

Davidson County
UT-TSU Agricultural Extension Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16th, 2020 11:00 AM

Ag Extension Office, 2nd Floor

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Members Present: Mr. Mark Kerske- Chair, Mr. Ed Smith, Ms. Sylvia Ganier, Dr. Thelma Sanders-Hunter , Ms. Sherri Smith,

Members Absent: Mr. Will Nesby, Mr. Bobby Edwards

Special Guest: Mr. Alex Dickerson – Metro Legal Council

Mark Kerske called the meeting to order at 11:05. A quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Poll to agree to conduct virtual meeting- Mark Kerske and Alex Dickerson:

There was a motion by Ms. Ganier and seconded by Ms. Sanders-Hunter to approve the Ag Board to meet through online platforms, such as zoom, as the board's business is deemed essential. The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting were not read because it was not considered essential.

Discussion of Ag Board Roles- Mark Kerske and Jim Stewart:

The role of the Ag Board was fully laid out elaborating it's collaboration with The University of Tennessee by Mr. Stewart. Following, there was an open discussion about the role the Ag Board plays in different situations with the Extension office and expected potential responses. It was agreed that the Board has an active role in appointments and removal of personnel. There are exceptions of when Metro and/or University policies have been violated by the employee in question.

Discussion of County Director Appointment and Approval to Proceed with Process to Appoint County Director- Jim Stewart:

The county director needs and expectations were discussed by Jim Stewart. He is the acting director currently, but explained that we need someone on site. Any current employee with a master's degree is eligible for the county director position and appointment. . Elizabeth Sanders was the only employee who expressed interest. The interview process of the appointment was discussed. Ed Smith motioned to continue with the process to interview Ms. Sanders and call the special meeting. Mark Kerske seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed to an online interview process for the candidate.

Sylvia Ganier added that this should be an expedited process out of respect for Mr. Stewart and Davidson County employees.

The special meeting was set for Thursday the 23rd at 11:00am.

Close/Adjourn-Mark Kerske:

Mark Kerske motioned to end the meeting, and Ed Smith seconded it. Jim stated that the recorded meeting would be posted on the Metro website. The meeting was adjourned.