

August 23, 2024

Hey All,

Blessings, and keep the faith

Bill

Williamson County Schools

The full board met on Monday [agenda video](#). It was a relatively short meeting. A number of students got up and spoke about the unequal pay for their music and drama teachers who put on plays and musicals in comparison to football coaches etc. (Superintendent Golden's remarks on this start at 49:05)

Superintendent Golden talked about the blanket consent that parents sign for non-emergency services for their children, which includes counseling and indicated that parents would be informed whether they signed the blanket consent or not if their child needed non-emergency services. (You can see that starting at 54:30).

All of the agenda items passed unanimously. There are no meetings scheduled for next week.

Williamson County Election Commission

There were no meetings this week.

Williamson County Commission

On Wednesday, there was a combined meeting of the law enforcement and Safety committee and the property committee. The meeting was held at the abandoned Verizon Call Center at 455 Duke Ct. **I am attaching the information packet that the commissioners got for your information.** The major focus of the meeting was on the possibility of using the building for the juvenile detention and Alternative Learning Center which are both currently at the county jail location.

The Verizon building has 185,000 sf of useable space, 17.7 acres of land, and has all the electric, plumbing, HVAC that is needed to repurpose to almost anything the county could use it for. There was talk of moving the school superintendent's office there among other options. After the meeting I went on a tour of the building and I can tell you it is very well built and has great potential.

One point brought up by commissioner Lawrence is that purchasing a building like this could **save millions of dollars** as these types of buildings do not have a ready market and can be bought at a significant discount as compared to new construction.

There were three votes that stand out. What you need to know about committee votes is that they are merely recommendations to approve and not to approve a particular resolution to the full board. The full board is the only body that passes resolutions.

The three votes of import to me were: 1. To put off the decision on the \$280 million bond for the new jail and juvenile center until October. 2. To accept the accept the \$3 million [ARPA](#) grant for construction of special operations for the sheriff's dept. 3. Was a split decision, law enforcement and safety voted not to approve the \$75,000 to analyze the usefulness the Verizon building and the property committee voted to approve. All three of these resolutions will go before the full commission at the September meeting.

The three resolutions referenced above can be found at the bottom of this recap. The \$280 bond resolution is truncated because it is so long; when you pull it up in the attachment, you will see why.

There was no recording of this meeting, which is a continuing issue with our county government. Why are these meetings recorded?

I am including Mary Smiths very informative newsletter:



Message from the Commish

As summer winds down and the new school year begins, I've been reflecting on the transition from the back-to-school rush to the excitement of a fresh academic year. This year feels especially significant for me, as for the first time in 17 years, I don't have a child starting elementary, middle, or high school. Nevertheless, I've enjoyed seeing the pictures and smiling faces of kids beginning their new school adventures.

The start of the month was particularly special as I had the chance to visit our son at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. Our three hours together were deeply meaningful and served as a poignant reminder of how fleeting these precious family moments can be. I encourage you to savor these busy years of catching the bus, attending school events, and volunteering with your children—they pass all too quickly.

With the conclusion of the local county general election, I am excited to announce that Margie Johnson will be joining us as the new school board member for District 5. I look forward to working with her and the rest of the board to explore strategies for attracting and retaining top-notch educators and ensuring our students reach their highest academic potential. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Jennifer Aprea for her four years of dedicated service to the board. Public servants are often underappreciated, so her commitment to our community is truly commendable.

As I reach the midpoint of my term, it's hard to believe that nearly two years have already flown by. Serving our district and the broader Williamson County community has been a rewarding experience. Reflecting on the past year, I'm proud of the significant progress and key developments we've achieved together, and I'm eager to share these updates with you below.

