

COUNTY COMMISSION-REGULAR SESSION

APRIL 16, 2026

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT:

COUNTY COMMISSION MET PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT IN REGULAR SESSION OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THIS THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN BLOUNTVILLE, TENNESSEE. PRESENT AND PRESIDING WAS COMMISSIONER JOHN GARDNER, CHAIRMAN, AND TERESA JACOBS, COUNTY CLERK OF SAID BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,

TO WIT:

The Commission was called to order by Commissioner John Gardner, Chairman. Corporal Steve Jones opened the commission, and Commissioner Crawford gave the invocation. The pledge to the flag was led by Corporal Steve Jones.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AND ANSWERING ROLL WERE AS FOLLOWS:

DAVID AKARD	DANIEL HORNE
DARLENE CALTON	MARK IRESON
JOE CARR	SAM JONES
MICHAEL COLE	DWIGHT KING
LARRY CRAWFORD	TONY LEONARD
ANDREW CROSS	MICHAEL HUNTER LOCKE
JOYCE CROSSWHITE	JOE MCMURRAY
JOHN GARDNER	JESSICA MEANS
HERSHEL GLOVER	ARCHIE PIERCE
CHERYL HARVEY	GARY STIDHAM
DAVID HAYES	ZANE VANOVER
	TRAVIS WARD

23 PRESENT, 1 ABSENT
ABSENT AT ROLL CALL: HOPPER

The following pages indicate the action taken by the commission on approval of notary applications and personal surety bonds, motions, resolutions, and other matters subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The minutes of the Rezoning Hearing/Work Session held on March 12, 2026, and the minutes of the Regular Session held on March 19, 2026 will be approved at the May 21, 2026 meeting along with April's commission minutes.

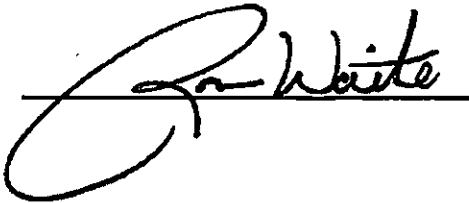
**Affidavit of Publication
TIMES NEWS**

701 Lynn Garden Drive • Kingsport
County of Sullivan, State of Tennessee

I, Ron Waite, being duly sworn upon oath, deposes and state that I am the publisher of the Times News, a daily newspaper published in the City of Kingsport, County of Sullivan, in the State of Tennessee. This Legal Notice contains a true and correct copy of what was published in the regular edition of said newspaper, in consecutive issues on the following dates:

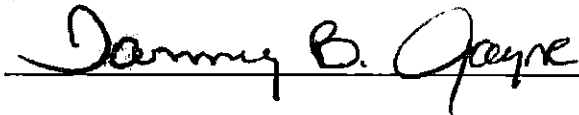
Publication Dates: 04/02/2026

Ad#: 14879

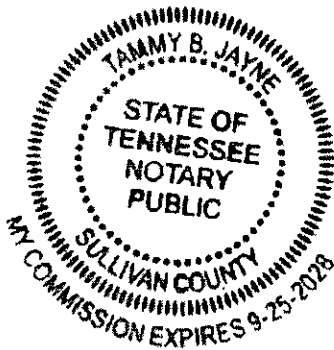


Ron Waite

Signed and sworn to before me
on 04/02/2026



Tammy B. Jayne - Notary Public
My commission expires: September 25, 2028



This legal notice was published online at www.timesnews.net and www.tnpublicnotice.com during the dates listed.
This publication fully complies with Tennessee Code.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026**

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Board of County Commissioners, all residents of Sullivan County, Tennessee, and to any and all other persons interested, that two (2) open, public meetings of the Board of County Commission of Sullivan County will be held at the regular meeting place of the Board at the Courthouse in Blountville, Tennessee during the month of April 2026. The monthly Work Session and public hearing/voting on amendments to the Sullivan County Zoning Resolution will commence at the hour of 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 9, 2026, and the monthly Regular Session will commence at the hour of 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, April 16, 2026. Any person wishing to provide public comment at such meetings shall sign up on the provided signup sheet prior to the start of the meeting.

This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Section 8-44-101 to 8-44-108 inclusive of Tennessee Code Annotated.

Teresa Jacobs
Sullivan County Clerk

PUB1T: 4/2/26

378

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

4 Roll Call by Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk
Roll Call

Description

Roll Call

378

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

379

Voting start time 6:03:03 PM
Voting stop time 6:03:36 PM
Voting configuration Roll Call - Attendances
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Present	23
Total Present	23
Total Seats	28
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Absent
Akard, David ()	X	
Calton, Darlene ()	X	
Carr, Joe ()	X	
Cole, Michael ()	X	
Crawford, Larry ()	X	
Cross, Andrew ()	X	
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X	
Gardner, John ()	X	
Glover, Hershel ()	X	
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X	
Hayes, David ()	X	
Hopper, Barry ()		X
Horne, Daniel ()	X	
Ireson, Mark ()	X	
Jones, Sam ()	X	
King, Dwight ()	X	
Leonard, Tony ()	X	
Locke, Hunter ()	X	
McMurray, Joe ()	X	
Means, Jessica ()	X	
Pierce, Archie ()	X	
Stidham, Gary ()	X	
Vanover, Zane ()	X	
Ward, Travis ()	X	

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
Order of Business
April 16, 2026
6:00 p.m.

COUNTY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

- ❖ Call to Order by Sheriff Jeff Cassidy
- ❖ Chairman John Gardner presiding.
- ❖ Invocation
- ❖ Pledge to the American Flag
- ❖ Roll Call by Teresa Jacobs, Sullivan County Clerk
- ❖ Approval of Notaries Public
- ❖ Approval of minutes of Board of Commissioners of Sullivan County's: March 12, 2026, Rezoning Hearing; March 19, 2026, Monthly Meeting.
- ❖ Approval of Bond Renewal for County Official
- ❖ Presentations & Recognitions
 - 1) Special Recognition from the Office of U.S. Representative Diana Harshbarger.
 - 2) Proclamation Honoring American Legion's "Be The One" campaign – Hammond Post 3, Kingsport.
 - 3) Proclamation Honoring American Legion's "Be The One" campaign – Hackler-Wood Post 145, Bristol.
 - 4) Proclamation Recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
 - 5) Proclamation Recognizing April as National Donate Life Month.
 - 6) Proclamation Honoring Miss Tennessee Valley Teen 2026 Kinzlee Darnell.
 - 7) Proclamation Honoring Miss Bristol 2026 Colbey Fritts.
 - 8) Proclamation Recognizing Kinsey Richter as the first ever Miss Bristol Teen.
 - 9) Recognition of the Joint County/Cities America 250th Committee.
 - 10) Purchasing Agent Kris Davis – Update on Tourism RFQ process.
 - 11) Animal Shelter of Sullivan County Director Brandi Perkey and Dr. Stone – brief presentation on the shelter.
 - 12) Networks Director Clay Walker – quarterly report on economic development.
 - 13) NETTA Executive Director Alicia Phelps – quarterly report on NETTA's work promoting tourism for Sullivan County.
 - 14) Sullivan County Jail Update on Construction and Question and Answer Period, with Representatives of Various Stakeholders (SCSO; MBI; JA Street; County Project Oversight).
- ❖ Public Hearing on agenda items.
- ❖ Public Hearing on non-agenda items.
- ❖ Consent Agenda (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
- ❖ Old Business
- ❖ New Business
- ❖ Announcements
- ❖ Adjournment

