

**Carter County Public Records Committee**  
**\*\*\*SPECIAL CALLED MEETING\*\*\***  
**Thursday, August 16, 2012, 5:00 PM**  
**Carter County Courthouse**

**APPROVED**

**Purpose: Discuss Resolution to Establish A County Archives**  
**Discuss Fees for Archives**

Members Present: Patsy Lewis, Ronnie Trivett, Edrie "Jody" Bristol, Scott Sams, Margaret Houglan

Members Absent: Lynn Brown

Others in Attendance included: Tom "Yogi" Bowers, Leon Humphrey, Charles VonCannon, concerned citizens and news media.

Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Edrie Bristol. Quorum present.

Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Scott Sams to accept the minutes of the last meeting, July 12, 2012 so noting the corrected spelling of Magaret Houglan. By majority voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Resolutions had been distributed by Leon Humphrey prior to the meeting for review, however two new resolutions was distributed at this time by Mayor Humphrey for consideration. Mayor Humphrey noted that they were basically the same with the second resolution having change concerning an omission of establishing the fees.

Chairwoman Bristol expressed disagreement with some of the wording currently presented in the resolutions which stated that authority would fall under the County Mayor, leaving the County Records commission out. Mayor Humphrey stated that Washington County used the same resolution as the one presented.

It was also noted that office holders had submitted inventories of records and signed letters stating that they did not wish to place or turn any records over to the archives.

**Following much discussion a motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Margaret Houglan to request County Attorney Keith Bowers, Jr. to re-write the resolution (amending items 1,3,5, 7 & 8) noting changes as to be in compliance with State of Tennessee recommendations and to re-present to the Records Committee for consideration.**

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Yes: Margaret Houglan, Ronnie Trivett, Patsy Lewis, Scott Sams

No: Jody Bristol

Absent: Lynn Brown

***Motion Passed.***

Mayor Humphrey presented a second resolution establishing a county archives and record management fee which would be placed on several documents.

Patsy Lewis stated that an extra fee should not be placed on documents that are not a permanent record and that several customers voiced opposition concerning the extra fee.

It was stated that Carter County was the only county in upper east Tennessee that did not have an Archive Department.

**Motion was made by Scott Sams, seconded by Ronnie Trivett to approve as presented the Resolution to Establish a County Archives and Record Management Fee.**

Roll Call Vote as Follows:

Yes: Margaret Houglan, Ronnie Trivett, Scott Sams

No: Patsy Lewis, and Jody Bristol

Absent: Lynn Brown

*Motion failed due to not having received a constitutional majority vote of four (4) yes votes.*

Public Comments:

Sheriff Chris Mathes spoke that John Paul Mathes had approached him concerning the placement of records from the Circuit Court Clerks office being placed in the old jail. Sheriff Mathes stated that the building was still leaking and did not wish to be responsible for the records that needed to be secure.

Jim Dabadanza stated that his concern that Carter County was the only one in upper E. TN that did not have an Archive Department.

Charles VonCannon spoke that he was thankful for assistance with Carter County Cemetery records by Jody Bristol.

Betty Jane Heilman, Washington County addressed the committee. She stated that Washington County had established "Friends of the Archives" which was a volunteer group that helped with archived records and stated that this may be something that Carter County may want to consider.

Margaret Houglan, stated that the benefits needed to be researched. It was her belief that this would be a tourist attraction for Carter County.

Scott Sams stated that Sullivan County Archives was the second most popular tourist attraction following Bristol Speedway.

Joe Panzella (?) from the Elizabethton/Carter County Library stated that he felt that this would be very useful and bring much tourism to Carter County.

**Chairwoman Jodie Bristol recessed the meeting until September 2, 2012 @ 5:00 PM.**

**RECESSED Meeting continues September 27, 2012 @ 5:00 PM**

Meeting was called back to order on Thursday, September 27, 2012 @ 5:00 PM by Chairwoman, Edrie "Jodi" Bristol. Quorum present.

Mrs. Bristol recognized Scott Bowers newly appointed Carter County Historian to the committee.

Mrs. Bristol requested from Mayor Humphrey the Resolutions to be presented. She noted that these had not be available to the committee members to review prior to the meeting.

Mayor Leon Humphrey stated that he had received the Resolutions with changes on August 27<sup>th</sup> and presented these to the committee for approval and discussion at this time.

**Motion was made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Margaret Hougland to accept the "Resolution to Establish a Records Management and County Archives Department as presented.**

Much discussion followed concerning the changes that were requested. Mayor Humphrey urged the committee to follow other surrounding counties in establishing an Archives Department. He also spoke and suggested that the old jail could be used to house these records.

It was noted that at this time no offices wished to release any records to be placed in Archives.

Scott Bowers stated that he had spoken with several people concerning the different aspects of the department. He noted that he had discovered that three main items were of concern to people being, cost, fees, and security. He stated that the cost could be considerably lower if we joined with the Elizabethton/Carter County Library and records would be safe. Also stated was the fees charged and suggested that the fees be lowered to approximately \$ 1.60 which would bring in approximately \$32,00.00 ~~32,000~~

Mayor Humphrey stated that the jail had to be maintained and that the space should be used and fees should be collected accordingly.

Chairwoman Jodi Bristol called for a roll call vote on the motion as presented.

Roll Call Vote as follows:

Ayes: Ronnie Trivett, Margaret Hougland, and Scott Sams. (3 Ayes)

Nays: Patsy Lewis, Scott Bowers, and Jodi Bristol (3 Ayes)

Absent: Lynn Brown

**MOTION FAILED** (must have 4 to pass).

Motion to adjourn made by Ronnie Trivett, seconded by Scott Sams. All Ayes meeting adjourned.

**Special Called Meeting to be held Monday, October 22, 2012 @ 5:00 PM. Election of new officers, Disaster Plans for Records and Need for Office Space to be discussed.**

Patsy H. Lewis, Secretary

Edrie "Jody" Bristol: Chairwoman Edrie Bristol