This year has been marked by substantial changes, transitions, and community-focused initiatives. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and look forward to continuing our work in the months ahead. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Yours In Service,
Mary
#ActaNonVerba

Year in Review

September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Solid Waste Department partners with Spring Back Mattress to begin recycling program
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ County is gifted Burwood Community Center ❖ County Commission approves adoption of Parks & Rec Master Plan ❖ County Commission Approves Bond Debt of ~\$106 million
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sheriff Dusty Rhoades announced his retirement ❖ Bonds issued for 2024 capital projects came to \$83,915,000 ❖ County Commission votes against purchase of WAKM radio station ❖ County Commission increases notice of vacancies for committees from 7 to 15 days ❖ County awards the first of the Opioid Settlement payments to various organizations
December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No Meetings Scheduled for December
January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sheriff Dusty Rhoades resigns, and Chief Deputy Mark Elrod assumes position as Interim Sheriff ❖ Erin Nations resigns, David O'Neil is appointed District 6 County Commissioner with no other nominees ❖ Special session held regarding placement of 5G towers near schools and private residences
February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ County Commission voted to defer vote on Sheriff's vacancy until after March Primary Election with only three Republican nominees running ❖ County Commission approves 1500ft setback from schools for 5G tower placement ❖ County Commission defers vote on \$100k hand-marked paper ballot study to be conducted by selected vendor
March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jeff Hughes is nominated and sworn in as the Williamson County Sheriff ❖ County Commission votes against \$100k hand-marked paper ballot study to be conducted by selected vendor
April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Budget season begins – No County Commission meeting
May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Zoning updated to allow banners on WCS athletic fields ❖ \$23 million in bond funding approved ❖ Resolution to create Legislative Committee fails despite ongoing need to address state funding of WCS schools

June 2024

- ❖ Page High Boys & Girls Lacrosse Teams recognized for State Championship
- ❖ District 10 County Commissioner David Landrum Resigns
- ❖ County Commission votes to extend contract with Williamson Inc.
- ❖ **Budget Committee meetings will start being recorded**
- ❖ County Commission passes FY25 budget totaling \$853,207,687 including 6% raise for teachers and 7% for county staff
- ❖ County Commission passes Comprehensive County Growth Plan
- ❖ County Holds Special Session to Discuss Jail/JJC/ALC Project

July 2024

- ❖ New Rotating Committee Members Selected
- ❖ District 10 Commission Seat Filled by Cheryl Brown
- ❖ **Additional ~\$53 million bond debt approved**
- ❖ New Public Safety Director, Connor Scott, is confirmed

August 2024

- ❖ School Board & County Elections are Held
- ❖ District 3 School Board Winner, Dennis Driggers, appointed

Latest News

- [Sheriff's Monthly Report](#) - As of July 31, 2024
- [Triple J Update](#) - While there have not been any additional resolutions or funding requests, there are still several concerns around this project including the overall costs of building new and whether or not building on land adjacent to an active rock quarry is a good investment for taxpayer dollars. There are viable solutions to help reduce costs and to ensure our capital investments have a longer life.
 - Possible renovation of existing commercial and/or manufacturing facilities
 - [Renovated Strip Mall for Courtroom and Sheriff's Office](#)
 - [Renovated Manufacturing Facility for County Jail](#)
 - Reducing the overall size of the buildings - the current request for the Juvenile Center is 657% larger than the current facility, although the projected number of juvenile employees and detainees is only 150% to 167% increase.
 - Reusing existing government owned facilities for the purpose of needed office space.
 - Finding alternatives to crime prevention such as more active law enforcement in the community.

- **New Committee Announcements** - Please see the [list](#) of new standing committee members and proposed rotating committee members (to be confirmed at the Sept. 9th County Commission Meeting)
- **District 10 County Commissioner Update** - After a failed attempt to defer the vote until September, Cheryl Brown was nominated and appointed by a vote of 15 to 7. On August 13th, the Williamson County Republican Party held a convention for the Republican nomination which was won by Bill Petty. The final vote will now go to the November 5th election where Bill Petty will run against Independent candidate, Joe Williams. You can learn more about the convention in the following news articles:
 - [Cheryl Brown appointed to District 10 county commission seat](#)
 - [Williamson County GOP Will Hold Caucus Style Convention To Choose Candidate for District 10 County Commission Seat](#)
 - [Bill Petty earns Republican nomination for District 10 Williamson County Commission Seat](#)