Proclamation Of Sullivan County, Tennessee

381

April as National Donate Life Month

WHEREAS, Tennessee Donor Services (TDS) is a Donate Life agency and nonprofit organization dedicated to saving and improving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation throughout Tennessee, and is one of fifty-seven (57) Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) across the nation; and

WHEREAS, each organ donor hero can give the gift of life to as many as eight (8) people, and each tissue donor can improve the lives of up to seventy-five (75) individuals; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred thousand (100,000) American men, women, and children—including approximately three thousand (3,000) Tennesseans—are currently waiting for lifesaving organ transplants; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to address this critical health need is through education and by encouraging Tennesseans to register their decision to become organ, eye, and tissue donors in the Donate Life Tennessee Registry at DonateLifeTN.org, or at their local Driver Services Center; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County supports saving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation and recognizes this cause as one of immediate and profound importance;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the Mayor and Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, that the month of April is hereby declared

APRIL AS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Furthermore, I encourage all citizens of Sullivan County to register their decision to be donors through the Donate Life Tennessee Registry at DonateLifeTN.org or at their local Driver Services Center.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sullivan County, Tennessee to be affixed in Blountville on this 16th day of April 2026.



Richard S. Venable

Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor

PROCLAMATION

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

"BE THE ONE" COMMISSION

Whereas, on August 16, 2025, the American Legion Department of Tennessee established the Be The One Commission to End Veteran Suicide, guided by the motto "Veterans Offering Lifesaving Service," with a focus on increasing awareness and encouraging support for the study and treatment of post-traumatic stress (PTS); and

Whereas, many veterans die by suicide as a direct result of PTS, underscoring the need for informed, community-wide intervention; and

Whereas, public education on recognizing the signs of PTS and responding effectively is critical in reducing suicide among veterans; and

Whereas, the American Legion's Be The One mission represents a unified effort to save the lives of veterans and service members at risk of suicide by providing free suicide-prevention training and promoting open and compassionate conversations about mental health; and

Whereas, data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs shows that, after adjusting for age, the veteran suicide rate in Tennessee remains significantly higher than both the national veteran rate and the general population rate with veterans accounting for approximately 15 percent of all suicides statewide; and

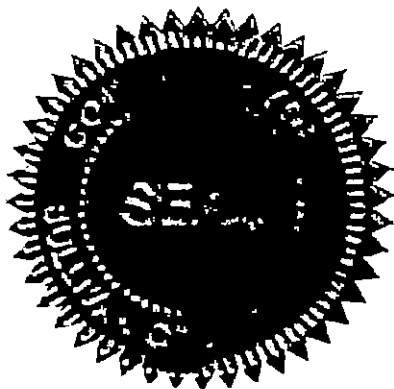
Whereas, American Legion Hammond Post 3 supports the Be The One mission locally by distributing wallet-sized cards to inform Kingsport area residents of the elevated suicide risk among veterans and to discreetly connect individuals in need with available resources; and

Whereas, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for veterans experiencing distress.

Now, therefore, I, Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, Tennessee, in partnership with American Legion Hammond Post 3, encourage residents to educate themselves so that, if needed, they are prepared to

Be The One

Who can help save the life of a veteran experiencing distress.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereto set
my hand and caused the
Seal of Sullivan County,
Tennessee to be affixed on this
3rd day of April, 2026.
Richard S. Venable
Richard S. Venable, Mayor

Proclamation Of Sullivan County, Tennessee

Honoring Miss Bristol 2026 Colby Fritts

WHEREAS, on February 28th 2026, the City of Bristol proudly celebrates the return of the Miss Bristol tradition after a twelve-year absence; and

WHEREAS, being crowned Miss Bristol represents excellence in character, leadership, community involvement, and a commitment to serving others; and

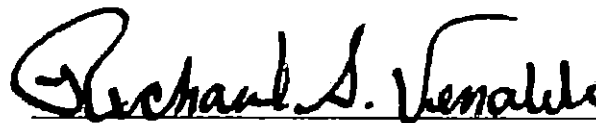
WHEREAS, this year's Miss Bristol has demonstrated poise, integrity, and dedication to representing the program with honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, her achievement marks a historic moment, renewing a cherished tradition and inspiring young women throughout our community to pursue leadership, service, and personal excellence; and

WHEREAS, Miss Bristol will serve as a positive ambassador for our community, promoting civic pride, encouraging volunteerism, and representing the organization at community events and throughout the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, we hereby recognize and congratulate Miss Bristol Colbey Fritts, the first titleholder in twelve years, and commend her for her accomplishments, her commitment to service, and the pride she brings to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sullivan County, Tennessee to be affixed in Blountville on this 16th day of April 2026.



Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor



Proclamation Of Sullivan County, Tennessee

Recognizing Kinsey Richter as the First Ever Miss Bristol Teen

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Miss Bristol Teen title marks a historic milestone, creating new opportunities for young women to serve as ambassadors for our community; and

WHEREAS, the first ever Miss Bristol Teen has demonstrated poise, character, and a commitment to service that reflects the very best of our regions youth; and

WHEREAS, through her platform, leadership, and involvement, she will inspire other young people to pursue excellence, give back to their community, and represent with pride; and

WHEREAS, this inaugural title sets the foundation for a lasting tradition that will encourage scholarship, service, and leadership for years to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby recognize and congratulate Kinsey Richter as the First Ever Miss Bristol Teen, and commend her for her dedication to community service, leadership, and her role as a positive representative of this scholarship program.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sullivan County, Tennessee to be affixed in Blountville on this 16th day of April 2026.

Richard S. Venable

Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor



Proclamation Of Sullivan County, Tennessee

385

Honoring Miss Tennessee Valley Teen 2026 Kinzlee Darnell

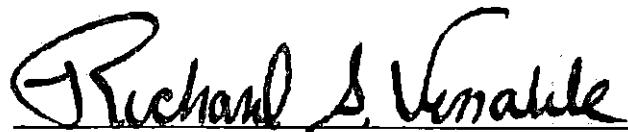
WHEREAS, the Miss Tennessee Valley Teen title recognizes a young woman who exemplifies excellence in leadership, character, service, and academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, Miss Tennessee Valley Teen serves as a positive role model for youth throughout the region, demonstrating poise, confidence, and a commitment to making a meaningful difference in her community; and

WHEREAS, her accomplishments and leadership embody the spirit of service, compassion, and excellence that strengthens our communities and encourages future generations to lead with purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that we do hereby recognize and honor Kinzlee Darnell, Miss Tennessee Valley Teen for her outstanding achievements, leadership, and service, and commend her for serving as an ambassador of goodwill for the Tennessee Valley.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sullivan County, Tennessee to be affixed in Blountville on this 16th day of April 2026.



Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor



PROCLAMATION OF SULLIVAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE 386

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a pervasive violation of human rights that affects individuals of all genders, ages, races, and backgrounds, impacting survivors, families, and communities in profound ways; and

WHEREAS, every 68 seconds, an individual in the United States experiences sexual violence, resulting in trauma that can have long-lasting effects on mental, emotional, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month serves as a critical period to raise public awareness, educate our communities on prevention strategies, and promote a culture of healthy, respectful relationships; and

WHEREAS, local organizations, such as the Branch House Family Justice Center, provide essential advocacy, support, and resources for survivors throughout Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, Branch House Family Justice Center serves as a beacon of hope for survivors by offering comprehensive services under one roof, ensuring they receive the legal, medical, and emotional support they need to heal and seek justice; and

WHEREAS, the eradication of sexual violence requires the collective vigilance of law enforcement, educators, healthcare providers, and all residents to actively promote consent, accountability, and unwavering support for survivors; and

WHEREAS, Sullivan County stands in firm solidarity with survivors and remains committed to fostering an environment where safety and respect are prioritized for every citizen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, that the month of April is hereby declared Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Sullivan County Tennessee to be affixed this 16th of April 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Sullivan County, Tennessee to be affixed in Blountville on this 16th day of April 2026.



Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor



PROCLAMATION
HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE
"BE THE ONE" COMMISSION

Whereas, on August 16, 2025, the American Legion Department of Tennessee established the Be The One Commission to End Veteran Suicide, guided by the motto "Veterans Offering Lifesaving Service," with a focus on increasing awareness and encouraging support for the study and treatment of post-traumatic stress (PTS); and

Whereas, many veterans die by suicide as a direct result of PTS, underscoring the need for informed, community-wide intervention; and

Whereas, public education on recognizing the signs of PTS and responding effectively is critical in reducing suicide among veterans; and

Whereas, the American Legion's Be The One mission represents a unified effort to save the lives of veterans and service members at risk of suicide by providing free suicide-prevention training and promoting open and compassionate conversations about mental health; and

Whereas, data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs shows that, after adjusting for age, the veteran suicide rate in Tennessee remains significantly higher than both the national veteran rate and the general population rate with veterans accounting for approximately 15 percent of all suicides statewide; and

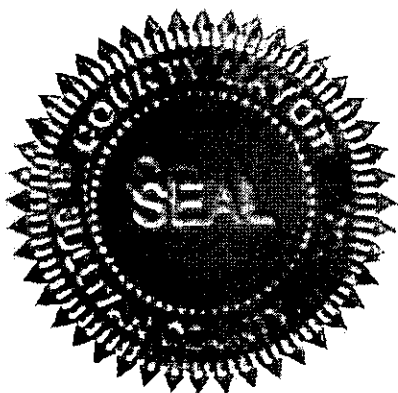
Whereas, American Legion Hackler-Wood Post 145 supports the Be The One mission locally by distributing wallet-sized cards to inform Bristol area residents of the elevated suicide risk among veterans and to discreetly connect individuals in need with available resources; and

Whereas, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free, and confidential support for veterans experiencing distress.

Now, therefore, I, Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, Tennessee, in partnership with American Legion Hackler-Wood Post 145, encourage residents to educate themselves so that, if needed, they are prepared to

Be The One

Who can help save the life of a veteran experiencing distress.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereto set
my hand and caused the
Seal of Sullivan County,
Tennessee to be affixed on this
3rd day of April, 2026.
Richard S. Venable
Richard S. Venable, Mayor

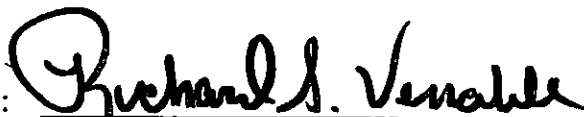
Sullivan County
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Approval of Bond for Larry Bailey
Director of Finance

WHEREAS, in accordance with *Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 19*, the County Legislative Body for Sullivan County has the authority to authorize and approve statutory bonds for elected and appointed officials serving Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, the bond for Larry Bailey, Director of Finance is due for renewal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 19, the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners* hereby approves the bond renewal for Larry Bailey through April 29, 2029.

Approved: 
Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor

Said order confirmed and entered into the record of the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners this 16th day of April 2026.


Teresa Jacobs, Sullivan County Clerk

Commissioner Glover made a motion to approve the statutory bond for Larry Bailey, Director of Finance. 2nd by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Locke. Vote taken and approved 23 Yes, 1 Absent

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

Approval of Bond
Approval of Bond

Description

Apporval of Bond: Larry Bailey

389

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 6:09:18 PM
Voting stop time 6:09:49 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Motion to approve by Comm. Glover
2nd by Comm. Ward, Comm. Locke

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

SULLIVAN COUNTY CLERK
TERESA JACOBS COUNTY CLERK
3258 HIGHWAY 126 SUITE 101
BLOUNTVILLE TN 37617
Telephone 423-323-6428
Fax 423-279-2725

390

Notaries to be elected April 16, 2026

REBECCA SUE APPLGATE	CONNIE S LYON
JUSTIN BARTON	MITZI D MARKLAND
JOSEPH BEILHARZ	KEVIN L MARSH
LARRY E. BRELAND	SHAWN F. MCCOY
KAREN BRELAND	STEVEN RAY MILLER
BRENDA SUE BROWN	JAMES S MONTGOMERY
REBECCA JOY BROYLES	JESSICA ODLE
TIFFANY N. BUTTS	BRITTANY LEIGH POTTER
ALICA BYINGTON	SABRINA M. POWERS
JULIE R CANTER	ROBERT ERIC REAGON
LISA COHN	ERIC REECHER
CHRISTINA MARIA CORSO	ELIZABETH RHOTON
	JACQUILINE GRACE MARIE
KECHIA RANEE ELLER	RUTLEDGE
ELIZABETH GRAHAM	TAMARA SHAFFER
RHONDA D. HALL	LEENORA DAWN SNEED
CRAIG HOGEBOON	SETH STANLEY
MICHAEL CHARLES HUBBARD	PHYLLIS STEWART
NICOLE INTAGLIATA	ALEXIS THACKER
JORDAN JAMES	SHONETRA R WALKER
SAMANTHA DAWN JOHNSON	ELIZABETH NICOLE WEBB
ANGELA M. JONES	MICHELLE B WHEELER
ASHTON KILBY	BLYTHE WILLIAM WILSON
TINA YVETTE KING	FELICIA J. WYKE
LINDSAY BROOKE KNOWLES	

PERSONAL SURETY
10,000

UPON MOTION MADE BY COMM. COLE AND SECONDED BY COMM. CROSS, THE NOTARY APPLICATIONS HEREON WERE APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE COMMISSION. 23 YES, 1 ABSENT

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

5 Approval of Notaries Public
Vote

391

Description Approval of Notaries Public
Chairman Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 6:06:36 PM
Voting stop time 6:06:56 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Motion to approve by Comm. Cole
2nd by Comm. Cross

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Meeting
Public Comments on Non-Agenda Topics
 April 16, 2026

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION

	Name	Street Address	City	✓
1	Sharon Brown	1560 Pineola Ave.	Kingsport	
2	Bob WARNER	230 FAIRHAVEN DR	BLOUNTVILLE	
3	Chuck Pyne	539 Beech Forest Rd	Bristol	
4	Stephanie Rosenwinge	308 Mountain View Dr	Bristol	
5	Teresa Jacobs	3765 Weaver Pike	Bristol	
6	JENNA WINGO	245 Pond Springs Rd	Kingsport	
7	TODD Broughton	3348 Cardinal	KPT	
8	MIKE BEVERLY	137 RANA VIEW DRIVE	KPT	
9	MATTHEW JOHNSON 125 Wonderland Dr. KPT, TN			
10				
11				
12				

SULLIVAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Meeting
Public Comments on Agenda Items
April 16, 2026

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION

	Name	Street Address	City	✓
1	Matthew Johnson	125 Woodland Rd.	KPT, TN #1	
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
April 16, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

Item 3 Resolution 2026-04-03

Sponsors: Cole/Vanover

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SULLIVAN COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO ENTER INTO A FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTH LEASE WITH RJ YOUNG FOR AN OFFICE COPIER

Item 4 Resolution 2026-04-04

Sponsors: Means/Crosswhite

RESOLUTION TO AMEND SULLIVAN COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR THE RPE PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.

