

# of shutdown

By Mike Steely

Senior Writer

steelym@knoxfocus.com

When the Knox County Audit Committee meets this afternoon it will vote on the approval of hiring Pugh & Company PC for another year as the county's external auditor.

The company has served as the county's external auditor since 2012 and, under the old rules, would have exhausted the former eight years agreement. The new contract extends the agreement through the fiscal year of 2021.

Ted Hotz of Pugh and Company will address the committee on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the county.

The audit committee will also hear from the finance department on COVID-19's effect on the



ing and procedural guidelines and will be scheduled from June 8 through June 19.

Board member Jennifer Owen showed concerns on the 1:1 initiative first by asking how many laptops needed to be purchased immediately, "Several have two years of support ... seems since we don't know a funding source yet ... would it be more responsible to look at a lower number ... until we are in a better financial situation?"

Thomas followed with confirming KCS will get the maximum use out of the devices already in use and that not purchasing all the devices at once would be a financial help. Gail Byard, chief technology officer for KCS, explained the plan contemplates buying a Chromebook for every student, but doesn't specify an exact purchase date.

Sheryl Martin, who has been working with the state, anal-