

The Sunday News, October 28, 2012—3A



Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee held a special meeting Wednesday to build a better working relationship among his Board of Aldermen, the Coffee County Commission and the Manchester Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Participating in the discussion are, floor level, from left, Tullahoma Alderman Jerry Mathis, Manchester Alderman Donny Parsley, County Commissioner Bobby Bryan, Manchester Aldermen Tim Pauley and Roxanne Patton, Tullahoma Alderman Jimmy Blanks, Manchester Alderman Cheryl Swan, Curlee, Tullahoma Mayor Pro Tem Mike Norris, Manchester Mayor Lonnie Norman, County Commissioner Jackie Duncan, Coffee County Mayor David Pennington, County Commissioner Rush Bricken, County Commissioner Mark Kelly, Manchester citizen Ialison Terry Dendy, Tullahoma City Administrator Jody Baltz, Duck River Utility Commission manager Randal Braker, Manchester Vice Mayor Ryan French, County Commissioner Robin Hines, Manchester Alderman Russell Bryan and County Commissioner Barry West. In back, at higher level, are Tullahoma Alderman Mike Stanton; Diane Bryant, Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce director; and Bill Comer, Industrial Board of Coffee County chairman.

—Staff Photo by Brian Justice

Working together aim of 3-board meet

By BRIAN JUSTICE
City Editor

For the first time in recent years, government boards from Tullahoma, Manchester and Coffee County are getting together to perform a streamlined task — working together.

Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee held a special meeting Wednesday at Tullahoma City Hall involving members from the three boards to begin what is hoped to be a quarterly-year process to patch up differences from the past and work toward economic and community development benefits in the future.

The agenda included no controversial topics, just information the Tullahoma and Manchester boards of mayor and aldermen and the Coffee County Commission have in common.

Bill Comer, Coffee County Industrial Development Board chairman, updated the group of about 30 on the status of two of three industrial parks and potential prospects the county is trying to secure.

Daryl Brady, Tullahoma Area Economic Development Corp. executive director, provided an update on the airpark at Tullahoma Regional Airport and how the airport benefits the entire county.

Randal Braker, Duck River Utility Commission general manager, explained his organization's efforts to ensure the area has a consistent, dependable water supply.

Diane Bryant, Tullahoma Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, provided an update on the county's "Three Star" status.

The program, administered through the Tennes-

ssee represent taxpaying residents, and "together we need to build relationships. We're all in this together, and it's important we work together."

Coffee County Commissioner Barry West echoed Curlee's assessment.

"We all live together, we might as well work together," he said after the meeting.

Norman said the meeting was well worth his time.

"I think it was tremendous," he said. "I'm glad to be a part of it."

"This is about all of Coffee County, not just Manchester, not just Tullahoma. It's about all of us, and we need to do what's right for the entire county."

Pennington said he believes the meeting was beneficial.

"I think it was a good meeting," he said. "One of my goals has always been to have the three of us (government branches) work for the good of all of Coffee County, and this meeting shows that Lane is willing to do that also."

An issue the governments will face if they don't get enough electric consuming industries, or one large one in the Coffee County Joint Industrial Park, is that they will each have to budget an additional \$50,000 annually to pay for Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's financial shortfall from developing a substation to serve the park.

According to the original facility rental agreement in 2002, DREMC agreed to build an electrical substation to serve the park and surrounding area on the condition that the park's industries would use at least eight megawatts eight years

its current amount to avoid having to pay the \$150,000 shared cost DREMC will be requiring in 2015.

"Each board will have to get ready to fork over \$50,000," Blanks said. Comer said one large

industry could meet the required electricity demand, and the Oak Gloves Division of Omar Inc. has been involved in an expansion.

Omar has been moving toward doubling its 50,000-square-foot ware-

house capacity, used to store its polyvinylchloride disposable gloves. The company has been an industry leader in hand protection.

However, Comer said plans for the additional

warehouse are on hold because the company, which has business operations in China, could be getting an incentive there to increase its production, reducing the need to expand in Tullahoma.

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