Item 5 Resolution 2026-04-05

Sponsors: Ward/Jones

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTION IN THE 2025-26 GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL BUDGET

Item 6 Resolution 2026-04-06

Sponsors: Ward/Jones

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE JUUL SETTLEMENT REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE CATCH MY BREATH PROGRAM IN THE 2025-26 BUDGET

Item 7 Resolution 2026-04-07

Sponsors: Ward/Jones

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$30,000 IN TENNESSEE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (TYEP) GRANT FUNDS FROM VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Item 8 Resolution 2026-04-08 (TO BE REMOVED FROM CONSENT AND AMENDED)

Sponsors: Ward/Jones

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND BUDGET REGARDING THE SALE OF SURPLUS VOCATIONAL EQUIPMENT

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

15 Consent Agenda

Description

Consent Agenda 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

395

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 8:15:34 PM
Voting stop time 8:17:06 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Motion to approve by Comm. Crawford
 2nd by Comm. Akard

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

Old Business

- Item 1 Resolution No. 2026-03-08 (WAIVER OF RULES) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Means/Ward
**RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE THE PETTY JOHN ROAD BRIDGE IN HONOR OF
 CLP DONALD R. GONCE, USMC**

New Business

- Item 2 Resolution 2026-04-02 1ST READING
 Sponsors: Stidham/Gardner
**RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE PETWORKS ANIMAL SERVICES FOR
 \$50,000 FOR THE DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF THE SHELTER.**
- Item 3 Resolution 2026-04-03 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Cole/Vanover
**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SULLIVAN COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO
 ENTER INTO A FORTY-EIGHT(48) MONTH LEASE WITH RJ YOUNG FOR AN OFFICE
 COPIER**
- Item 4 Resolution 2026-04-04 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Means/Crosswhite
**RESOLUTION TO AMEND SULLIVAN COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 BUDGET FOR THE RPE PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.**
- Item 5 Resolution 2026-04-05 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Ward/Jones
**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT
 INSTRUCTION IN THE 2025-26 GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL BUDGET**
- Item 6 Resolution 2026-04-06 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Ward/Jones
**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE JUUL SETTLEMENT REIMBURSEMENT FOR
 THE CATCH MY BREATH PROGRAM IN THE 2025-26 BUDGET**
- Item 7 Resolution 2026-04-07 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Ward/Jones
**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$30,000 IN TENNESSEE YOUTH
 EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (TYEP) GRANT FUNDS FROM VOCATIONAL
 REHABILITATION FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOLS**
- Item 8 Resolution 2026-04-08 (On Consent) APPROVED
 Sponsors: Ward/Jones
**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND BUDGET
 REGARDING THE SALE OF SURPLUS VOCATIONAL EQUIPMENT**

CONTINUED

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

Amendment
Vote

398

Description

Motion to amend Item 2025-11-07: Change 4 month moratorium to 1 year moratorium.

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time

8:24:44 PM

Motion to approve by Comm. Ireson
2nd by Comm. Crawford

Voting stop time

8:25:00 PM

Voting configuration

Vote

Voting mode

Open

Vote result

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

As Amended
Item 01
Resolution No. 2026-03-08

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 19th day of March 2026.

RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE THE PETTY JOHN ROAD BRIDGE IN HONOR OF LCPL DONALD R. GONCE, USMC.

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Commission recognizes the importance of honoring individuals whose service and sacrifice have made a lasting impact on the citizens and communities of Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Donald R. Gonce served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, demonstrating courage, dedication, and commitment to defending the freedoms of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Lance Corporal Gonce continued to be a valued member of the local community, exemplifying the values of service, integrity, and patriotism; and forming Indian Springs Optimist Club, which is coming upon its 40th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Commission finds it fitting and appropriate to recognize the life, service and legacy of Lance Corporal Donald R. Gonce by dedicating a bridge in his honor so that future generations may remember his commitment to both country and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sullivan County Commission, meeting in regular session on the 16th day of April, 2026:

- 1) The bridge located on Petty John Road in Sullivan County, Tennessee, shall be designated as the "LCpl Donald R. Gonce, USMC Memorial Bridge."
- 2) Appropriate signage shall be installed identifying the bridge as the "LCpl Donald R. Gonce, USMC Memorial Bridge."
- 3) The Clerk of the Sullivan County Commission shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to the ~~Tennessee Department of Transportation~~ **Sullivan County Highway Department**, and any other appropriate agencies for coordination of signage and recognition.
- 4) This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission

ATTEST: Maria Jacobs

Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Item 01
Resolution No. 2026-03-08

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April, 2026 at or about the following time 9:00am by the following method: Stand delivered
Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard S. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Attest: _____
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Approve: _____
Richard S. Venable, County Mayor

Sponsor: Commissioner Jessica Means
Cosponsors: Commissioner Travis Ward; Commissioner Zane Vanover; **Commissioner Daniel Horne; Commissioner Mark Ireson; Commissioner Joe McMurray.**
ACTIONS: 03/12/26 (Work Session) To be considered on Waiver of Rules at Regular Session on 03/19/26; 03/19/26 (Regular Session) Failed 12 Yes, 7 Abstain, 1 No, 4 Absent. Commissioner Ireson made a motion to suspend the rules to refile Item #9 at today's (03/19/26) meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Locke. Vote was taken on suspending the rule and approved 17 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstain, 4 Absent. Sponsor made a motion to consider on 1st Reading at next month's meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Locke.
04/09/26 (Work Session) To be considered on 04/16/26 as amended.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved as amended 22 Yes, 1 No, 1 Absent

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

7 Item 1 Resolution No. 2026-03-09 Sponsors: Ward/Means
Vote

401

Description

RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE THE PETTY JOHN ROAD BRIDGE IN HONOR OF CLP DONALD R. GONCE, USMC

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 8:18:41 PM
Voting stop time 8:21:08 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Yes	22
Abstain	0
No	1
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	No	Absent
No group	22	1	0
Total result	22	1	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()			X	
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 02
Resolution No. 2026-04-02

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE PETWORKS ANIMAL SERVICES+ FOR \$50,000 FOR THE DAY TO DAY OPERATION OF THE SHELTER.

WHEREAS, PETWORKS is dedicated to providing the best possible care to lost and homeless animals and strives to end animal suffering and animal overpopulation through progressive and proactive policies and programs, including adoption, rescue, spay/neuter, and responsible ownership education.

WHEREAS, PETWORKS currently provides animal control services to the City of Kingsport and accepts animals that are dropped off at the shelter from anywhere in the Sullivan County area.

WHEREAS, the PETWORKS Board of Directors has agreed to provide animal control services for the rural unincorporated area of West Sullivan County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in regular Session, hereby approves funding for the PETWORKS Animal Services in the amount of \$50,000. This amount is to be funded from the Fund Balance of the General Fund or other available funding.

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this _____ day of _____ 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: _____
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: _____
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this ____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method: _____.

Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

CONTINUED

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day
of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the
following method: _____.

