

The McMinn County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on April 20, 2026 , at 6:00 pm, in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Curtis.

2. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Crisp.

3. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Commissioner Masingale.

4. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken by McMinn County Clerk, Melinda King as recorded:

Chairman Scott Curtis - Present
Tim King – Absent
Roger Masingale - Present
Jerry Millsaps – Present
J. W. McPhail - Present
Brent Carter -Present
Tad Simpson - Present
Charles Slack – Present
Travis Crisp – Present
Scott Cass – Present

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the Regular Session on March 19, 2026, were provided to the McMinn County Commissioners.

MOTION made by Commissioner Cass, and seconded by Commissioner Millsaps, to approve the minutes of March 19, 2026, meeting.

Motion carried by voice vote.

6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FINANCE RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution to Transfer Funds from Federal Projects Fund to General Purpose School Fund.

Mr. Luallen presented resolution #26-020.

Resolution: 26-020

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND TO GENERAL PURPOSE
SCHOOL FUND

WHEREAS, Federal Projects grants operate on a reimbursement basis and funds are requested from the State of Tennessee by McMinn County for expenditures on a monthly basis: and,

(Res. # 26-020 con't)

WHEREAS, the Federal Projects Fund has in the past operated with a cash deficit at various times throughout the fiscal year due to a slow turn-around time for reimbursements from the State of Tennessee;

WHEREAS, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) consider a cash deficit in any fund to be a significant deficiency in internal control; and,

WHEREAS, McMinn County Board of Education does not desire to operate any fund with a cash deficit.

WHEREAS, McMinn County Board of Education has previously transferred \$2,500,000 from General Purpose School Fund to Federal Projects Fund primarily due to the temporary increase in Federal Funding due to ESSER.

WHEREAS, Due to the end of ESSER Funding, the amount of expenditures through Federal Projects Fund has decreased, and less cash is required to be maintained while awaiting reimbursement from the State of Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of McMinn County, a school district in Tennessee, meeting on this 9th day of April, 2026, and by the County Commission of McMinn County, a county in Tennessee, meeting on this 20th day of April, 2026, that:

SECTION 1. The Federal Projects School Fund will transfer \$1,000,000.00 to the General Purpose School Fund on April 22, 2026.

SECTION 2. The remaining \$1,500,000.00 shall remain in the Federal Projects Fund as a committed fund balance from the General Purpose School Fund and may be repaid at any time as noted in a resolution passed by the Board of Education and County Commission.

SECTION 3. This resolution will take effect on April 9, 2026. The Secretary of the Board of Education shall include this Resolution in the minutes of the McMinn County Board of Education. The County Clerk shall include this Resolution in the minutes of McMinn County.

APPROVED:

(Orig signed)
Chairman, Board of Education

APPROVED:

(Orig signed by Scott Curtis)
Chairman, County Commission

ATTEST:

(Orig signed)
Secretary, Board of Education

ATTEST:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Millsaps, and seconded by Commissioner Slack, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

B. A Resolution to Approve a Contract Agreement Between McMinn County Schools and McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services.

Mr. Luallen presented resolution #26-021 along with a copy of the Contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-021

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN
MCMINN COUNTY SCHOOLS AND
MCMINN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

WHEREAS, in order to properly perform the duties of county government as prescribed by law, it is often in McMinn County's interest to enter into contracts with other entities; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County Juvenile Services has agreed to provide for the school year of 2026-27 one youth services officer stationed at McMinn County High School and McMinn Central High School five days a week and available on an as needed basis to all other county schools. Referrals will be seen that are of high risk with the court system; and

WHEREAS, individual and group counseling will be provided by professional mental health agencies and paid for by McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services; and

WHEREAS, the charge to the McMinn County School System is \$15,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MCMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this Commission does hereby agree to enter into this contract with the McMinn County School System and McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services for the 2026-27 school year.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Simpson, and seconded by Commissioner Carter, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

C. A Resolution to Approve a Contract Between Athens City Schools and McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services.

