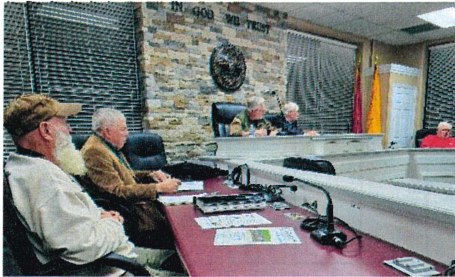




Scan above QR Code for newsletter access.

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 Meeting Minutes



The meeting came to order at 7:00pm. VP Ronald Lambert led the invocation. Secretary Tidwell called roll with 11 present and 3 absent. February's minutes were read and accepted.

Ronald Lambert spoke about the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative grant which will bring \$40,000.00 per year for 3 years to the Tackett Creek (Ed Carter) Unit. He is also applying for a US Fish and Wildlife Service grant which could possibly bring \$600,000.00 to Tackett, mostly for bridge and culvert installation on trails.

Tommy Overton reported that Hunters for the Hungry donations were down 1,000 pounds, or 4,000 meals from last year.

Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer's report with no activity being noted and a balance of \$10,795.90. Motions for disbursement of \$23.19 to President Lewis for domain renewal, the Chamber of Commerce for \$200.00 for membership, and Sheyanne Taylor for website and technical services in the amount of \$250.00 were carried.

Glennis Monday spoke about scheduling some upcoming litter clean-ups on Norris Lake and at Tackett Creek. More signs, designating OHV usage on roadways, have been printed, but have not yet been posted.

Fred Walker updated on a new strategy concerning what he previously called a flintlock season for deer. He has changed that to "Antique Firearms Season" after his extensive research into the Antique Firearms Act, and will continue his advocacy.

A short discussion on the upcoming March 7th RMEF Banquet at Lenoir City, and an NWT event at the Ball Event Center on March 10th was entered into. Next up was the 22nd Annual Wounded Warrior Hunt fast approaching in April. Fred Walker made the motion for CORA to support the event with a donation of \$300.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Oneida Mayor Lori Phillips Jones and Virginia Bruce gave a presentation on the proposed "Tennessee Highlander Trail". This project may one day be a linear, 42-mile-long walking and biking trail, on the R.J. Corman railroad bed from Oneida to Devonian.

There are many technicalities surrounding this proposal: the legalities of the rail abandonment process and the possibility of land reverting back to adjoining land owners, chief among them. Proponents believe the project could bring tourism dollars and associated small businesses. Opponents cite the possibility of privacy issues, unauthorized ATV/OHV traffic, crime and trespassing issues.

Along this trail are 67 access points, 21 trestles, 2 old water towers, train cars that were wrecked and abandoned, and lots of beautiful terrain and vistas. The Oak Ridge based non-profit is seeking support from Campbell County for the rails-to-trails initiative. The meeting dismissed at 8:12pm.



Above left: Virginia Bruce shows the map of the proposed Tennessee Highlander Trail. Right, Oneida Mayor Lori Phillips Jones hands out informational brochures.