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Gary Stidham

Cosponsor: Commissioner John Gardner

ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be considered on 1st Reading at regular session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Placed on 1st Reading

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 03
Resolution No. 2026-04-03

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SULLIVAN COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT TO ENTER INTO A FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTH LEASE WITH RJ YOUNG FOR AN OFFICE COPIER

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office currently has an existing copier lease with RJ Young, and this is to replace a small copier in the Pre-Trial Release office; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in Regular Session, hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to execute a forty-eight (48) month lease @ \$193.45 per month with RJ Young.

Waiver of the Rules Requested

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April 2026 at or about the following time 9:00am by the following method: Hand delivered
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

CONTINUED

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County Richard S. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____
day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the
following
method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Michael Cole.
Cosponsors: Commissioner Zane Vanover; Commissioner Travis Ward
ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent 23 Yes, 1 Absent

**SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session**

Item 04
Resolution No. 2026-04-04

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND SULLIVAN COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET FOR THE RPE PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Regional Health Department has received additional grant funding from the State of Tennessee in the amount of \$10,000 ; and

WHEREAS, these funds are 100% funded by the State of Tennessee ; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in Regular Session, hereby authorizes amending the health department budget as follows:

Appropriation: 55110.1170.300.111 Contracted Services \$10,000

Revenue Source: 47590.1170.111 State of TN-RPE \$10,000

WAIVER OF RULES REQUESTED

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April 2026 at or about the following time: 9:00am by the following method: hand delivered
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

CONTINUED

Item 04
Resolution No. 2026-04-04

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County Richard S. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____
day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the
following
method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Jessica Means.
Cosponsors: Commissioner Joyce Crosswhite
ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent 23 Yes, 1 Absent

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 05
Resolution No. 2026-04-05

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session, this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT INSTRUCTION IN THE 2025-26 GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Department of Education has reimbursement for the provision of a dual enrollment instructor for various CTE programs; and

WHEREAS, the funds granted to Sullivan County Department of Education for the 2025-26 year are \$29,750.00; and

WHEREAS, the CTE department would like to utilize these reimbursements to enhance the equipment provided in various CTE programming; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in Regular Session, hereby authorizes the Sullivan County Department of Education to recognize said reimbursement, not to exceed the above amount (\$29,750.00). The revenue and expenditure account codes for the grant are as follows:

Account Number	Account Description	Amount
48130	Contributions	29,750.00
71300-730-007	Vocational Instruction Equip	29,750.00

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 16th day of April 2026 at or about the following time 9:00am by the following method: Hand delivered
Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

CONTINUED

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard S. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____
day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the
following
method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Travis Ward.
Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones
ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent 23 Yes, 1 Absent

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 06
Resolution No. 2026-04-06

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session, this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE JUUL SETTLEMENT REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE CATCH MY BREATH PROGRAM IN THE 2025-26 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Department of Education has received funding through the JUUL settlement and has chosen to utilize those funds to offset the cost of educating students on the effects of vaping and/or smoking through the Catch My Breath program; and

WHEREAS, the funds granted to Sullivan County Department of Education for the 2025-26 year are \$15,423.64;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in Regular Session, hereby authorizes the Sullivan County Department of Education to recognize said reimbursement, not to exceed the above amount (\$15,423.64). The revenue and expenditure account codes for the grant are:

Account Number	Account Description	Amount
44180	Expenditure Credit	15,423.64
72210-189-724	Other Salaries & Wages	13,222.15
72210-201-724	Social Security	819.77
72210-204-724	State Retirement	1,190.00
72210-212-724	Employer Medicare	191.72

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April 2026 at or about the following time: 9:00am by the following method: hand delivered

Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

CONTINUED

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County:

Richard B. Venable

Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County:

Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____
day of

_____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the
following
method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Travis Ward.

Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones

ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.

04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent 23 Yes, 1 Absent

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 07
 Resolution No. 2026-04-07

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE \$30,000 IN TENNESSEE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (TYEP) GRANT FUNDS FROM VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION FOR SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD), Workforce Services Division, and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) support local efforts to increase youth employment through the Tennessee Youth Employment Program (TYEP); and

WHEREAS, the TYEP grant is a strategic initiative designed to lessen the effects of poverty and ensure that youth with disabilities gain valuable work experience and develop productive workplace habits to prepare them for future careers; and

WHEREAS, this program specifically aims to expand opportunities for teens and young adults with disabilities who might otherwise struggle to find gainful employment; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Board of Education has been awarded up to \$30,000.00 in TYEP grant funding through the First Tennessee Development District to support student employment initiatives; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be utilized to provide stipends for students in the Special Education program who are working within Sullivan County Schools; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will allow students to build essential job skills in real-world environments while receiving financial compensation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee that the sum of \$30,000.00 be accepted from the Tennessee Youth Employment Program and Vocational Rehabilitation and amended as follows to appropriate said funds:

Account Number	Account Description	Amount
46790	Other Vocational Grants	+30,000.00
71200-189	Other Salaries & Wages	+27,870.00
71200-201	Social Security Tax	+1,725.00
71200-212	Employer Medicare	+405.00

Waiver of the Rules Requested
CONTINUED

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April 2026 at or about the following time: 9:00am by the following method: Hand delivered

Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard S. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Travis Ward.
Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones
ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent 23 Yes, 1 Absent

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

TO BE AMENDED ON FLOOR
Item 08
Resolution No. 2026-04-08

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Mayor of Sullivan County, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE GENERAL PURPOSE SCHOOL FUND BUDGET REGARDING THE SALE OF SURPLUS VOCATIONAL EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Purchasing Department recently conducted a sale of surplus Career and Technical Education (CTE) equipment that was originally purchased through federal vocational funding programs, resulting in total proceeds in the amount of ~~\$2,385.00~~ \$16,653.13; and

WHEREAS, federal and state guidelines regarding the disposal of CTE equipment require that proceeds from the sale of such assets be reinvested into the vocational program to support continued instructional excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Board of Education requests that these funds be officially recognized and appropriated into the General Purpose School (GPS) Budget to be utilized specifically for the purchase of updated vocational instructional equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sullivan County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session, that the General Purpose School Fund Budget be amended as follows:

Account Number	Account Description	Amount
44530	Sale of Equipment	+2,385.13 +16,653.13
71300-730	Vocational Instruction Equip	+2,385.00 +16,653.13

Waiver of the Rules Requested

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

CONTINUED

TO BE AMENDED

Item 08

Resolution No. 2026-04-08

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 27th day of April, 2026 at or about the following time 9:00am by the following method: Hand delivered

Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard B. Venable
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method: _____

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Travis Ward.
Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones
ACTIONS: 04/09/26 (Work Session) To be placed on Consent at Regular Session on 04/16/26.
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Consent as amended by Sponsor 23 Yes, 1 Absent

*Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session*

416

Item 9
Resolution No. 2026-04-09

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$73,662.44 TO THE NORTHEAST TENNESSEE TOURISM ASSOCIATION FROM SULLIVAN COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX COLLECTIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

WHEREAS, by prior action the Sullivan County Commission established current policy to direct 50 percent of county occupancy tax revenue to the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association at the request of the cities of Bristol and Kingsport and to make such payments to NETTA on a quarterly basis; and

WHEREAS, the current policy states the county shall pay NETTA for each quarter no later than six weeks after the end of each quarter; and

WHEREAS, the third quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026 ended March 31 and the Sullivan County Finance Department has available the total revenue amount for the quarter; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of total receipts for the first quarter (less fees withheld by the county clerk and county trustee) equals \$73,662.44.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of Sullivan County, meeting in Regular Session, approves appropriation of \$73,662.44 and authorizes payment in that amount to NETTA to fulfill the Commission's commitment to directing 50 percent of Sullivan County occupancy tax revenue to NETTA on a quarterly basis in exchange for unspecified destination tourism marketing and promotion of Sullivan County Tennessee. Accounts and codes to be assigned by the Sullivan County Finance Department.

