 8-9-12