Mr. Luallen presented resolution #26-022 along with a copy of the contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-022

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN
ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS AND
MCMINN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

(Res. # 26-022 con't)

WHEREAS, in order to properly perform the duties of county government as prescribed by law, it is often in McMinn County's interest to enter into contracts with other entities; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County Juvenile Services has agreed to provide for the school year of 2026-27 one youth services officer at Athens Middle School two days a week and available on an as needed basis to all other city schools. Referrals will be seen that are of high risk with the court system; and

WHEREAS, individual and group counseling will be provided by professional mental health agencies and paid for by McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services; and

WHEREAS, the charge to Athens City School System is \$5,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MCMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this Commission does hereby agree to enter into this contract with the Athens City School System and McMinn County Department of Juvenile Services for the 2026-27 school year.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
 McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
 County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Cass, and seconded by Commissioner McPhail, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

7. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Luallen presented the following budget amendments, a copy of which was provided to each Commissioner.

FUND: 141 General Purpose School Fund SUB FUND: 955 Innovated School Models (ISM) Date: 04/06/2026				
Regular Instruction Program	Othe Supplies & Materials	71100-499	5,304.17	
Regular Instruction Program	Regular Instruction Program	71100-722	37,790.66	
Vocational Education Program	Instructional Supplies & Materials	71300-429	7,044.81	
Vocational Education Program	Vocational Instruction Equipment	71300-730		14,764.36
Regular Capital Outlay	Architects	76100-304	4,887.50	
Regular Capital Outlay	Building Construction	76100-706		47,633.66
Regular Capital Outlay	Building Improvements	76100-707	5,870.88	
Regular Capital Outlay	Other Capital Outlay	76100-799	1,500.00	
Explanation: To amend the Innovative School Models (ISM) Grant for FY 25-26.				
FUND: 141 General Purpose School Fund SUB FUND: 955 Innovated School Models (ISM) Date: 03/18/2026				

(con't)

Regular Instruction Program	Regular Instruction Equip.	71100-722	50,000.00	
Vocational Education Program	Other Supplies & Materials	71300-499	15,000.00	
Vocational Education Program	Vocational Instruction Equipment	71300-730		15,000.00
Regular Capital Outlay	Building Construction	76100-706		50,000.00
Explanation: To amend the Innovative School Models (ISM) Grant for FY 25-26				
FUND: 141 General Purpose School Fund		Date: 3/31/2026		
Department	Account	Function/Object/Cost Center	Debit	Credit
Revenue	Assigned for Education	34755-Text	180,000.00	
Regular Instruction Program	Textbooks – Bound	71100-499		180,000.00
Explanation: To move funds from Assigned for Education to fund textbook purchase in FY 25-26.				

MOTION made by Commissioner Masingale and seconded by Commissioner Slack to approve these budget amendments.

- Chairman Scott Curtis – Aye
- Tim King - Absent
- Roger Masingale - Aye
- Brent Carter – Aye
- J. W. McPhail – Aye
- Jerry Millsaps - Aye
- Tad Simpson - Aye
- Charles Slack – Aye
- Travis Crisp - Aye
- Scott Cass – Aye

Motion carried by roll call vote, as recorded:

Mr. Luallen presented the following budget amendments, a copy of which was provided to each Commissioner. These did have School Board approval.

Fund: Central Cafeteria Fund # 143		Date: 03/02/2026		
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	FOLIO	DEBIT	CREDIT
Restricted	USDA – Other	47114	16,563.09	
Food Service	Other Charges	73100-599		16,563.09
Explanation: To budget the USDA storage rebate for FY 25-26.				

MOTION made by Commissioner Slack and seconded by Commissioner Simpson to approve these budget amendments.

- Chairman Scott Curtis – Aye
- Tim King - Absent
- Roger Masingale - Aye
- Brent Carter - Aye
- J. W. McPhail – Aye
- Jerry Millsaps - Aye
- Tad Simpson – Aye
- Charles Slack – Aye
- Travis Crisp - Aye
- Scott Cass – Aye

Motion carried by roll call vote, as recorded:

8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

My name is Bill Freeman. I represent a group called Southern Progressives, and we sent a letter to all of you last month. And first of all, let me say that I don't expect you to have all the answers to these questions in our letter. But I do want you to know that these questions are our collective concerns about any type of ice operations in our community. So, what is your response to our questions we submitted to you last month? Chairman Curtis said the commission has never addressed anything with ICE. We've never approved any resolutions or anything. So, any agreement that is between ICE and the county, I think, goes through the sheriff's department and I'll have Sheriff Guy come up and address any concerns you have to be if he doesn't mind.

Sheriff Guy told Nhoynyn Ennaco when he came up to talk about the ICE issue that she has been doing a great job running the Racetrack and that they rarely have any calls to go up there. He said, so I did not get a copy of the letter although it was forwarded to me by Mayor Gentry.

