

May 17, 2024

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

Williamson County Commission

The full commission met on Monday. [agenda Video](#). There were three resolutions of particular interest:

Resolution No. 5-24-1. Resolution Amending the rules, Regulations and Procedures of the Williamson County Board of Commissioners Concerning the Recording and Archiving of Williamson County Commission meetings- Commissioner Richards

In the spirit of transparency, this resolution attempts to require all county committee meetings to be recorded. For example, the budget committee is not recorded. This resolution was deferred to the June meeting.

Resolution No. 5-24-38, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Enter into a Service Agreement with Williamson Inc, d/b/a Williamson County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development for Continued Operation of the Williamson County Office of economic Development- Commissioner Morton

This is a very contentious issue. Mayor Rogers Anderson claimed, on Monday, that the accusation that he unilaterally made the decision to continue the \$400,000 annual payment after the contract expired last June was a lie. His reason is that it was an inadvertent mistake and that the contract was put in the "wrong" file. It almost sounds like the dog ate my homework, but the Commission is going to be studying the issue, so the resolution was deferred to the June meeting.

Late Filed Resolution No. 5-24-39, Resolution Objecting to the Implementation and Calculation of Williamson County's Portion of State education Funding Through the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISAS) Act- Commissioners Torres, Webb, Morton

This is a response to the Tennessee Department of Education. Williamson County is getting less TISA money, per percentage, than other Tennessee counties because of our high fiscal capacity AKA higher property values. We are running a deficit budget for the school district this year and the purpose of the resolution is to let the state know that we would like to receive, what we consider to be, our fair share of TISA funds. [Here](#) is the explanation of TISA funding. If you are a numbers geek, you should love this.

The Budget Committee met on Tuesday to vote on the conciliated budget. This will be published, according to Tennessee law, in our local newspaper next week. Of note is the WCS budget that is \$10 Million more than projected revenues. The big question is how to handle this. We can raise property taxes by \$.06 which is what the schools are asking, take \$10 million out of current surplus funds or force the schools to reduce their expenses by \$10 million. The committee voted 3-2 to not raise property taxes. Whatever the county decides will be voted on at their June 20th meeting so, we'll have to wait until then to see if the hero unties the heroin from the tracks before the upcoming train runs her over.

[Here](#) is what is coming up for next week.

Williamson County Election Commission

They met on Tuesday [Agenda](#).

Commissioner Doug Grindstaff was absent again from the meeting with no explanation from Commissioner Duda as to why. Grindstaff has now missed 75% of all WCEC meetings since his appointment in December 2023.

A key part of the WCEC's communications plans going forward was discussed by Commissioner Williamson.

- Textmygov apparently is a text service that can be used for any purpose. Williamson County has signed up for it and the WCEC is planning to use it to both receive and proactively text citizens appropriate information about elections.
- We need to look into the security of this service and how it has been used in other parts of the country. It appears that it may be in use in Wilson County.
- Main contact is someone named Sean Kaufman.

Commissioners approved early voting information for the August 1, 2024 state primary & county general election with one new location.

- Franklin locations:
 - Election Commission Office; July 12-27; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays; 8 am, – 1 p.m. Saturdays
 - Franklin Recreation Complex; July 12-27; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturdays
 - Columbia State Community College: July 12-27; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays
- Brentwood location:
 - Brentwood Library; July 12-27; 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays
- College Grove/Triune location
 - College Grove Community Center; July 12-27; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays
- Fairview location
 - Fairview Recreation Center; July 12-27; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday
- Nolensville location

- Nolensville Recreation Center; July 12-27; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays
- Spring Hill/Thompson Station location
 - Longview Recreation Center; July 12-27; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays.

Finally, Commissioners discussed a new process that may appear at either the August 2024 and/or November 2024 elections. It is still under discussion, according to Chairman Duda.

- At the close of election day, in addition to bringing the standard poll official documentation, scanner tapes and USB stick containing the votes from each scanner/tabulator back to the Election Office immediately following the close of the poll, the poll workers will also bring the blue ballot bins that sit in the base of the tabulator and capture all the ballots that have been counted by the tabulator and supposedly fallen into the open bin.
- The bin, which will contain all voted ballots, is expected to be sealed by poll workers and the seal number noted by workers and poll watchers.
- The tabulators and ballot marking devices will be left in the precinct for pickup the following day.
- There was no discussion as to why this is being done, but one would expect this is for ballot security following the election. Apparently, Davidson County, which also uses ES&S machines, follows this process.
- Chairman Duda again emphasized details around this are being worked out.
- One concern, however, surrounds the fact that these bins do not capture all ballots as they fall following scanning. In fact, during audits in 2022, when the tabulators were opened and the blue ballot bins revealed, witnesses saw the ballots that didn't fall into the bin having to be picked up and manually placed in the bin by audit teams. No one is allowed to touch the ballots post-election without a judge's order, so how will this be handled? One would assume there would be a Republican and Democrat watching this process of closing and sealing the bin at each tabulator and that each bin will be permanently numbered for proper chain of custody, but, again, the process has yet to be worked out.

