

**COMMITTEE
MEETING
MINUTES**

Senior Citizens Committee Minutes February 18, 2025

Members present: Carolyn Brooks, Steve Brogan, David Mundy, Dennis Cook

Members absent: Stacey Crawford

Others present: Mayor Brooks, Beth Nelson, Betty Edwards, Eric Pearson

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm. All members present except Stacey Crawford.

First order of business was election of committee chair and vice chair. David Mundy nominated Carolyn Brooks for chair, seconded by Dennis Cook. Nomination adopted unanimously.

David Mundy nominated Steve Brogan for vice chair, seconded by Dennis Cook. Nomination adopted unanimously.

Next order of business was approving the agenda. Motion by David Mundy, seconded by Dennis Cooks to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Brooks noted that the Committee had not met in a long time so there were introductions of the directors of the two Senior Centers (Betty Edwards for the Tazewell Center, Beth Nelson for the Harrogate Center) to the Committee.

Review of FY 2026 Budget Request

Carolyn Brooks directed the Committee to review the requested FY 2026 budget for the Senior Centers. The line-item budget request was distributed to the Committee. There was general discussion about line items and grants. Both Senior Centers apply for and receive grants, and they have used these to make various building improvements and for supplies and materials for various activities for seniors.

There was discussion about the Office on Aging director, Tammy Austin, and her relationship with the Centers. Tammy Austin is not the director for the centers and does not supervise Betty Edwards or Beth Nelson. There was discussion regarding whether to separate the Office on Aging from the senior centers in the budget or to use a cost center to clearly identify and separate the Office on Aging line items from the senior center line items. Motion by Brogan, second by Mundy to amend the budget to include a separate cost center for the Office on Aging. Motion passed unanimously.

Beth Nelson and Betty Edwards explained how they provide meals for seniors at the centers, and some are delivered by LMU, and that these meals are important. They would like to receive additional funding from the County in order to provide more meals. They will also receive more equipment through the CDBG Food Grant which will increase their capacity to store food. Motion by Carolyn Brooks, seconded by Steve Brogan, to add \$10,000 to the FY 2026 budget request for food, with \$5,000 provided to each senior center. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mundy, seconded by Cook, to approve the budget request as amended and to forward the amended budget request to the budget committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of other issues

Carolyn Brooks asked if there were any other concerns about the centers. Beth Nelson raised a concern regarding a disruptive senior that attends her center. This person can be very rude and disruptive, makes it difficult to provide services, and makes other people at the center uncomfortable. The Committee discussed options for addressing this issue. Motion by David Mundy, seconded by Steve Brogan, to request the County Attorney to review and update the bylaws for both centers and to identify alternatives for dealing with disruptive clients. Motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Brooks emphasized that the hours for the senior center staff are supposed to be 7 am to 3 pm and the centers need to be open to the public for services from 9 am to 3 pm. Betty Edwards said that she generally locks the door if she is at the center alone and regularly has to leave the center in order to provide transportation for a client that does not receive other transportation. There was discussion on the importance of ensuring the public knows when the centers will be open if the directors have to temporarily leave the centers during service hours. It was emphasized that the directors should post notes or signs on the door if they have to temporarily leave identifying the time they plan to be back.

There was also discussion about delays in getting grant reimbursements submitted in time. Mayor Brooks asked Betty and Beth to contact him to make sure the grant reimbursements are submitted in a timely manner.

Motion by David Mundy, seconded by Dennis Cook, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and the committee adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Claiborne County Public Budget Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Members present: Zachary Bunch, Haley Barker, Timothy Shrout, Anthony Rowe, Mitchell Cosby, Rosemary Barnett, Sherry McCreary, and Quinton Rogers

Members absent: Dustin Wilson

Others present: Robert Brooks, Ronald Hayes, Joseph Brooks, James Estep III, Eric Pearson, and Letha Peters

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Motion made by Sherry McCreary to approve the minutes from February 6, 2025 committee meeting, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion approved.

