

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Wednesday – June 30, 2021 – 3:30 P.M.

The Special Meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, at 3:30 P.M., via ZOOM.

Commission members present were: Dorothy G. Meriwether, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2 and Sharyn L. Pohlman, Commissioner District #3

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Systems Administrator Mike Dean and Sheriff Tim Carroll.

Others: Courier Reporter Steve Betts.

Absent: EMA Director Ray Sisk, Chief Deputy Patrick Polky, Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Jail Administrator Bob Wood, Register of Deeds Madalene Cole, and District Attorney Natasha Irving.

Special Meeting – Agenda Wednesday June 30, 2021 –3:30 P.M.

I. 3:30 Meeting Called To Order

II. 3:31 Action Item

1. Act on Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Retention Bonus to be Funded Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds.

III. Adjourn

I. Meeting Called to Order

Commissioner Parent called the Special Meeting of the Knox County Commission to order at 3:35 A.M.

II. Action Items

1. Act on Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Retention Bonus to be Funded Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds.

- Administrator Hart stated that the Retention Bonus to be certified law enforcement officials. This recommendation would include Patrol Deputies, Patrol Supervisors, Detectives, Captain and Chief Deputy.
- Sheriff stated right now there is three (3) openings. Over last few months tried to do recruitment efforts, and next to no one is knocking on the doors. The retention piece is due to an exodus of people. Right now other agencies are offering sign on bonuses of \$10,000 up to \$16,000. Trying to do something along the lines that we did with NCEU to help retain the staff we have.
- Commissioner Pohlman stated we need to do what we can to retain our very talented staff that we have now, and we need to do what we can to recruit. We have funding from the ARP that would fulfill that and she is supportive to do whatever it is to keep the staff we have.
- Commissioner Meriwether would like to make this clear that this discussion, as essential workers go, this is the only use of ARP money that we have discussed specifically. Our Finance Director is collecting information from our departments and we will not be having workshops or discussing any other uses of the American Rescue Plan until September.
- Commissioner Parent has a problem with this. We negotiated a contact with them that took in excess of six (6) months. In good faith, we accepted what they offered us for compensation and we gave that to them and now that isn't satisfactory. Commissioner Parent stated he has a real problem with that.

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Meriwether to Act on Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Retention Bonus to be Funded Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds, also to include the Sheriff and Civil Division as essential workers at risk. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with two in favor and one against.*

IV. Adjourn

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Meriwether to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pohlman. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on August 10, 2021.