

From: [Kevin Laura Baigert](#)
To: [Beth Browning](#); [Moe Taylor](#); [Terry Wright](#)
Subject: Public Comments for the April 13th, 2020 Budget Meeting
Date: Monday, April 13, 2020 10:34:18 AM

My name is

Kevin Baigert
424 AB Wade Road
Portland, TN 37148

Mr. Chairman,

I understand that there are extenuating circumstances around holding tonight's meeting within a public forum. And I appreciate the Chairman's recent adoption of hearing public comments when the specific issue comes up. That said, I do not understand why the public can not have access to the "real time" system that allows the electronic discussions that will be occurring tonight and in the future.

Yes, the "after the fact" posting of the videos, like in the case of the OWL videos give some level of transparency. However, much of the details of the discussion can be lost. As an example, during the March 9th Budget Committee meeting, while some of us were already practicing "social distancing", the video does not (nor do the meeting minutes) fully capture the discussion with the Election Office personnel sitting in the "audience", or the request for an adjustment by the Portland library, by personnel in the "audience".

Although these kinds of details might not seem important now, as we move forward this month and during subsequent months of public isolation, while discussing proposed fiscal policy including the 2020 budget and it's implications to the taxpayer, it is paramount that the public get all of the information, including discussions during "public comments". Access to the "live" broadcasting system and audio quality that is being used by the Commissioners to conduct County business, should be granted to the general public, especially while County government discussed continued operations and citizens face lost of work and income!

Sincerely,

Kevin Baigert

From: [lani.siciliano](#)
To: [Beth Browning](#)
Subject: Budget mtg 4/13/2020
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 7:50:03 AM

Please find my questions to forward to the entire committee regarding this meeting. It is unfortunate not following Governor's request to actually livestream the meeting which should have been easily accomplished via Zoom.

My biggest question is why the increase in jail food suddenly? Shouldn't that have been in budget already? And why jail lighting? Aren't we supposedly building new? That is quite a large sudden expense.

Additionally, while I feel for the hotel industry, imo single taxpaying group should be getting a deferral if ALL are not getting a deferral. I assume the county can not afford to offer that across the board though.

At this time of budget crisis due to the shutdown of the world, it seems to me we should be tabling extraneous spending; such as the Comer Barn, new capital projects, etc.

Yours,

Lani Siciliano
Hendersonville

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)