Another article [here](#) you might find interesting about illegal aliens voting.

Williamson County School Board

The monthly work session was Thursday [agenda video](#). There were three parts to the work session:

1. The Superintendent talked about the five-year plan for improving the school district runs from 2:40 to 4:30.
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Better academic outcomes
2. The 2024-25 Budget runs from 4:30 to 5:19
3. The new library policy runs from 5:19 to 6:07

Transportation is and continues to be a problem; we don't have enough bus drivers. This past year, a pilot program was instituted to help alleviate the transportation issue. Stops were

consolidated into “hub stops” so the buses didn’t have to travel as far. The plan is to implement this for the entire school district in several phases during the 2024-25 school year.

Better academic outcomes are made up of a number of goals over the next five years and you can see those in the agenda.

New Library policy is based on a new Tennessee law just signed by the governor [SB1060](#). The discussion goes from 2:49 to 4:07. My take on the whole thing is that the policy is practically useless. First, there is zero accountability for the librarians and teachers who are tasked with reviewing and removing books. Second, if the school board does not review a book and give an opinion within 60 days, the complainant can appeal to the state commission on textbooks. This commission has met only once so far this year and any appeal will, likely, end up in a black hole somewhere and the local school board will be done with the issue. Third, this law will most certainly be challenged and may never go into effect as written. I have attached the revised policy that was presented at the policy committee meeting on the 6th. They have made a few minor changes since then that were presented at the work session, but those changes were not provided in the work session agenda. If and when I get them, I will send them along.

No matter what, there are **no teeth in this bill** and there is nothing one can do if a school board decides not to perform their duties laid out in the law.

Next Monday the 20th is the monthly school board meeting [agenda](#) If you want to watch online go [here](#). The meeting is at 1320 W. Main in the large auditorium and starts at 6:30pm. **We need to get people to attend** to show strength for our side as our opponents will surely show up in force.

Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)

All the meetings from this week and next week are [here](#). As you can see, there are a lot of meetings at city hall every week; there is no way I can keep up with them all. I look for items that stand out, but that’s about it. If anyone is following any particular issue, I would be happy to include any report you might create.

School board candidates

Every one of our school board candidates needs help. We have a chance to change the make-up of our current school board. Please consider helping these candidates as a volunteer or with a donation.

The election is on August 1st. and early voting runs from July 12-27. We need folks who are willing to do the following:

Knock on doors for the candidates. Face to face, person to person is very powerful. It lets people know that the election is important and why. It also allows the homeowner to ask questions and get clarification on the issues. As we get schedules from the candidates, we will be sending out **a signup genius for each candidate.**

Put up yard signs. First, you can put a yard sign at your home (if you live in an odd district). Secondly, we may have a need for a few of us to put out signs for some of the candidates and finally, you can encourage friends and neighbors who live in an odd district to take a sign.

Hold signs at voting places. During early voting and on election day, we need people to hold signs at voting locations. It may be hard to believe, but many people who come to vote don't know much about any of the candidates. At the last election, I was holding a sign for a candidate and several people stopped to ask about her and some of them were very favorable after talking with us.

Attending and encourage others to attend any event put on by the candidate(s). Meet and greets, campaign kickoffs, debates and forums are great places for potential voters to size up the candidates. The more we get people out to see our candidates the better.

Talk to people at your church, service organization, Bible study, bridge club etc. We all need to be talking about the candidates and recruiting everyone we know to get informed and get involved. This is a group effort and we all need to pitch in to ensure that our candidates become school board members and not also rans.

Write them a check. Campaigns aren't free. Flyers, yard signs, text messages, videos all cost. Here are the candidates:

District 1
Republican Tony Bostic. [website](#)

District 3
Republican Dr. Dennis Driggers [website](#)

District 5
Republican Dr. Margie Johnson. [website](#)

District 7
Republican Angela Beaton [website](#)

District 9
Republican Claire Reeves [website](#)

District 11
Republican Tonja Hibma [website](#)

If you want to get involved but are not sure how to proceed, just reply to this email and I will get you connected.

**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)