Brave Boxing & Fitness

Robyn Canter, President, of Brave Boxing & Fitness was present at the budget meeting. Brave Boxing is located at 1520 North Broad Street, Tazewell, TN. The organization is requesting charitable contributions of \$3,000 for the 2026 fiscal year. They are a non-profit organization. Some businesses and organizations do provide sponsorships for their youth and adult programs. During the frigid weather they opened their business as a warming shelter. They offer tutoring and mentoring as well as boxing for all ages and provide transportation as needed for their members. In January, they had a grand opening of their business in our community.

Timothy Shrout was interested in a partnership between their organization and the County workhouse/inmate program.

SCHAS-Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service

Mr. Pearson provided a letter to the budget committee asking for financial support from SCHAS. Mitchell Cosby tabled the discussion until the contributions are discussed at an upcoming committee meeting. There was not a member in the audience representing SCHAS to speak on behalf of the charitable contribution.

Fund 101

Sheriff

Sheriff Robert Brooks and Chief Deputy Ronald Hayes were present to answer questions regarding the requested 2025-2026 budget.

The proposed budget does not include employee raises. Sheriff Brooks distributed a pay rate comparison for 2024-2025 with surrounding entities in our area showing pay rates for various employee positions within the sheriff's department. The majority of the Claiborne County positions are paid at a lower rate than the surrounding areas, including Tazewell and New Tazewell police.

The Sheriff requested that if a countywide increase in employee salaries is provided in the FY 2026 budget, that the Sheriff positions receive some increase. The Sheriff stated that an option is to offer longevity pay to Sheriff employees. A \$100 per year of service longevity pay program starting with five years of service is estimated to cost \$45,000. In contract, a 3% across the board pay program will cost about \$122,000. The Sheriff believes some salary increase, including longevity pay, will help with employee retention.

The committee may want to discuss longevity pay at a future meeting and possibly develop a draft policy for discussion. It may be feasible to adopt longevity pay on a countywide basis.

The committee asked Sheriff Brooks about capital needs for the department. He stated the following items need to be addressed:

1. Locking system (doors) for jail
2. Boiler room
3. Parking lot
4. Resealing roof
5. HVAC

Commission Rogers asked how this would be funded. Mr. Pearson stated that if cost estimates are provided, the appropriation in the capital projects fund (Fund 171) could be increased to cover these projects. A larger capital note or bond would be issued for all the costs, including ADA and Sheriff projects. An increase would also have to be made to the Debt Service Fund (Fund 151) to reflect the increase debt service costs from a larger debt issue.

Sheriff Brooks distributed information on the revenues generated by the sheriff's office year-to-date in 2024-2025. Total revenue deposited to the County Trustee (101-44131) is \$591,203.27, with total expenditures (commissary) of \$26,237.94, for net revenue of \$564,965.33.

Timothy Shrout informed the committee that jail uses an onsite mobile dentist to minimize dental expenses for inmates. The County receives \$4 per day from the State as reimbursement for state inmates housed in the county jail. This rate may increase if the jail is certified as a tier one facility.

The workhouse program is working with local factories such as England's and Homesteader to allow inmates to work and earn wages. Some of the inmates are also able to help within the county with litter pick-up, Highway, and Landfill.

Sheriff - 101-54110

A draft budget of \$3,348,946 was presented to the Budget Committee for review.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Administration Sexual Offenders - 101-54160

A total proposed draft of \$2,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Workhouse - 101-54220

A total proposed draft of \$4,135,706 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Capital Projects – 101-91000

The capital projects for the Sheriff in the budget request are \$210,000. The Sheriff stated that this would replace about four vehicles, and they are requesting an increase to \$220,000 to ensure the vehicles can be fully equipment.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approve with the increase, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Fund 122

Drug Control Fund 122-54150

A total proposed draft of \$53,800 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Fund 101

County Mayor – 101-51300

A total proposed draft of \$233,745 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Zachary Bunch to reduced travel from \$10,000 to \$5,000, seconded by Quinton Rogers. The motion failed due to a lack of majority. The roll call results were:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Zachary Bunch	Timothy Shrout
2. Haley Barker	Anthony Rowe
3. Mitchell Cosby	Rosemary Barnett
4. Quinton Rogers	Sherry McCreary

Motion made by Quinton Rogers to amend travel to \$5,000 to \$6,700, seconded by Timothy Shrout. Motion passed as amended.