Ongoing Considerations

- Work with legislators and local municipalities to ensure we have the infrastructure and funding to provide to new developments.
- Protect the rights of landowners from municipal growth boundaries.
- Identify cost savings with regards to renewable contracts such as insurance.
- Prioritize salaries of lower paid employees to obtain more competitive pay, especially for teachers and law enforcement.
- Review capital projects to ensure we find ways to maintain and build required facilities that does not require tax increases.
- Review and update of setbacks for residential areas as it pertains to 5G and other wireless facilities. Promoting a #FiberFirst solution for wireless communication and

internet needs.

- Improve the timing for individual property owners to obtain building permits.
- Review the requirements for Economic Development grants and how this relates to our association with Williamson Inc. to ensure growth is not becoming an increased burden to existing home and business owners.

Get Involved

[Encourage others to subscribe to my newsletter to stay informed](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 21st at 5:30pm
Verizon Building (Includes Tour of Building)
455 Duke Drive
Franklin, TN 37064

NOTE: On the Agenda is the request for a seismic study to determine vibration impact on proposed jail site. Public Comment is welcomed and encouraged as this could lead to a significant increase in debt and an impending property tax increase to fund. [Click here for More info](#)

County Commission Meeting


Monday, September 9th at 7:00pm at:
Executive Admin Building
1320 West Main Street
Franklin, TN 37064

Arrington Special Area Plan - Public Meeting

Monday, September 16th

Friendly Reminders

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE...There is a new way to recycle mattresses in Williamson County and to save them from going into the landfill. Click [here](#) for more details.



Board of Mayor and Aldermen

There were several meetings this week and you can see the full slate [here](#). The two that I think are the most significant are the Joint meeting of BOMA and FMDC (Franklin Municipal Planning Commission) and the FMPC commission meeting. The joint meeting goes for over two hours, but if you want to see how the sausage is made, this is for you [agenda](#), [agenda packet video](#). The FMPC meeting followed right afterward and last a little over an hour. [agenda](#), [agenda packet](#), [video](#)

Next week looks like this [here](#).

**If not me, who?
If not now, when?**

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
(Heb. 11:1)***

Scroll down to next page for county commission resolutions.

Resolution No. _____
Requested by: Commissioner Webb

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY
APPROPRIATING FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000.00 TO BE USED TOWARDS
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPECIAL OPERATIONS FACILITY – REVENUE
TO COME FROM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

- WHEREAS,** Williamson County (the “County”) is the recipient of funds disbursed from the United States Government pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA” or the “Act”); and
- WHEREAS,** the County Board of Commissioners (the “Board of Commissioners”) is responsible for the expenditure of said funds in furtherance of the goals and guidelines contained in the Act and the associated 2023 Interim Final Rule released by the U.S. Treasury Secretary effective September 20, 2023 (“Interim Final Rule”); and
- WHEREAS,** the funds the County received pursuant to ARPA are to be used for the purpose of responding to the public health emergency and the negative economic consequences that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, including lost governmental revenue; and
- WHEREAS,** the County is in the process of initiating construction of a new special operations facility for the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office; and
- WHEREAS,** the County has agreed to contribute up to Three Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of its ARPA funds to be used for the construction of a special operations facility; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Commissioners finds that it is in the best interest of the County’s citizens to appropriate ARPA funds to offset the construction costs for a new special operations facility:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session this 9th day of September, 2024, hereby appropriates not to exceed Three Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) of ARPA funds to be used towards the construction of a new special operations facility for the Sheriff’s Office by utilizing funds from ARPA received in recognition of the reduction in the County’s general revenue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

REVENUES:
 ARPA Fund Balance \$3,000,000.00
 127.00000.390000.00000.00.00.00

EXPENDITURES:
 Building Construction – Spec.Ops \$3,000,000.00
 127.58820.570600.00000.00.00.00



 Commissioner Webb