

Blue Ribbon Commission

Revenue Committee

Minutes

January 25, 2019
11:00 am
Historic Metropolitan Courthouse
One Public Square
Suite 205
Committee Room 2
Nashville, TN 37201

Members Present: Emily Evans, John Cooper, Dave Goetz, Jim Shulman and Stan Romine

Members Absent: Tanaka Vercher, Brad Rayson

The meeting was called to order by Chair Evans at 12:03 am CST.

After discussion, Ms. Evans was named Chair of the Subcommittee and Mr. Cooper was named Vice Chair.

Ms. Evans indicated that there were two pressing issues that she wanted the Revenue Committee to consider:

- (1) whether fees required and paid to a Metro entity for a specific service actually met the expenditures of that service; do the fees collected cover the cost of the expenditures that the fees are intended to cover; and
- (2) when the overall collection of the fees are low, is the cost of collecting the fees worth the expense?

After discussion, the Subcommittee felt that the right way to address the questions, as well as to get updated numbers on the actual fees themselves, was to request that the Finance Office come to the next meeting of the Subcommittee and respond to the questions. The Chair asked that, in the meantime, the Committee members review the overall fees assessed by Metro. Mr. Cooper raised the issue of State collected fees; Mr. Shulman agreed to request that the Tennessee Department of Revenue send a representative to address State-collected fees that are earmarked to go to Metro. Mr. Goetz then raised the issue of Court fees and how arguments have been made that some of those fees have detrimental effects, particularly on lower income individuals.

The Chair indicated that the various issues would be discussed at the next meeting of the Subcommittee. With no further business, the Subcommittee adjourned at 12:13 pm CST.