Bill Freeman: There are 3 enforcement models in the 287G program. Jail enforcement model, task enforcement model, and warrant service officer program model. Which models do McMinn County and local enforcement officers enforce? Sheriff Guy said so we have a memorandum of understanding agreement with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to do under the 287G program to do the Warrant Service Officer Program model. Mr. Freeman asks, "Just that one? Sheriff, yes.

Sheriff Guy: So, what 287G is, it's a long-standing program with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and local law enforcement, specifically jails.

For example, when someone is arrested for a crime, let's just say DUI, and they're brought to jail and we cannot confirm citizenship status, we'll contact ICE.

If they say yes that person is here illegally on top of committing a crime and breaking a law in Tennessee, then we agree to hold them. We've always done this. We agree to hold them for 48 hours. That gives them 48 hours if they want to come and pick that person up. If they don't come and get them in 48 hours, I am going to let them go because it is both wrong and illegal to hold someone without the process. I do honor the 48. And most of the time, if they're going to come and get them, they do.

If they're not, they let us know and we can let the person bond out. They have to come because we can't serve the federal warrants. We serve other warrants all the time, but we serve state warrants.

If Monroe County, for example, let's say the guy had a DUI, but he's an American citizen and he's got a warrant out of Monroe County. Well, we can serve that state warrant on him. We don't have to contact Monroe County to come down and do it, but we have to do that with a federal issue.

And so we have that agreement to notify them with them, make a determination about citizenship of whether or not they're going to issue a warrant and come and pick them up.

The newer aspect of the 287G program, the Warrant Service Officer Program model, what that does is we agree to let about three or four of our corrections staff be trained to serve federal warrants. And they're sworn in to be able to serve federal warrants. And there's also some computers and I think a signature, electronic signature pad or something else that they'll provide us to be able to get that done. It really, it helps everybody. It helps the person that's incarcerated because it speeds up the process for them to go into whatever hearing that they want them to go to or whatever. They don't have to stay with us as long. And that's the second thing is they don't have to stay with us as long, which none of us want. I will tell you though, we are not even doing this yet. We're still doing the 48-hour hold because we've always done that, but they've never come and trained us yet. I think we're on a list for them to come and train our staff, but they've not, we're not doing any of the warrant service yet. We've just signed the MOUs.

Bill Freeman: Is there a cost to the county for these for your services?

(con't)

Sheriff Guy: no.

Bill Freeman: is there like any anticipation for the cost of defending litigation for wrong detentions?

Sheriff Guy: there's always that possibility in my line of work, whether it's a local, state, or federal statute.

Bill Freeman: last year, the legislator created a new state department called the Centralized Immigration Enforcement Division, and they dispersed \$900,000 in grants. Did McMinn County get any of those grants?

Sheriff Guy: Not that he is aware of. A lot of those grants go to pay these other models involve officers actually doing paid work for the federal government. We're not doing that, so none of that applies to us. We would have, I would have brought that to the commission if there was any funding being exchanged between us.

Bill Freeman: Now you talked about warrants. There was just a finding that ICE has decided instead of doing judicial warrants, they do administrative warrants to where just ICE officials. Is that something you support?

Sheriff Guy: It's no different than a judge signing a warrant. If you're a judicially or even a judicial commissioner that doesn't make, may not even have a law degree, and we have those in McMinn County. So it's just the same thing at the federal level.

Bill Freeman: But apparently that's against the law, according to the Supreme Court.

Sheriff Guy: Sir, I can only do what I'm asked to do. I'm not familiar with that.

Bill Freeman: Really? With the increasing number of immigrants being detained, there's an increasing need for detention centers. Is there any agreement of a detention center facility in McMinn County?

Sheriff Guy: That would be a question for the Commission, but I would probably speak on their behalf. None of us are aware of any plans for a detention center.

Bill Freeman: If you were approached by ICE to establish a detention facility in McMinn County, what would be your answer?

Chairman Curtis: We'd have to listen to the offer, see what they tell us. I mean, I don't see that there's a need for that.

Bill Freeman: Well, someone's been established in other counties without even the commissioner's knowledge.

Chairman Curtis: I think that would have to go through the sheriff guy, too. I mean, any detention center would be in control of that. So, sure, we would have to know, the commission and the sheriff's department would have to know that. We have not been approached about anything like that.

