



Commissioner Bob Thomas recently press following the dismissal of an ethics complaint against him and Commissioner Charles Busler. Thomas is a candidate for Knox County Mayor and has said all along that this case was nothing more than a political attack by his opponents to the current election.

## Ethics committee dismisses complaints against Busler and Thomas

By Kathy Gandy  
Knox County News  
knoxnews.com

When is it not wise to make an ethics complaint?

Answer: When you can't prove it. That's what happened when the Knox County Ethics Committee voted 7-2 to dismiss charges against Commissioner Bob Thomas and Charles Busler Friday.

After about a golf tournament that Thomas and Busler both exited, he was unable to prove the allegations and only ethics member Barbara Chandler voted to uphold the complaint.

Both men were accused by Bennett of accepting a gift card and playing on the trophy insurance golf team in August. Bennett also accused

himself.

The result of the hearing means that Bennett may be liable for the all expenses incurred by the county and that Thomas and Busler may sue the county to recover their attorney fees as well.

Following the dismissal of charges, Busler and his wife prayed together and left the meeting without making

## 2018-19 Budget

By Anne Palmer

Knox County Board of Education Chair Paty Busler welcomed local officials in attendance at the beginning of the board's regular meeting last Wednesday. Present were Commissioner Chairman Gary Smith, Commissioner Dave Wright and Senator Bill Clay. Clay is representative of the 10th and 11th districts. County Education Association President Tonya Gentry, Cynthia Melroy of KHS, and Knox County Chapter 92 Schools.

Changes to the agenda included postponing recognition of both Fannin and Sevier High School Dance Teams. Deputy Lee Director Gary Busler requested withdrawal of item 7.0.20 from

the final agenda on agenda item 1.0.20 to approve the fiscal year 2018-19 Knox County Board of Education General Purpose Budget at the 10th Chapter 92 Schools. The proposed was presented by County Board Representative Cynthia Gentry. MS stated that she has contacted State Representative Linda Smith regarding some of the specifics of state funding that affects Knox County Schools, the 10th and 11th Representative Smith said he did not have all the numbers but would obtain them as soon as possible and get back to both District Representative MS. For this meeting, MS wanted to postpone the vote until the board has a clearer picture of