

## **COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING – JULY 20, 2026**

The Claiborne County Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Tazewell, Tennessee. Meeting was opened by Officer Doug Evans. Invocation by Commissioner Zach Mullins. Pledge led by Officer Doug Evans.

### **AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Mike Campbell called the meeting to order. County Clerk Karen Hurst called the roll by district. Commissioners present/absent as follows:

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **District 1**

Zachary Bunch  
Dennis Cook  
Whitt Shuford

##### **District 2**

Nathan Epperson  
Gary Poore

##### **District 3**

Mike Campbell  
Stacey Crawford  
Tim Shrout

##### **District 4**

Zach Mullins  
Anthony Rowe

##### **District 5**

Mitchell Cosby

##### **District 6**

Rosemary Barnett  
Carolyn Brooks

##### **District 7**

Steve Brogan  
Eric Jones  
Sherry McCreary

##### **District 8**

David Mundy  
Quintin Rogers

##### **District 9**

#### **ABSENT:**

##### **District 2**

Haley Barker

##### **District 6**

Steve Mason

##### **District 9**

Dustin Wilson

18 commissioners present  
3 commissioners absent

Also present: Jennifer Painter, Recorder

07/20/2026

**AGENDA ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy– to approve  
SECOND: Commissioner Epperson

Commissioner Cosby requested to add a resolution concerning commitment of local matching funds for the Springdale sewer line expansion project.  
(This added as Res. 2026-083, item #10A under New Business)

Commissioner Mundy requested to add a resolution concerning ARP/TDEC waterline projects (transfer of funds).  
(This added as Res. 2026-084, item #10B under New Business)

Commissioner Epperson requested that discussion item #2 under New Business be removed from agenda.

*Vote on agenda as amended - Motion carried by aye vote*

**AGENDA ITEM #3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to approve  
SECOND: Commissioner Cosby

*Motion carried by aye vote*

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – COUNTY OFFICE REPORTS**

**AGENDA ITEM #5 – COUNTY MAYORS REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #6 – COUNTY SHERIFFS REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM #7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MOTION: Commissioner Rowe – to approve  
SECOND: Commissioner Barnett

*Motion carried by aye vote*

**AGENDA ITEM #8 – NOTARY PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**

MOTION: Commissioner Mullins – to approve  
SECOND: Commissioner Mundy

*Motion carried by aye vote*

**APPROVED:**

*Terina L. Widner*

*Cassandra Rose Norvell*

*Chelsea E. Estes*

*William David Walker*

*Shannon Rena' Williams*

*Kasey A. Lewis*

*Kathy Ann Henard*

**AGENDA ITEM #9 – NOTARY PUBLIC BONDS**

*(none)*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*(none)*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEM #1 – INFORMATION – NOTICE OF AWARD**

County Mayor Brooks informed the CLB that the county has been approved for a \$100,000 planning grant through the Healthy Built Environments Procurement Opportunity program with no match to the county. The county would work with a firm to put in two greenway trails (one for Tazewell-New Tazewell area and one for Harrogate-Cumberland Gap area). Also, a \$250,000 grant was applied for and awarded through the 3-Star grant program also with no match to the county. This would be used in plans to improve tourism in Claiborne County.

**ITEM #2 – (removed from agenda)**

**ITEM #3 – DISCUSSION – COURTHOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT**

County Mayor Brooks explained to the CLB that there is extensive damage (termite and general) and degradation of the roof system in multiple areas. Upon inspection and estimate on the two side portions of the roof, it is recommended to go back to a 20 Mil flat line roof (the same as was put on the Justice Center). Upon further discussion, the following action was taken:

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to suspend the rules

SECOND: Commissioner Brooks

*ROLL CALL VOTE (on Motion to Suspend Rules): 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried*

MOTION: Commissioner Crawford – to approve bid of \$93,761.92 and include the upgrade option of a Duro-Last 80 Mil White Membrane with a 30 Year NDL Warranty in the amount of \$2,077.18, for a total of \$95,839.10. This shall also authorize the Finance Director to pay this from the Capital Outlay Note proceeds.