Bill Freeman: To sum all this up, our fear is that the federal government ICE might be overriding a lot of local laws here in McMinn County to achieve the mandates they have been given. And we don't want our local law enforcement to support ICE when they appear to be overstepping legal boundaries. That's basically a lot of our concern. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sheriff Guy: And I will stand by saying, to my knowledge, and if it makes anybody in the room feel better, I have no knowledge whatsoever that there's ever been an ICD doing any operations in Bend County or groups of ICD. Unless someone might be coming to the jail to pick up someone, we've notified them about it. But as far as conducting any kind of pickups or anything like that, no, I'm completely unaware of anything like that, and I wouldn't know it if it were going on. Just to let you know that. And if you have any questions, please, if it's law enforcement related, reach out to me. If you think you see one, let me know and I'll let you know if we're here tonight.

(con't)

Bill Freeman: Well, and the other thing is if any ICE agents are here and there's protesting going on and there's like a group following around ICE protesting, are there any regulations that you guys have in terms of the protesters following ICE? Have you anticipated any of that?

Chairman Curtis: We haven't addressed that.

Sheriff Guy: So, they don't pass laws. So that would probably again fall back on me. But as long as no state laws are, because that's all county is, the division of state government. As long as there's no state laws being violated, then folks are free to do whatever they wish.

Bill Freeman: Okay. Thank you.

9. RESOLUTIONS

A. A Resolution to Relieve the McMinn County Trustee of Property Tax Reporting and Collection Liability Regarding 2023-24 Delinquent Taxes.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-023.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-023

A RESOLUTION TO RELIEVE THE MCMINN COUNTY TRUSTEE OF PROPERTY TAX REPORTING AND COLLECTION LIABILITY REGARDING 2023-24 DELINQUENT TAXES

WHEREAS, Phil Tuggle, Trustee of McMinn County, Tennessee, has complied with the statutes of the State of Tennessee, relative to requirements as to the filing of reports of delinquent and insolvent taxpayers for the 2023-24 real property taxes and 2023-24 personal property taxes and further, it appears that proper suit has been instituted in the Chancery Court for McMinn County, Tennessee, for collection of said taxes; and

WHEREAS, Phil Tuggle, Trustee of McMinn County, Tennessee, has filed a list of delinquent taxpayers and double assessments as provided by law, and should be properly relieved from any further liability for the reporting and collection of delinquent 2023-24 real property and 2023-24 personal property taxes as properly certified and turned over to the Clerk & Master for McMinn County, Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE; BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MCMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this Commission does hereby relieve the McMinn County Trustee of Property Tax Reporting and Collection liability regarding the 2023-24 delinquent property taxes and personal property taxes as properly certified and turned over to the Clerk and Master of McMinn County.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Millsaps and seconded by Commissioner McPhail to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote

B. A Resolution to Apply and Accept TDOT Division of Aeronautics Grant for 10 Year Airport Layout Plan (ALP).

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-024. This did have Airport Committee approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-024

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY AND ACCEPT TDOT DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS GRANT FOR 10 YEAR AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN (ALP)

WHEREAS, in order to maintain a robust general aviation system the Tennessee Aeronautics division provides funding to municipal airports to assist in planning, construction and maintenance of these facilities and encourages local governments to request the funding; and

WHEREAS, each of Tennessee's airports must maintain an updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP) to receive funding from the Tennessee Aeronautics Division; and

WHEREAS, ALPs must be updated every ten years; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Aeronautics Division has requested McMinn County request funding to update the airport's ALP once again due to halting the previous grant due to a delay in installation of new flight data systems at MMI; and

WHEREAS, local match for the grants will not exceed five percent of the projects' costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL 2026, that this Commission does hereby approve applying for the ALP grant with the Tennessee Division of Aeronautics and funding the match if required from the Airport functional category of the Other Capital Projects Fund, AND, FURTHERMORE authorizes the County Mayor to execute the documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner McPhail and seconded by Commissioner Simpson to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

C. A Resolution to Apply and Accept TDOT Division of Aeronautics Preliminary Engineering Grant for Runway Safety Area, Apron-Taxiway Geometry Improvements.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-025. This did have Airport Committee approval.

