

Health & Welfare
Committee Minutes
January 3, 2011

Members present: Jo Ann Blankenship, Paul Mottern, Russell Kyte, Richard Winters, Robert Gobble, Ken Arney, Ronnie Trivett and L. C. Tester.

Others present: Leon Humphrey, Chris Mathes, Constable Potter and other concerned citizens.

Jo Ann Blankenship, Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved on motion by Paul Mottern and second by Robert Gobble.

Old Business – Mayor Humphrey reported he and John Teague, (Congressman Phil Roe’s Office), met with Dr. James Holt, an Associate Professor at East Tennessee State University, to express the needs and concerns regarding the Health Department staffing for a full time Physician. The Health Department is down to one day a week with full time Physician staffing. Based on the numbers from Caroline Hurt, if we could obtain full time staffing, as many as 2,500 to 3,000 additional patients per year could be seen. This would make a substantial difference to our constituents. Dr. Holt has indicated that he (ETSU) could provide a Physician at the rate of \$90 per hour, no other charges associated. With this amount of money the County could have a cutting edge health care at or less the cost of a full time Physician. The figures received previously from the State Health Department for a MD’s annual salary were about \$120,000. It’s difficult to find a Physician who will actually work for this amount; in addition benefits associated with the salary would cost \$50,000 for mal practice insurance, totaling approximately \$175,000 annually. Mayor Humphrey plans to get with the Health Department, Caroline Hurt and Fred Adams to inquire if there are any grants available to help support this effort. If not, we as a community need to work to see where we can establish funding.

New Business – The State of Tennessee is offering a free test kit for Radon testing in your home. Inquiries may be made by accessing the website at <http://www.tn.gov/environment/ea/radon/> or you may call 1-800-232-1139 to request the Radon Test Kit.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned on motion by Ronnie Trivett, second by Ken Arney.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Street, Recording Secretary