SECOND: Commissioner Mullins

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried*

**ITEM #4 – DISCUSSION – NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

County Mayor Brooks informed the CLB that the program at the courthouse recognizing the Day of Prayer did not occur this year so he is asking that this be done at this meeting. Mayor Brooks then introduced Dan Spurlock with SIGCO to speak. Mr. Spurlock addressed the commission with details of the TN House Joint Resolution No. 51 passed in 2025 on recognizing, in the month of July each year, a time of prayer and fasting in Tennessee. At this time, Mayor Brooks read the House Joint Resolution No. 51. Chairman Campbell asked everyone to stand as Commissioner Mullins led all in prayer.

**ITEM #5 – RES. 2026-077 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (budget amendment)**

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Rogers

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried  
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 077  
BUDGET AMENDMENT  
CLAIBORNE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Claiborne County Highway Department received \$280,248 in funding were from Federal Disaster Relief resulting from the damages of Hurricane Helene. These funds are reimbursement for labor, equipment, and administrative charges.

**WHEREAS**, these funds were received late in the fiscal year and time constraints prevented the opportunity of this funding to be put in the budget. Therefore, at the end of the fiscal year these funds went into the "Fund Balance".

**WHEREAS**, late in the previous fiscal year (May 2026) \$98,000 was moved from "Fund Balance" and placed in the line item for emergency bridge repairs. Therefore \$100,000 of these funds will remain in fund balance for reimbursement of the bridge repair. However, we are requesting commission approval of \$180,000 of this funding to be placed in the line item for asphalt (131-62000-404).

**THEREFORE**, we are requesting the Claiborne County Commission approve the following transaction so that these funds can be expended.

|               |              | <u>Decrease</u> | <u>Increase</u> |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 131-34250     | Fund Balance | \$180,000       |                 |
| 131-62000-404 | Asphalt      |                 | \$180,000       |
|               | TOTAL        | \$180,000       | \$180,000       |

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the County Commission of Claiborne County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026 that this resolution be approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take place from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.

RONNIE PITTMAN, ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

DAVID MUNDY  
SPONSOR

Joseph Brooks  
JOSEPH BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

ATTEST:

Karen Hurst  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 7-6-26  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK  
BY: 11:00 am D.C.

**ITEM #6 – RES. 2026-078 – APPOINTMENT TO E911 BOARD**

MOTION: Commissioner Shuford – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Epperson

*Motion carried by aye vote*

*(Resolution as follows)*

# Appointment to the E911 Board

*Sponsor: Whitt Shuford*

**WHEREAS**, T.C.A. 7-86-104 allows for the creation of an emergency communications district and its board of directors; and,

**WHEREAS**, the board manages the emergency communication system (911) within its area according to the powers given to it by general law at T.C.A. 7-86-101; and,

**WHEREAS**, the board of directors are appointed by the county mayor subject to confirmation by the county legislative body for terms of four years, except for the initial terms of two, three and four years to create a staggering system; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Claiborne County Commission created an Emergency Communications District in September 1992 after a successful referendum was held in August 1992 where a majority of people desired to have Emergency 911 telephone service in this area; and,

**WHEREAS**, the original board was set up to consist of nine (9) members; and,

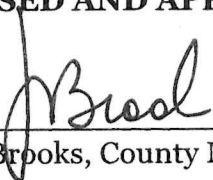
**WHEREAS**, the board should be made up of all areas where E911 services are utilized and funded; County Sheriff, County EMS Director, Chairman of County Commission, City Police Chiefs (2), Fire Chief (1), City Mayors (3); and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the following individual is appointed due turnover at Claiborne County EMS

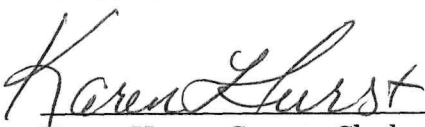
Jason Fox, Director

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** this resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Brooks, County Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Hurst, County Clerk

*Submitted by County Mayor*

FILED 7-6-26  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK  
BY: 5:10 pm D.G.