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

WAIVER OF RULES REQUESTED

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: 
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: 
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

CONTINUED

Item 9
Resolution No. 2026-04-09

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April, 2026, at or about the following time 9:00 am by the following method: Hand delivered

Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard D. Venetti
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method:

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Zane Vanover
Cosponsors: Commissioner Mark Ireson; Commissioner John Gardner
04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Waiver of Rules 23 Yes, 1 Absent

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

38 Item 9 Resolution No. 2026-04-09 Sponsors: Vanover/Ireson
Vote

418

Description

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE \$73,662.44 TO THE NORTHEAST TENNESSEE TOURISM ASSOCIATION FROM SULLIVAN COUNTY OCCUPANCY TAX COLLECTIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026.

Chairman

Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 8:32:22 PM
Voting stop time 8:32:34 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0/1

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

SULLIVAN COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
246th Annual Session

Item 10
Resolution No. 2026-04-10

To the Honorable Richard S. Venable, Sullivan County Mayor, and the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners meeting in Regular Session this 16th day of April 2026.

A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE NEW SULLIVAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JOHN SIDNEY MCLELLAN III

WHEREAS, The Honorable John Sidney McLellan III grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee, graduating from Dobyns-Bennett High School in 1964, and went on to attend the University of Tennessee, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1968, followed by a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan joined the Kingsport Bar Association in 1971 and practiced law in both federal and state courts for twenty-four years as a general practitioner, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to the legal profession and the citizens he served; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to public service was evident through his tenure as Sullivan County Attorney from 1984 through 1994, as well as his service as City Attorney for the Town of Mt. Carmel and as Judge of the Kingsport City Juvenile Court; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Governor Ned Ray McWherter appointed Judge McLellan as Judge of Division I of the 2nd Judicial District Circuit Court of the State of Tennessee, where he served with distinction for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his judicial career, Judge McLellan was known for his fairness, integrity, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to justice, earning the respect of litigants, attorneys, and fellow jurists alike, and was repeatedly reelected—often without opposition—reflecting the confidence placed in him by the citizens of this district; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan has been an active member of numerous legal and professional organizations, including the American Judicature Society, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and as a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association, and has further contributed to his alma mater through service on the Board of Governors of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge McLellan's life of service has been supported and strengthened by his wife, Wanda G. McLellan, née Gulley, and their marriage of sixty years has been marked by deep devotion, enduring partnership, and a shared commitment to family and community; and

CONTINUED

WHEREAS, through his decades of service on the bench, Judge McLellan has shaped the administration of justice in this region, mentored generations of attorneys, and impacted countless families and individuals, leaving a lasting legacy that will endure well beyond his tenure; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Sullivan County recognize individuals whose service has brought honor and distinction to the judiciary and to the community as a whole;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sullivan County Commission that the new Sullivan County Courthouse section of the Kingsport Justice Center shall be named the "John Sidney McLellan III Courthouse" in honor of his lifetime of service, his enduring contributions to the administration of justice, and his profound impact on Sullivan County and the State of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate signage be erected and all official references to the new courthouse reflect this designation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Judge McLellan and his family as a token of the County's appreciation and gratitude for his exemplary service.

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage. All resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same rescinded insofar as such conflict exists.

WAIVER OF RULES REQUESTED

Duly adopted this 16th day of April 2026.

Reviewed by Chairman: John T. Gardner
John T. Gardner, Chairman, Sullivan County Commission.

ATTEST: Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk

Delivered to the Sullivan County Mayor or his secretary this the 20th day of April, 2026 at or about the following time 9:00 am by the following method: Hand delivered

Teresa Jacobs
Teresa Jacobs, County Clerk.

ACTION BY MAYOR

Reviewed and ACCEPTED by Mayor, Sullivan County: Richard S. Venale
Mayor, Sullivan County

Reviewed and VETOED by Mayor, Sullivan County: _____
Mayor, Sullivan County

CONTINUED

Item 10
Resolution No. 2026-04-10

Delivered to the Chairman of the Sullivan County Commission or his designee this the _____ day of _____, 20____ at or about the following time _____ by the following method:

Mayor, Sullivan County

Sponsor: Commissioner Joe McMurray
Cosponsors: Commissioner Sam Jones; Commissioner Travis Ward; Commissioner Zane Vanover; Commissioner Jessica Means; Commissioner John Gardner; Commissioner Gary Stidham, Commissioner Darlene Calton; everyone voting in the affirmative added as cosponsors.

04/16/26 (Regular Session) Approved on Waiver of Rules 23 Yes, 1 Absent



CIRCUIT COURT
STATE OF TENNESSEE
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

S. CURTIS ROSE
CIRCUIT JUDGE

OLD CITY HALL BUILDING
225 W. CENTER STREET
KINGSPORT, TN 37660
OFF. (423) 224-1725
FAX (423) 224-2040

April 15, 2026

Mayor Richard S. Venable
All Sullivan County Commissioners

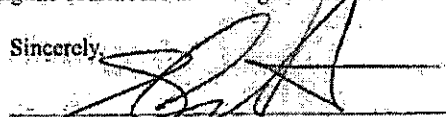
Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

Please accept this letter of support from the Judges of the Second Judicial District for the naming of all court related operations at the Kingsport Justice Center. All of the undersigned are in support of naming the courthouse, which is located on the second floor of the Justice Center, the Hon. John S. McLellan, III Courthouse.

As you know, Judge McLellan passed away in February and shortly thereafter, we began an endeavor to appropriately honor the legacy of Judge McLellan who spent over half his life in public service. From his time as county attorney to his 30 years of service on the bench, naming the courthouse after Judge McLellan is a fitting and appropriate honor.

This matter came before the Kingsport Bar Association and they unanimously agreed and therefore voted for Resolution in support of the naming of the courthouse.

We wanted to make you all aware of this support before the next Sullivan County Commission meeting. It is the Judges hope that this Commission finds this letter with favor and will pass a resolution in support of the naming the courthouse after Judge McLellan.