(Res. # 26-025 con't)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-025

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY AND ACCEPT TDOT DIVISION OF AERONAUTICS PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING GRANT FOR RUNWAY SAFETY AREA, APRON-TAXIWAY GEOMETRY
IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, in order to maintain a robust general aviation system the Tennessee Aeronautics division provides funding to municipal airports to assist in planning, construction and maintenance of these facilities and encourages local governments to request the funding; and

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Airport (MMI) is in the process of a multi-phase taxiway-apron safety improvement project that involves the demolition and relocation of hangars, tie down area and the geometric correction of the south end taxiway, bullhorn connection and apron area; and

WHEREAS, several hangars have been relocated and a new ten-unit t-hangar and tie down area are currently under construction; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Aeronautics Division has requested McMinn County request funding to begin the geotechnical investigation, environmental determinations and preliminary engineering design for the next phase of the safety project; and

WHEREAS, local match for the grant is estimated to be approximately \$13,0000, which should not exceed five percent of the project's total cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL 2026, that this Commission does hereby approve applying for the grant with the Tennessee Division of Aeronautics and funding the match of \$13,000 from the Airport functional category of the Other Capital Projects Fund, AND, FURTHERMORE authorizes the County Mayor to execute the documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Carter and seconded by Commissioner Slack to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

D. A Resolution Approving Professional Services Agreement Between McMinn County and Mattern and Craig Engineers.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-026.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-026

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MCMINN
COUNTY AND MATTERN AND CRAIG ENGINEERS

(Res. # 26-026 con't)

WHEREAS, McMinn County, the City of Athens and Town of Englewood have partnered to develop a successful rails-to-trails asset known as the Eureka Trail; and

WHEREAS, the section of the trail that crosses the heavily trafficked State Route 39 needs a safer alternative; and

WHEREAS, the new Middle Creek Bridge was initially designed to allow for the Eureka Trail to cross under SR 39, however engineering changes resulted in the inability of the trail to cross under the bridge; and

WHEREAS, a private donor has provided \$125,000 to assist in improving the crossing at SR 39; and

WHEREAS, property has been secured on both sides of SR 39 to provide an area to install a spanned structure over the highway; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary engineering report needs to be obtained to determine the type of structure, ramp lengths, ADA accessibility and cost estimates required to pursue grant funding to construct the pedestrian bridge; and

WHEREAS, the engineering fee to provide the preliminary engineering and study phase is thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000) lump sum, including direct costs and reimbursable items to be paid from the generous contribution from the Athens Parks and Recreation Foundation donor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this Commission does hereby approve the professional services agreement with Mattern and Craig Engineers and FURTHER RESOLVES to grant authority to the County Mayor to execute any and all documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Crisp and seconded by Commissioner Masingale to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

E. A Resolution to Approve Adding County Road 299A, Dacus Lane to the McMinn County Highway Maintenance System.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-027 along with a letter from McMinn County Highway Commissioner, Dan Evans.

(Res. # 26-027 con't)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-027

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADDING COUNTY ROAD 299A, DACUS LANE
TO THE MCMINN COUNTY HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, having met all requirements set forth by the McMinn County Planning Commission for a private gravel road standard, the developer desires their road to be included on the McMinn County Highway Maintenance System; and

WHEREAS, the developer has placed a deposit of \$11,162.50 to cover the cost to chip seal the road surface which brings the road to a Class 3 county standard; and

WHEREAS, this road will be designated on the maintenance list as County Road 299A, Dacus Lane, with a width of 20 feet and .20 of a mile in length; and

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Highway Commissioner recommends County Road 299A, Dacus Lane be accepted in the maintenance system as a Class 3 road; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026 that this Commission does hereby approve the addition of County Road 299A, Dacus Lane, to the McMinn County Highway Department maintenance list.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Slack and seconded by Commissioner Cass to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

F. A Resolution Approving Private Road Name Changes.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-028. Attached to that, you have a letter from our E911 director, Julie Papage, who's in the audience tonight for any additional questions.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-028

A RESOLUTION APPROVING PRIVATE ROAD NAME CHANGES

WHEREAS, the McMinn County Emergency Communications District requests the McMinn County Commission approve the renaming of certain private roads on previously approved private subdivision plats so new emergency addresses can be based on private road names and not lot numbers; and

WHEREAS, lot-based addressing is difficult for emergency response, deliveries and location clarity; and

(Res. # 26-028 con't)

WHEREAS, in order to transition from lot-based addressing to private road name addressing it is necessary to change certain road names that conflict with existing public road names within the shared postal zip code; and