**ITEM #7 – RES. 2026-079 – AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF A MORGUE  
BUILDING ON COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED ON HAYNES STREET**

MOTION: Commissioner Epperson – to approve with following amendment added to resolution: *“Subject to the approval of the Tazewell Planning Commission and subject to the county obtaining a building permit from the Tazewell Planning Commission”.*  
SECOND: Commissioner Poore

*(discussion)*

ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried  
*(Resolution as follows)*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-079**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF A MORGUE BUILDING ON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED ON HAYNES STREET**

**WHEREAS**, the Claiborne County Commission previously approved a budget amendment authorizing funding in the amount of \$46,000 for the purchase of a morgue unit and the construction of a building to house it; and

**WHEREAS**, a suitable county-owned site has been identified on Haynes Street in Tazewell, Tennessee, near the existing helipad, for the construction of the morgue building; and

**WHEREAS**, the Buildings, Grounds and Personnel Committee considered this matter during its meeting on July 7, 2026, and recommended that the county proceed with construction of the morgue building at the Haynes Street location, subject to the approval of the Tazewell Planning Commission;

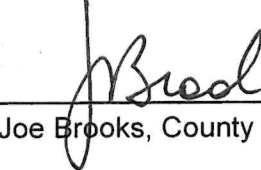
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Claiborne County, Tennessee, as follows:

**Section 1.** Subject to the county obtaining a building permit from the Tazewell Planning Commission, the county is hereby authorized to proceed with the construction of a morgue building on the county-owned property located on Haynes Street near the existing helipad in Tazewell, Tennessee.

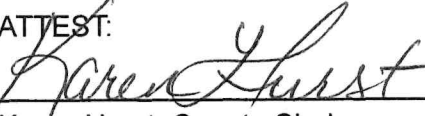
**Section 2.** The County Mayor is authorized to negotiate and execute all necessary contracts and agreements for the design and construction of said building, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney and in compliance with all applicable purchasing requirements and state law.

**Section 3.** The Finance Director is authorized to make any necessary budget adjustments to facilitate this project within the previously approved funding.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Brooks, County Mayor

Nathan Epperson  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Commissioner

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Hurst, County Clerk

**ITEM #8 – RES. 2026-080 – AMEND THE COUNTY'S COMPENSATORY TIME  
POLICY AND PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF OVERTIME IN THE PAY PERIOD  
EARNED**

MOTION: Commissioner Epperson – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Bunch

*(discussion)*

ROLL CALL VOTE: 17 for; 1 recused / Motion carried

FOR: Commissioners Epperson, Poore, Campbell, Crawford, Mullins, Rowe,  
Cosby, Barnett, Brooks, Brogan, Jones, McCreary, Mundy, Rogers,  
Bunch, Cook, Shuford

RECUSED: Commissioner Shrout

*(Commissioner Mullins stated that, as an employee of the Sheriff's Department, he has a conflict of interest but voted his conscience).*

*(Commissioner Crawford stated that, as information, the Highway Department, where he is employed, does not allow for compensatory time).*

*(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 080

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE COUNTY'S COMPENSATORY TIME POLICY AND PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF OVERTIME IN THE PAY PERIOD EARNED**

**WHEREAS**, Claiborne County currently utilizes a compensatory time (comp time) policy in lieu of paying overtime wages to eligible non-exempt employees during the pay period in which the overtime is worked; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's current compensatory time policy limits the accrual of compensatory time to a maximum of one hundred (100) hours; and

**WHEREAS**, despite this stated limit, employees — particularly in the Claiborne County Sheriff's Department — have regularly accrued compensatory time well in excess of one hundred (100) hours; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has received recurring audit findings related to employees exceeding the compensatory time cap established in County policy; and

**WHEREAS**, these ongoing compliance issues, combined with the operational demands of public safety work, have created administrative burdens, potential legal exposure under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and difficulties in managing accrued leave balances; and

**WHEREAS**, this matter was considered and recommended for approval by the Buildings, Grounds, and Personnel Committee during its meeting held on July 7, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to transition to a policy of paying overtime compensation in cash during the pay period in which it is earned;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Claiborne County Board of County Commissioners that:

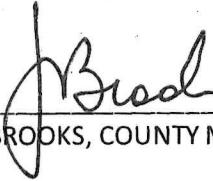
**Section 1.** Effective with the first full pay period beginning after the adoption of this resolution, Claiborne County shall pay overtime compensation to eligible non-exempt employees at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the employee's regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a workweek (or other applicable FLSA threshold for public safety employees), and such payment shall be made during the pay period in which the overtime hours are worked.