Sincerely,


S. Curtis Rose, Presiding Judge, Circuit Part I



Katie Priester, Chancellor




James F. Godwin, Criminal Court Judge



William K. Rogers, Circuit Part II

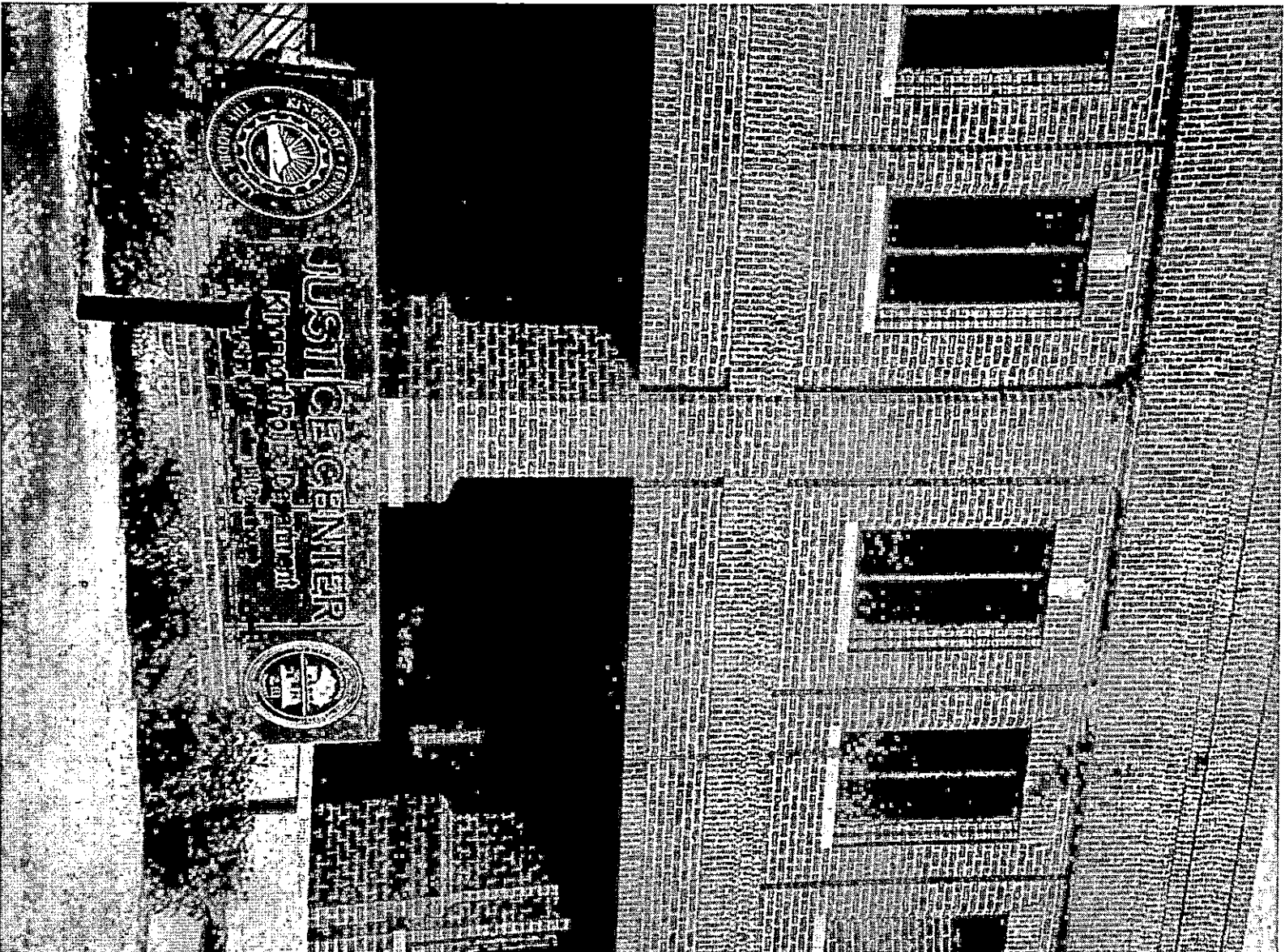
Page 2

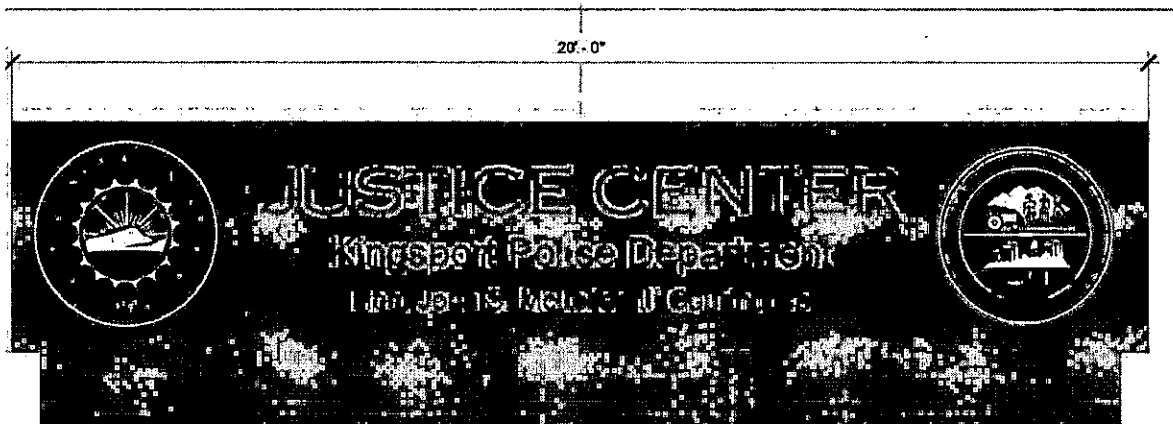
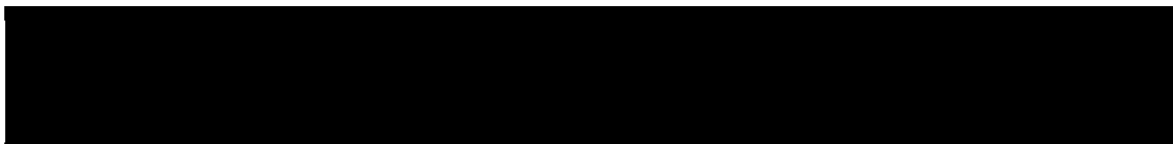

Teresa A. Nelson, General Sessions Judge


Charles "Doug" Vance, General Sessions Judge


Mark H. Toohy, General Sessions Judge


Ray Conkin, General Sessions Judge





Option 3

Agenda subject voting report

Meeting name

Sullivan County Commission April 16 2026

4/16/2026

41 Item 10 Resolution No. 2026-04-10 Sponsors: McMurray/Jones
Vote

426

Description A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE NEW SULLIVAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JOHN SIDNEY MCLELLAN III.

Chairman Gardner, John

Total vote result

Voting start time 8:29:54 PM
Voting stop time 8:30:09 PM
Voting configuration Vote
Voting mode Open
Vote result

Yes	23
Abstain	0
No	0
Total Present	23
Absent	1

Group voting result

Group	Yes	Absent
No group	23	0
Total result	23	0

Individual voting result

Name	Yes	Abstain	No	Absent
Akard, David ()	X			
Calton, Darlene ()	X			
Carr, Joe ()	X			
Cole, Michael ()	X			
Crawford, Larry ()	X			
Cross, Andrew ()	X			
Crosswhite, Joyce ()	X			
Gardner, John ()	X			
Glover, Hershel ()	X			
Harvey, Cheryl ()	X			
Hayes, David ()	X			
Hopper, Barry ()				X
Horne, Daniel ()	X			
Ireson, Mark ()	X			
Jones, Sam ()	X			
King, Dwight ()	X			
Leonard, Tony ()	X			
Locke, Hunter ()	X			
McMurray, Joe ()	X			
Means, Jessica ()	X			
Pierce, Archie ()	X			
Stidham, Gary ()	X			
Vanover, Zane ()	X			
Ward, Travis ()	X			

BEHIND THE KENNELS

EVERY PAWPRINT TELLS A STORY



Issue 002

www.animalshelter-sullivancounty.org

April 1, 2026/Vol: 002

March Highlights

MARCH SHELTER STATISTICS

Intakes	134	Spay/Neuters	272
Rescued	26	Wellness Clinic	344
Adoptions	80	Food Pantry	327



