

**May 31, 2024**

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

### **Williamson County School Board**

There were no meetings this week. Next week, the Policy committee [Agenda](#) will be meeting on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm in the at:

---

Williamson County Administrative Complex Training Center, 1st Floor

1320 West Main Suite 202

Franklin, TN 37064 [[map it](#)]

1320W. Main St [Audio](#) This will take you to page where you can access the audio at 6:00 pm

The most important policy to be discussed at this meeting will be the library policy. I reported on that last week and the only changes in policy so far are: Librarians are to review 10% of their collection rather than 15%. And the proper terminology for the State Textbook Commission. This is the last policy meeting, unless they call a special meeting, before July 1<sup>st</sup> when state law goes into effect. I don't expect any other changes in the policy. The "decision tree" is still the same convoluted, subjective mess it has always been and, I'm guessing it will remain pretty much the way it is in the agenda. **I really recommend that you read the policy and decision in the agenda** if you want to understand what is going on.

There are two more meetings this month; the **work session on the 13th**, and the **full board on 17th**. There are **no meetings** scheduled for the month of July.

### **Williamson County Election Commission**

Nothing this week but next week there is a meeting on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at 405 Downs Blvd. [Agenda](#) This is probably going to be a short meeting, it's still good to have people attend just to let them know we are paying attention.

### **Williamson County Commission**

The only meeting of importance this week was the education committee and I must admit, I missed it so I don't know what was discussed.

Next week there are three meetings that are important. One the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the budget committee is meeting at 3:30 pm in the new executive conference room at 1320 M. St. I really don't know what the agenda is at this point, but on **Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup>**, they will be holding a public hearing on the budget in the **auditorium at 1320 W. Main. This meeting is important and we need to pack the room** as they will be discussing the school budget which is approx... 72% of the county budget and is currently \$10 million more than projected revenues. **The school board wants \$555 million and the county only wants to fund \$545 million.** As I see it, there are four options: 1. Raise taxes to pay for the addition \$10 million, 2. Take \$10 million out of the counties reserve fund, 3. deny the school district the \$10 million 4. Give the school board some fraction of the \$10.

The County Commissioners are getting bombarded with emails telling them to fully fund the schools. If you want to make your voice heard on this issue, **I am attaching a sample email** as well as all the emails for the county commissioners and school board members. I am also attaching a file with all of the county commissioners and school board members if you want to send an email. Also, I have attached **Mary Smith's latest newsletter** that is full of info on this and the county jail proposal.

We really need to have people come out in force to let both the county commission and the school board know that we don't want to have our taxes raised. We also need to be clear that we are not opposed to teachers getting a pay increase. We simply believe that the school board needs to go back one more time and find the cut that will bring their budget into balance and still give teachers a raise.

**Another issue**, that is even more important fiscally, is the **new county jail**. There is currently a proposal to build it for \$325 million. This is money we don't have and we would have to float bonds to pay for it. As a reminder, we are approx. \$1.2 billion in debt. The following is a snapshot of problems with this project:

(1). It appears this would be the most expensive Adult Jail ever built in TN (more than Nashville, Memphis or Knoxville) and the most expensive project in Williamson County history.

(2). See the article below that was published in TN Conservative News on May 13, 2024 titled > **"Proposed Jail In Williamson County To Be Most Expensive In Tennessee Requiring Substantial Debt Or Property Tax Increase"**

(3). **A Poll on NextDoor asked** > "Should Williamson County spend \$325 million to build new jails, if it requires a Property Tax increase? (Adult and juvenile jails and related facilities)."

The result was > **only 14% were in favor**, 60% opposed it, and 26% weren't sure. (Feb. 2024)

<https://nextdoor.com/p/P9mQZJWmc7fk?view=detail>

(4). NOTE that if you approve the 2 jails, you are also apparently approving HUGE increases in Operating Costs, which I assume the County would have to pay. For example, the article below says > the Operating Costs of the Juvenile Center were \$4,363,000 in Fiscal Year 2022, but are projected to increase by \$6 million per year > "Those costs are projected to increase to \$10,452,000 once the new facility is built and more than double the current number of staff are hired to deal with what is being predicted to be a 400 percent increase in caseloads."

(5). The proposed jails aren't just a little larger - they are hugely larger (I think the numbers below are correct - please double-check).

- The proposed Juvenile Center would increase from "13,700 square feet to a proposed 117,400 square feet, creating a space that is 8.56 times larger than the current facility." (The article below says Operating Costs would increase by \$6 million a year).

- The proposed Adult Jail would increase from 108,600 SF to 270,100 SF (more than double). Would Operating Costs double?

These points were written by Williamson County resident David Huddleston, and I have attached his full email to the county commissioners.

Finally, I am attaching information about **5G towers in Williamson County**. This is an important issue for not only Williamson County, but the whole country. Please take the time to check out the attached.

### **Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)**

BOMA met on Tuesday for their work session and board meeting. Work session [agenda video](#)  
Board Meeting [agenda video](#) They spent two hours talking about road impact fees; who should pay them, we the people, or the developers, or both. I have to be honest; I'm not paying close attention to what BOMA is doing and how their decisions are impacting our community. If there is anyone reading this that has the time and expertise to do a better job than I am doing, please do not hesitate to step up.

Next week there are three meetings, and you can see about them [here](#)

### **School Board Election**

**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.

**Attend 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 money.

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](#)

### **State Representative for District 65 Race**

There are three republican candidates running for Sam Whitson's seat as state representative for district 65. They are alphabetically: Brian Beathard, Michelle Forman, and Lee Reeves. On June the 6<sup>th</sup> the Williamson County Republican party will be holding a forum in the auditorium in the County Building at 1320 W. Main St. starting at 6:30 pm

### **Williamson County Republican Party Candidate Forum**

Candidates for TN State House District 65

Click [here](#) for Candidate Information

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**

**6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Tickets are free for WCRP Members**

(If you [join](#) prior to registering, your ticket will be free!)

**Please register using this link**

**Williamson County Administrative Complex Auditorium**

1320 West Main Street

Franklin, TN 37064

**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)***