

Coffee County Strategic Planning Committee

May 1st, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Claude Morse, Lynn Sebourn, Jimmy Hollandsworth, Ron Fuller, Brent Willis, Robert Norfleet, David Young, Rick Soucy, Casey Rhoton, Dennis Hunt

Members Absent:

Chairman Sebourn called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The first item of business was approval of the agenda. Chairman Sebourn removed the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting because they were not completed. The agenda was approved as amended unanimously.

The second item of business was a review of county buildings and properties. Maintenance director Rick Soucy gave a detailed overview of all county buildings, including a summary of the properties' current condition and maintenance expected in the next several years. There was a detailed discussion of the current state of the Justice Center and the County Jail.

The third item of business was a high-level overview of the county budget expenditures. Chairman Sebourn, who serves as chair of the County Budget & Finance Committee, provided handouts that illustrated the relative size of expenses in county government. It was noted that the combination of sheriff's department, jail, and judicial system expenses comprises a majority of the state budget. A comparison of Coffee County property tax rates to the rest of the state and particularly counties of similar size was also provided. It was noted that Coffee County property tax rates are generally higher than surrounding counties and counties of similar size to Coffee County. A request was made for a relative comparison of the departmental spending levels for other counties compared to Coffee County.

The fourth and final item of business was a discussion on the path forward to developing and writing the strategic plan for Coffee County. Committee member Robert Norfleet suggested that the committee conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of Coffee County to clarify a vision for the county. Chairman Sebourn stated that he would include this in our next agenda.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.