WHEREAS, the two subdivisions currently affected are Rarity Meadows Head of the Creek (54 lots) with the identifier of 735 County Road 350, and Rarity Meadows Sweetwater Valley (over 100 lots) located at 935 County Road 316; and

WHEREAS, in Rarity Meadows Head of the Creek, E-911 recommends changing Poplar Drive to Aspen Drive, Chestnut Lane to Juniper Lane and Oak Lane to Birch Lane; and

WHEREAS, in Rarity Meadows Sweetwater Valley, E-911 recommends changing Cherry Street to Beech Street and Dogwood Drive to Sycamore Drive; and

WHEREAS, T.C.A. 7-86-127 vests authority in the county commission to delegate the authority to name public and private roads or retain such authority; and

WHEREAS, this commission retains the authority to name the roads of McMinn County but may take the recommendation for road names from private road developers if the names are generally acceptable in nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION THIS THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this Commission does hereby approve the E-911 request to change the names of the private roads listed above so emergency addressing can transition from lot-based to private road name based, and FURTHER RESOLVES to grant authority to the County Mayor, or his designee to execute any and all documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this resolution.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner Cass and seconded by Commissioner Carter to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

10. ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

A. A Resolution to Confirm the Re-Appointment of David St. John to the McMinn County 911 Board of Directors.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-029.

(Res. # 26-029 con't)

RESOLUTION NO. 26-029

A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF DAVID ST. JOHN
TO THE MCMINN COUNTY 911 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the McMinn County 911 has a Board of Directors to oversee the direction and management of its operations and service; and

WHEREAS, John M. Gentry as McMinn County Mayor, nominates David St. John for re-appointment to the McMinn County 911 Board for a four year term, which will expire April 20, 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON THIS 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this commission does hereby confirm this appointment.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

MOTION made by Commissioner McPhail, and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

B. A Resolution to Confirm the Re-Appointment of Jeff Cunningham to the McMinn County 911 Board of Directors.

Mr. Gentry presented resolution # 26-030.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-030

A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JEFF CUNNINGHAM
TO THE MCMINN COUNTY 911 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the McMinn County 911 has a Board of Directors to oversee the direction and management of its operations and service; and

WHEREAS, John M. Gentry as McMinn County Mayor, nominates Jeff Cunningham for re-appointment to the McMinn County 911 Board for a four year term, which will expire April 20, 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF McMINN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION ON THIS 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2026, that this commission does hereby confirm this appointment.

(Orig signed by John M. Gentry)
McMinn County Mayor

Attest:

(Orig signed by Melinda King)
County Clerk

(Res. 26-030 con't)

MOTION made by Commissioner Millsaps, and seconded by Commissioner Slack, to approve this resolution.

Motion carried by voice vote.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, COUNTY OFFICIALS, COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Millsaps—Recreation and the Forestry Committee met here last month and discussed a new plan for McMinn County Forest. And we've met with the engineers, and they've presented a new plan.

Commissioner McPhail—The 2 airport resolutions that we voted on were presented by the county mayor. Also, the ag committee, along with Jason, met with the ag extension leader and approved his budget for next year.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE COUNTY MAYOR

County Mayor—said he received a WARA notice today. He said that is, the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act requirement for Adient, that they will be closing. And while the official notice is for June, we think that's probably go through December, but that gives them some cover. But just for the record, we will be working with our friends at the Department of Labor. We will be doing on-site job fairs at the location to help those individuals. We'll also be working with Adient as much as they allow us to market their building.

Mr. Gentry said we send our heartfelt, I don't want to say condolences, but it's tough when you lose a job, it may feel like that. And so fortunately, we do have some other manufacturers that are still hiring right now but that's been a long-time cornerstone of manufacturing in McMinn County. At one time, every seat frame of the F-150, the number one selling vehicle in the United States, was made in McMinn County., so we look to take that same honor in another area in the future. Mr. Gentry said he just wanted to let everyone know and keep those folks in your prayers.

County Mayor—Also wanted to inform you of a flyer we put on your desk. It's of McMinn County and the City of Athens, kind of working with our landfill, working with their public works on a tire recycling day. Many years ago, we were able to do some of the cleanup fix up week and until we get the new permits for the new expansions, kind of got that on hold.

