Three pedestrians struck by vehicle on Halloween

MACEE SWAFFORD
SENTINEL-ECHO

LONDON – Three pedestrians, including two juveniles and one adult, were injured Saturday evening after being struck by a vehicle on Middleground Way, located off South Highway 25 in London.

According to a press release from the London Police Department, officers were dispatched to the area at approximately 7:05 p.m. on Saturday after the London/Laurel County 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a vehicle striking multiple pedestrians.

Upon arrival, officers and emergency personnel determined that three pedestrians had been struck by a white Toyota Camry.

All three individuals sustained injuries believed to be non-life-threatening and were transported to a local hospital by Laurel County Ambulance Inc. for further medical evaluation and treatment.

The roadway was later reopened, and emergency personnel cleared the scene.

The circumstances surrounding the collision remain under investigation by the London Police Department as of press time.

According to the department, additional information will be released as it becomes available.

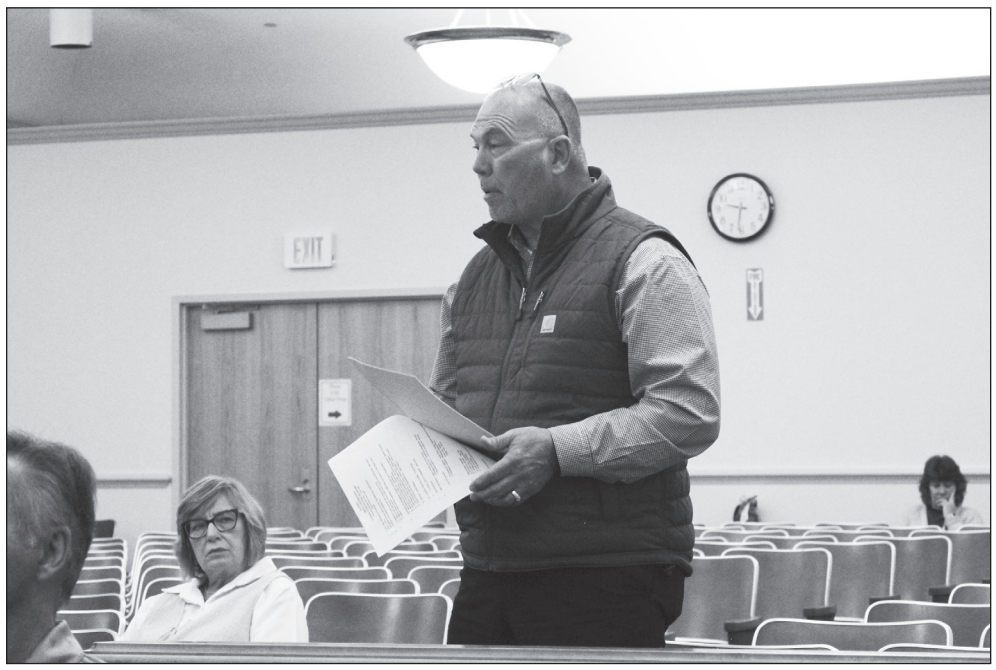
Hulett raises safety, cost concerns over Laurel County 911 Center project

MACEE SWAFFORD
SENTINEL-ECHO

LONDON — Incoming Laurel County Judge Executive Walter T. Hulett raised concerns about building code compliance, storm shelter requirements and potential costs associated with the county's planned 911 center renovations at the new building location during a recent fiscal court meeting.

Hulett told magistrates that he supports constructing a modern emergency communications facility, but questioned whether the current plans adequately address safety requirements and the full scope of the project.

"I think the one thing that we all agree on is that we're in full support of building a new state-of-the-art 911 command center — that's without discussion," said Hulett. "But I've had this set of plans, and based on the basis of design and Kentucky building codes, I don't think we've reached that goal."



Presumptive Judge Executive-elect Walter T. Hulett speaks during public comment about the new 911 building. | MACEE SWAFFORD



The Laurel County Fiscal Court convened for its regular meeting on Thursday. | MACEE SWAFFORD

Hulett outlined three areas of concern — including life-safety provisions in the plans, the application of Kentucky building codes and requirements for storm shelters at emergency operations facilities.

He referenced a section in the building codes, which he said requires newly constructed 911 call stations and other emergency facilities to include a storm shelter built. The standard address protection against extreme wind events, including tornadoes, and requires appropriate structural protection against wind-borne debris. Hulett said he believes the current design does not adequately incorporate those requirements.

"The rest of that design is not inclusive [of] the applicable code," Hulett said.

Cost was another concern. According to Hulett, the county had already spent $340,000 on the building. The lowest construction bid submitted was $475,000, with an additional alternate costing $198,000 for safety-related items.

He also cited $100,000 in anticipated dispatcher safety improvements and $60,000 in electrical work, while noting that potential change orders and other unknown expenses could increase the final price.

Based on those figures, Hulett estimated the project could cost $1.173 million, excluding some equipment expenses.

He said a potential $300,000 contribution from opioid settlement funds could help cover costs, but the county would still face an estimated balance of $833,000 for the project after accounting for the building expenditure and proposed funding.

"There's still unknown cost for equipment," Hulett said, noting the 911 board has indicated it could cover equipment expenses.

Rather than proceed with the existing bids, Laurel County Judge Executive David Westerfield recommended that they go back and re-bid the 911 center project in order to change some things in the bid. The magistrates authorized for Westerfield to re-bid and make necessary changes unanimously.

The court's action leaves the project subject to further review as county officials work to determine the necessary renovations, safety measures and associated costs.

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