Motion made to decrease Membership dues to \$5,800, as TCCA dues (\$1,700) currently paid from Mayor’s budget should be paid from County Commission budget. Motion passed.

Development – 101-51710

A total proposed draft of \$5,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Sherry McCreary. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Commission – 101-51710

A total proposed draft of \$29,468 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Timothy Shrout to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

County Buildings – 101-51800

A total proposed draft of \$373,096 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Mayor Brooks requested a new maintenance truck for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There was discussion about the truck and the Mayor stated that he could probably get a Maverick type vehicle for about \$30,000..

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as amended (vehicle purchase reduced to \$30,000), seconded by Timothy Shrout. Motion passed unanimously.

Alcohol and Drug Programs – 101-55170

A total proposed draft of \$100,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Anthony Rowe to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Sanitation Education/Information – 101-55720

A total proposed draft of \$71,472 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Haley Barker. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic & Community Development – 101-58190

A total proposed draft of \$65,247 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Mayor Brooks informed the committee that he has recently interviewed for the job vacancy and has a few more interviews scheduled. This position allows our county to be a ThreeStar Community with the State of Tennessee.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Rosemary Barnett. Motion passed unanimously.

Veterans Services – 101-58300

A total proposed draft of \$44,476 was presented to the budget committee for review.

The increase proposed budget is for flag purchases for the community.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Timothy Shrout. Motion passed unanimously.

County Commission – 101-51100

A total proposed draft of \$190,223 was presented to the budget committee for review.

TCCA membership dues will come from the county commission budget; these dues are included in the budget request.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Board of Equalization – 101-51210

A total proposed draft of \$7,025 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Beer Board – 101-51220

A total proposed draft of \$2,500 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget and Finance Committee – 101-51230

A total proposed draft of \$32,232 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Prevention and Control – 101-54310

A total proposed draft of \$251,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Zachary Bunch to remove the \$20,000 for training, seconded by Haley Barker. The motion passed unanimously for \$231,000.

Rescue Squad – 101-54420

A total proposed draft of \$36,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Sherry McCreary to approved as drafted, seconded by Quinton Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Emergency Management (911) – 101-54490

A total proposed draft of \$60,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Timothy Shrout to approved as drafted, seconded by Rosemary Barnett. Motion passed unanimously.

County Coroner/Medical Examiner – 101-54610

A total proposed draft of \$63,500 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Anthony Rowe. Motion passed unanimously.

Rabies and Animal Control – 101-55120

A total proposed draft of \$20,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Timothy Shrout. Motion passed unanimously.

Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services – 101-55130

A total proposed draft of \$365,000 was presented to the budget committee for review.

Mr. Pearson stated that this provides funding required under the contract with the hospital. The monthly subsidy for ambulance service is \$13,750, and the estimate for the purchase of one additional replacement ambulance is \$200,000.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Sherry McCreary. Motion passed unanimously.

Forest Service – 101-57300

A total proposed draft of \$2,000 to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Sherry McCreary. Motion passed unanimously.

Industrial Development – 101-58120

A total proposed draft of \$120,000 to the budget committee for review.

Motion by Zachary Bunch to approved as drafted, seconded by Timothy Shrout. Motion passed unanimously.

Housing & Urban Development – 101-58130

A total proposed draft of \$1,224,997 to the budget committee for review. Mr. Pearson stated that this provides funding for the CDBG food grant, utility contributions to water projects, and the HOME grant. These numbers will likely change to reflect actual remaining expenditures for the Food Grant later in the current fiscal year, but it makes sense to adopt the budget and amend it later.

Motion by Quinton Rogers to approved as drafted, seconded by Haley Barker. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Discussion Items

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Mr. Pearson provided the committee with proposed agendas for the future budget meetings.

Motion by Zachary Bunch to adjourn at 8:04 p.m., seconded by Haley Barker. Motion to adjourn adopted unanimously.