But I've had people say, what I'd really like is some kind of help on tires, so Athens Public Works is working with Liberty Tire, so we've got that set up. Folks can bring a maximum of 10 passenger vehicles. They have to be off the rim, but this is a real savings to those folks. We'll have two different weekends, Saturday, April 25th and Saturday, May 2nd from 9 A.m.to 2 P.m. That's where Liberty is going to place their trailer. Anyone in the county can bring up to 10 passenger tires to this event for disposal. So hopefully that'll help some of those folks out as that is we pay about \$120, \$125 a ton to get rid of those to a certified re-user and they do not go in the landfill.

County Mayor—you should have an invitation on your desk from the Riceville Utility District. Appreciation Day, April 27th, 11 A.m. to 2 P.m. at the new community center that you helped make sure that came into reality, that new facility.

County Mayor—SETHRA. I've asked someone to come join us. It's Rachel Hatworth.

This usually I'd have had separately on the agenda, but Rachel is the executive director of SETHRA, and she just wanted to kind of bring some information to you about what role they play in McMinn County and Rachel has headquarters in Dunlap.

Rachel Hackworth—Thank you for your time, just very briefly. So, if you don't know, Sether is actually considered a unit of local government. We're A quasi-government entity. We serve primarily 9 counties in Southeast Tennessee. We're one of nine human resource agencies across the state. So, one of the brilliant things

(con't)

that the state of Tennessee did is they put all of these community services funded by the state and from the feds under the same roof as public transportation. And that's probably how you know us best is our buses. I hear people say, oh, Sethra, yeah, you drive old people but we do much more than that.

We're serving about 50,000 people a year throughout our service area. We have about 215 employees. 20 of whom live in McMinn County. Now we're limited by our office space, our bus parking capacity, and just the ability to hire drivers. So, we've been working on that.

A lot of changes coming in transportation. We've implemented new software that is really a game changer. It utilizes AI to schedule trips. And so that has made us a lot more efficient. We still have much more of a need in McMinn than we're able to meet. We're still turning down rides in McMinn because we just simply don't have enough buses to really take on all of that. So,

I did a little one-pager report from our last fiscal year about the amount of utility assistance, the transportation, where those rides are going to, SETHRA is many different things other than a public transportation provider. We're also a community action agency. We're a public housing authority. We serve veterans and people on disability. We have about almost 1,500 clients in that program where we help them manage their money and pay their bills. We do justice services, but we follow the 12th judicial district. So we do that over mainly on the other side of the river.

So, there's a lot going on in all that Sethra does, but we're looking forward hopefully within this next year to really grow all that we're doing here in this community. I tried to make that clear because I know y'all got a lot of work to do. I just wanted y'all to hear a little bit of what Sethra does. Citizens come to you as much as they do to us and there's different avenues to get some of these folks some help, but Sethra's been a partner for us and we got a lot of good resources in this county. It's really amazing a county, probably around 56, 57,000 people that have the amount of resources that we have and a lot of it goes through separate. And if you know someone who is needing help, whether it be with housing, utilities, they're having issues with need emergency repairs on their home or weatherization and they're low income, we primarily are serving elderly disabled clients that are low income on fixed incomes. But if you're trying to figure out how to get someone to help, call us, reach out to us. If we don't have it, we often run out of money because there's a lot of need out there. But call us, whether we have it or we have a partner that does, we'll do whatever we can to try to get somebody stabilized and back on their feet.

County Mayor-- I just wanted y'all to hear a little bit of what Sethra does. Citizens come to you as much as they do to us and there's different avenues to get some of these folks some help, but Sethra's been a partner for us and we got a lot of good resources in this county. It's really amazing a county, probably around 56, 57,000 people that have the amount of resources that we have and a lot of it goes through separate.

Ms. Hackworth said if you know someone who is needing help, whether it be with housing, utilities, they're having issues with need emergency repairs on their home or weatherization and they're low income, we primarily are serving elderly disabled clients that are low income on fixed incomes. But if you're trying to figure out how to get someone to help, call us, reach out to us. If we don't have it, we often run out of money because there's a lot of need out there. But call us, whether we have it or we have a partner that does, we'll do whatever we can to try to get somebody stabilized and back on their feet. Mayor Gentry said he also wanted everyone to meet Rachel and probably shouldn't be saying this, but in case they grow so much and need a future location, we may have a location in an old health department that might work out perfectly. Ms. Hackworth thank everyone and Mayor Gentry also. She said Mayor Gentry serves as Treasurer and has been an absolute asset to the board and to the people he serves.

County Mayor—said he wanted everyone to put the post-legislative conference being made on their Calendars May 19-21. He said he thought Joy had contacted most of them.

