



Observer Reporting Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Items of interest: Status of the abuse Hotline (and abuse OF the Hotline with regard to frivolous complaints that become open records – whether substantiated or NOT!) was deferred for 60 days. Changing the meeting time of commission meeting was discussed. Public Speakers addressed issues regarding: the purpose, scope and oversight of PBA; the Knox County Pension Plan and funding; TVA’s Switchyard plans at Midway.

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs? Hillside Protection will be studied in workshop Apr 28th at Chairman’s Lunch. Workshops are for education of the Commissioners – not public forum.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? None at this time

Other Concerns: * Regarding R-905: This last minute addition to the agenda was to pass a resolution, as required by TN Law, that would change the current autonomous system so that fees collected by clerks and fee officers would be deposited into the Knox County General fund. There was ample time for discussion and comments from the public. Only the Mayor’s office spoke up in favor of the change and the Resolution was approved (for the consent agenda at the CC Meeting next week). THEN, Commission Brown asked to hear from the Fee Offices. Joy McCroskey (did not identify herself as required – I had to ask someone who she was) planned to wait until next week to speak. She is Clerk of the Criminal Courts and she opposed the resolution citing the referendum (to appoint fee officers instead of electing them) as the public favoring the elected official to control the money. Cathy Quist (Circuit Court Clerk) also opposed

the resolution. Apparently their issues were about hiring and salary decisions. Commissioner Broyles scheduled visits to their offices at their invitation and said she would rather have time to consider their objections and not have them presented for the first time at the Commission Meeting before the vote.

Then, Commissioner Brown asked to send on the Item without recommendation, rescinding the previous vote to approve... Commissioner Hammond had made it clear that the item could have been removed from the consent agenda at the request of any Commissioner...

As an observer, there seemed to be lots of noisy talking in the back of the audience, and obviously Commissioner Brown saw the Fee Officers in the back of the room because, after the vote, he asked to hear from them. For a late addition to the agenda, this observer was surprised that

- 1) There were opponents in the audience, unless they knew beforehand that this would be added, and
- 2) That they DID NOT SPEAK up when invited to BEFORE the vote and
- 3) That Commissioner Brown would ask them to speak – AFTER the vote.

This was, after all, the WORK SESSION.

The agenda needed to be set before the meeting, and both sides should have spoken up before the vote – which likely would have been to pass without recommendation anyway.

The Work Sessions have been a great improvement over the old Finance and Intergovernmental meetings. They have been very well-organized and efficient. That is why this observer was confused about what was really going on here.

Observer: Judy Barnette Meeting: Knox County Commission Work Session Date: 21 Mar 2011