**Section 2.** The County's existing compensatory time policy is hereby amended. Going forward, compensatory time shall not be accrued in lieu of overtime pay for hours worked after the effective date of this resolution, except in extraordinary circumstances as may be specifically authorized in writing by the managing constitutional officer or the manager of the affected department, with notification to the Finance Director.

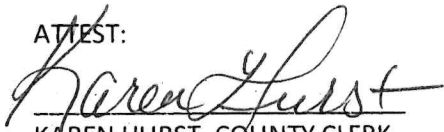
**Section 3.** Compensatory time balances accrued prior to the effective date of this resolution shall remain in full force and effect and shall continue to be governed by the County's existing compensatory time policies and procedures regarding accrual, use, and payout, until such time as the County Commission may take further action regarding such balances.

**Section 4.** The Finance Director is authorized and directed to update payroll procedures, notify affected employees and department heads, and make any other necessary administrative changes to implement this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Nathan Epperson  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

FILED 7-9-26  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK  
BY: 3:15 pm -D.C.

**ITEM #9 – RES. 2026-081 – APPOINTMENTS TO CLAIBORNE COUNTY ETHICS COMMITTEE**

MOTION: Commissioner Shuford – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Epperson

*(discussion)*

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to table this item

SECOND: Commissioner Brooks

*ROLL CALL VOTE (on Motion to Table): 17 for; 1 against / Motion carried / Item tabled*

*FOR: Commissioners Mundy, Rogers, Bunch, Cook, Shuford, Epperson, Poore,  
Campbell, Crawford, Mullins, Rowe, Cosby, Barnett, Brooks,  
Brogan, Jones, McCreary*

*AGAINST: Commissioner Shrout*

**ITEM #10 – RES. 2026-082 – REMOVING ALL BUILDING PERMIT FEES**

MOTION: Commissioner Shuford – to approve

*(no second)*

*Motion failed for lack of second; No further action*

**ITEM #10A – RES. 2026-083 – AUTHORIZING THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL  
MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE SPRINGDALE SEWER LINE EXPANSION PROJECT;  
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT SUPPORTING EDUCATION, HOUSING AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

MOTION: Commissioner Cosby – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner McCreary

*(discussion)*

ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried  
*(Resolution as follows)*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 083**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY COMMISSION AUTHORIZING  
THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE SPRINGDALE  
SEWER LINE EXPANSION PROJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT  
SUPPORTING EDUCATION, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

*Sponsor: Anthony Rowe, Zach Mullins, Mitchell Cosby*

**WHEREAS**, Claiborne County, Tennessee recognizes the importance of investing in critical infrastructure improvements that enhance public health, protect the environment, support economic development, and improve the quality of life for county residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Springdale community currently faces significant challenges due to limited access to centralized wastewater infrastructure, resulting in reliance on individual septic systems and other wastewater solutions that may restrict future residential, commercial, and community development; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Springdale Sewer Line Expansion Project: Infrastructure Investment Supporting Education, Housing, and Economic Growth will extend public wastewater service into the Springdale community by constructing approximately 19,500 feet of new force main, four sewage lift stations, road crossing infrastructure, service connections, and associated improvements necessary to connect the expanded system to existing wastewater infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will provide significant benefits to the Springdale community, including improved wastewater reliability, protection of public health and environmental resources, increased opportunities for residential development, support for commercial growth, and enhanced infrastructure capacity for important community assets, including Springdale School; and

**WHEREAS**, Claiborne County intends to submit an application to the Appalachian Regional Commission requesting \$1,000,000 in grant assistance through the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for the Springdale Sewer Line Expansion Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the total estimated project cost is \$2,429,250, requiring a local match commitment of \$1,429,250; and

**WHEREAS**, the Claiborne County Commission recognizes the importance of this project and desires to provide the required local matching funds necessary to demonstrate the County's commitment and readiness to proceed with implementation upon grant award; and

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 083**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY COMMISSION AUTHORIZING  
THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE SPRINGDALE  
SEWER LINE EXPANSION PROJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT  
SUPPORTING EDUCATION, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

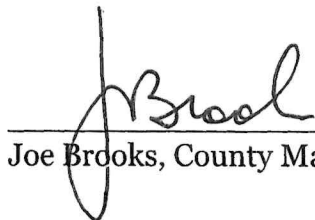
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY COMMISSION, assembled in regular session on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026, that:

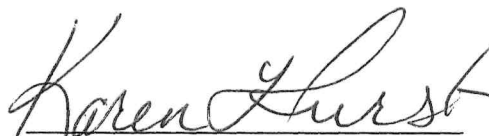
1. The Claiborne County Commission hereby authorizes and commits local matching funds in the amount of \$1,429,250 for the Springdale Sewer Line Expansion Project: Infrastructure Investment Supporting Education, Housing, and Economic Growth.
2. The County Mayor, Joseph Brooks, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary documents, certifications, agreements, or other materials required to support the Appalachian Regional Commission grant application and implementation of the project.
3. The County Commission acknowledges that the local match funds will be available and committed for use if the project receives Appalachian Regional Commission funding approval.
4. The County Commission authorizes county officials and staff to work with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Appalachian Regional Commission, project engineers, and other applicable agencies to successfully administer and complete the project.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution takes effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**, 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Brooks, County Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Hurst, County Clerk

*Submitted by: County Mayor*

**ITEM #10B – RES. 2026-084 – AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM  
THE GENERAL FUND TO FUND 127 TO PROVIDE LIQUIDITY FOR ARP/TDEC  
WATERLINE PROJECTS**

MOTION: Commissioner Mundy – to approve

SECOND: Commissioner Rogers

*ROLL CALL VOTE: 18 for; 0 against / Motion carried  
(Resolution as follows)*

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-084

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO FUND 127 TO PROVIDE LIQUIDITY FOR ARP/TDEC WATERLINE PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, Claiborne County has been awarded American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for various waterline projects throughout the County; and

**WHEREAS**, these projects are being accounted for in Fund 127; and

**WHEREAS**, TDEC is currently many months behind in processing reimbursements, causing Fund 127 to become overdrawn; and

**WHEREAS**, the County remains contractually obligated to make timely payments to contractors on these projects; and

**WHEREAS**, all projects are required to be completed in the fall of 2026, after which any remaining funds will revert to the General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission finds it necessary and appropriate to provide temporary liquidity to Fund 127 so that contractual obligations can be met while awaiting reimbursement from TDEC;

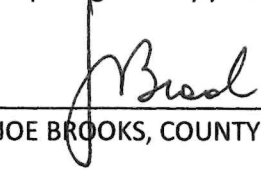
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Claiborne County, Tennessee, meeting in regular session on this the 20<sup>TH</sup> day of July, 2026, that:

**Section 1.** The Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the sum of up to 1,000,000 from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund (Fund 101) to Fund 127 for the purpose of providing liquidity for the ARP/TDEC waterline projects.

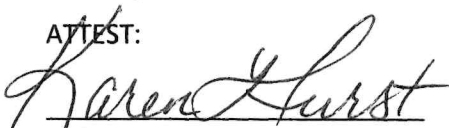
**Section 2.** This transfer is made with the understanding that Fund 127 will be reimbursed by TDEC for eligible project costs, and that upon completion of the projects any excess funds remaining in Fund 127 shall be transferred back to the General Fund.

**Section 3.** The Finance Director is further authorized to make all necessary budget amendments and accounting entries to effectuate this transfer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect upon its passage, the public welfare requiring it. Duly passed and approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOE BROOKS, COUNTY MAYOR

David Mundy - BW  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KAREN HURST, COUNTY CLERK

***At this time, Chairman Campbell allowed the two candidates running for the position of District 8 State Executive Committeeman, Bobby Johnson and Sidney Jessee, Jr., to address the CLB.***

***Also, County Mayor Brooks asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of his Administrative Assistant, Shela McNew, who passed away on July 6<sup>th</sup>.***

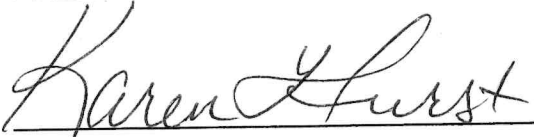
**ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Commissioner McCreary – to adjourn

SECOND: Commissioner Cosby

*Motion carried by aye vote / Meeting adjourned*

PREPARED BY:

  
County Clerk