(con't)

County Mayor—Health Department is still ahead of schedule. Fire control systems in the attic where we had to shift from a wet system to a dry system. As many of y'all know, may remember during the blackout where the senior center had some pipes burst because it wasn't insulated. That was not a dry system in that area. That was not a dry system in that area. We said, hey, that area, we don't know if we can keep that under 40 in somebody's area. We need to change that to a dry system because we don't want to have a repeat of that lose that temperature control. That's probably set us back a couple weeks, but still very much ahead of schedule on that and should not have any problems meeting the deadlines for that grant.

County Mayor—I 75 Racetrack. Also wanted to, while I've got a few minutes, many of y'all received maybe an e-mail about our I-75 racetrack regulations on the Good Friday weekend. And that was, we passed what was back two, almost two years ago now. It's hard to imagine it's been that long. We set some very minimal guidelines on racetrack operations where Monday, I guess Sunday through Thursdays to end at 9, and then on the race weekends, no race should begin after midnight. So we had one of those go over.

I've asked the owner of that racetrack if they would come kind of explain what happened that weekend and maybe something we could do in the future to keep that from happening, at least improve the communications if we think that's going to happen.

Nhoylyn Ennaco—and I'm the sole proprietor of the I-75 Raceway known as the Racetrack. I am here tonight too, like the mayor said, to clarify that event that happened on April 2, which is a Thursday. I received an e-mail from him April 6th that's saying that somebody did complain about a practice that went over at 9 o'clock. To clarify, that wasn't a practice. That was actually a race. We have a super race that night. And that race has been scheduled every year since the racetrack opened. And it's every Thursday, every year. That's the only race we have on Thursday and it's the Shepherd's Old National and the Race Play Series. We're supposed to have two races that week. We're supposed to have the Thursday and the Saturday race. But I canceled the Saturday race so I can give the people rest a little bit before the Easter weekend. You know, I'm trying, I'm like, I'm all about respecting the community. So instead of having, we already raced Thursday, instead of having the Saturday race, I decided to cancel that Saturday race because That way it gives the people peace and quiet before the Easter Sunday. So that's the explanation on that event that night.

County Mayor—Ma'am, I think going forward, so we're not violating our current, we need probably maybe in the early winter months, we get an advanced schedule of the next year's races. And if there's anything that varies from our agreement, we need to get commission approval, so we don't get hit up with complaints out of the blue and not know what happened.

So, we at least, so if you don't mind, when you start building next year's schedule, if you see anything that differs from what we've approved, I think this body needs to know in advance and actually needs to grant approval to any variance. So, if you could do that for us, that would help us be able to communicate any changes that we need to make. That would help us be able to communicate any changes that we need to make.

Nhoylyn Ennaco—Yes, sir. I am willing to work with the county and to make the community happy. I will, you know, like you said, you know, like you told me before, I will, I'll do that. I will present the schedule before we even start racing next year. County Mayor—I just wanted to make sure that we had the owners represented and hear what happened.

County Mayor—Solar Farm Agreements. Chairman, when it feels appropriate, we want to go ahead and kind of reconvene the committee that's going to look at the solar farm agreements. We definitely have some things happening to the south of us that can very easily bleed over. We want to make sure this agreement that we're coming up with might be something that we can take care of a couple of different issues at one time. So, I want to make sure. We're about 90, probably 90% finished with that agreement and just want to run through a committee. I don't know if that's which one you want to run that through, but we're ready to present. Chairman Curtis said Public Safety or Public Safety.

(con't)

There's a lot of need here in McMinn, and we are looking to grow our services here and our capacity to provide those services.

13. APPROVAL OF NOTARY APPLICATIONS

Notaries to be elected April 20,2026

ANDREA LIZBETH CARIAS-HERNANDEZ
DAVID DOTY
SERENA FRALIX
NIKISHA M GREENE
MANDY W HUGGINS
DAVID T JOHNSON
KAYLEE H MALONE

JASON WARREN OLLIS SR.
DUSTIN S PRICHARD
SANDRA J SEIBER
COURTNEY J STARR
BONNIE RAE STEPHENS
TRACI B WHITE
DARLA J MOSIER

MOTION made by Commissioner McPhail, and seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve these notary applications.

Motion carried by voice vote.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

None.

There being no other business, Chairman Curtis declared the Commission meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

MELINDA KING
McMinn County Clerk

Attest:

Deputy Clerk (date)