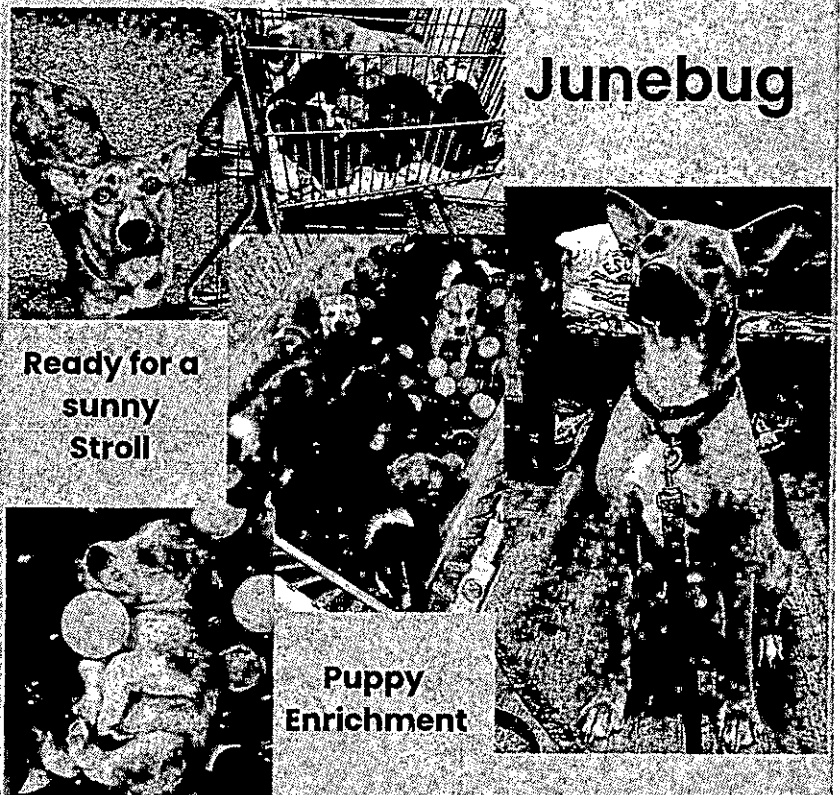
We are incredibly thankful to the Sullivan County Humane Society for their generous donation.



Thanks to all the amazing adoptions at our local PetSmart locations, we've been awarded the Bronze Adoption Badge

HAPPENINGS IN APRIL

- Pack the Pallet** Walmart Neighborhood Market
Friday 17 at 11:00 - 2:00
- Flower Sale** starts April 17 - May 10, Friday 3:00-7:00, Saturday 11:00-7:00 and Sunday 1:00-7:00
- Volunteer Orientation** Sat. 4 and 18 at 11:00 am
- Tractor Supply Adoption Event** (Bristol, Tn)
Saturday 11, 12:00 - 3:00pm
- Vaccine Clinic** (appointments only)
Thursday 23, 3:00 - 5:00
- Nicewonder Woof and Wine Down**
Saturday 25, 10:00 - 11:00pm - Nicewonder Farm and Vineyards
- Bristol PetSmart Joyful Adoption Event**
Saturday 25, 11:00 - 4:00
- Kingsport PetSmart Joyful Adoption Event**
Saturday 25, 11:00 - 4:00



Junebug arrived scared and abandoned, her belly full of life and her trust in people broken. Despite everything, she remained devoted—fiercely protecting the puppies she hadn't even met yet.

At the shelter, she gave birth to nine tiny babies, keeping them tucked safely against her and allowing no one near. She watched every movement, determined to keep her family safe.

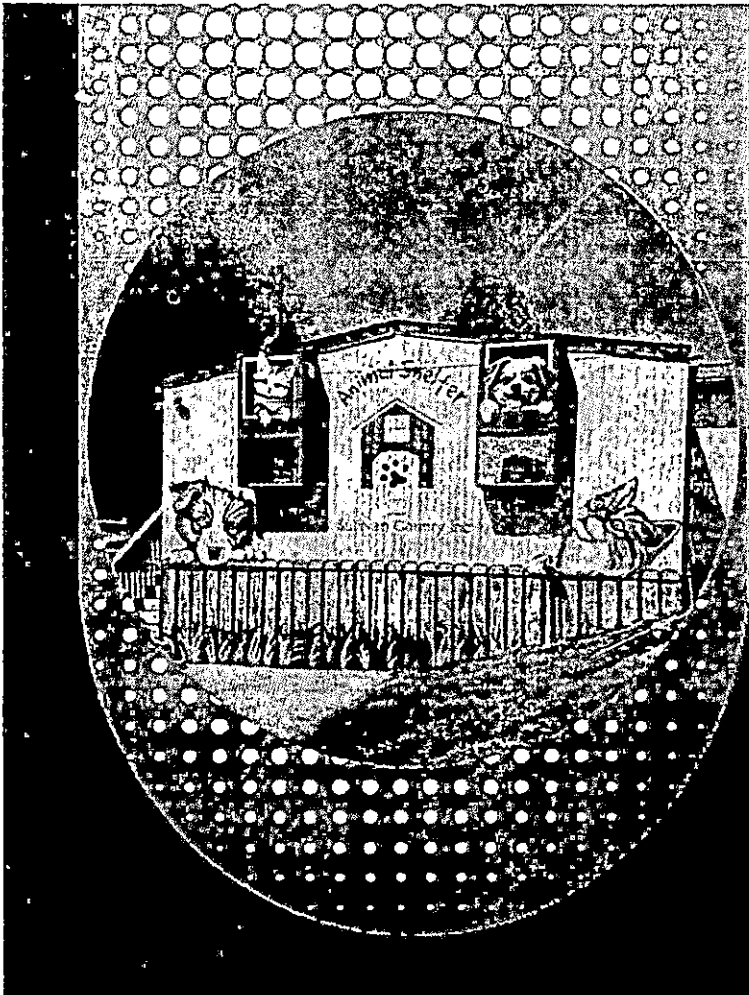
But the medical team was patient. With soft voices, gentle hands, and consistent care, they showed Junebug a different kind of love—one that didn't ask for anything in return.

Slowly, she began to soften. A cautious tail wag turned into a gentle lean, and before long, Junebug was seeking comfort from the very people she once feared.

While raising her puppies, Junebug found something she had been missing: safety, kindness, and trust—and she embraced it with her whole heart.

Low-cost vaccines are now available! Use the QR code to visit our website and schedule your appointment today. Schedule appointments and donate on our website





OPEN HOUSE

Animal Shelter of Sullivan County

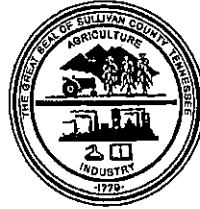
We are excited to invite you to join us for a tour of our facility on Thursday, May 21, at 5:00 PM. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to:

- Discover our operations
- Meet some of our dedicated team members
- Gain insight into our work and mission

During the tour, you'll have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes look at our facility. We believe that sharing our insights and innovations will enhance our mutual understanding and knowledge.

We look forward to your visit and can't wait to show you around our facility!

Sullivan County



AND THEREUPON COUNTY COMMISSION ADJOURNED AT 8:37 P.M. UPON MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER CALTON TO MEET AGAIN IN WORK SESSION ON MAY 14, 2026.



JOHN T. GARDNER

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN