

2022



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Session Focus:
Importance of
Long Term &
Strategic
Planning

**7 OCT 2022
11:30AM CT**

193 POLK AVE, SUITE D
NASHVILLE, TN 37219



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Moderated by Betsy Knotts, Director,
Division of Local Government Finance

Panel Members:

- Mayor Bob Rial, Dickson County
- Mayor Ken Moore, City of Franklin
- Jeff Stiles, Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership
- Pat Hardy, Municipal Technical Advisory Service
- Russell Sells, Metro Government of Lynchburg & Moore County



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MEET THE PANELISTS

MODERATOR BETSY KNOTTS

Betsy Knotts, JD is the Director of the Division of Local Government Finance (LGF). In this role, Betsy is responsible for supervising LGF staff, assisting local governments in areas of municipal finance, and providing research and support to the Tennessee General Assembly. Since Betsy joined the Comptroller's Office in 2013, she has served as counsel to the Utility Management Review Board and the Water & Wastewater Financing Board and has focused her expertise on tax incentive programs and local government financial transactions. In addition, she served as the Executive Secretary to the State Board of Equalization from May of 2017 until July of 2020.

Prior to joining the Comptroller's Office in November 2013, Betsy practiced public finance law at the Texas Attorney General's Office and also worked for the Tennessee Attorney General's Financial Division. She is a member of both the Texas and Tennessee Bar.

Betsy is a Fulbright Scholar and a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans where she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and German Literature. She received her Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Civil Law from the Paul M. Hebert Louisiana State University Law Center in Baton Rouge. Betsy is also a 2016 graduate of LEAD Tennessee and currently serves on the board of the Tennessee Chapter of Women in Public Finance, Inc.

Betsy also serves as the Comptroller's designee and chairman of both the Utility Management Review Board and the Water & Wastewater Financing Board.

Betsy and her husband Chris have two children and a labradoodle named Oliver. Betsy and her husband are both interested in music, and Betsy has even been known to compare transactional law to music theory.



MAYOR RIAL, DICKSON COUNTY

Bob Rial was re-elected to his fourth term as Dickson County Mayor in August of 2022. First elected in August, 2010, he garnered 54% of the vote in a four-way contest. He was subsequently re-elected in August, 2014, for his second four-year term winning with 66% of the vote. He was unopposed in 2018. Prior to his election, Rial had a 27-year career in finance and banking. He served on the Dickson City Council for seven years, 2003 – 2010.

A 1977 graduate of Dickson County High School, Rial graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin in 1982 with a degree in Public Administration. While there, he also earned a certificate in Government Management from the International City/County Management Association.

As mayor, Rial has earned two designations from the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service: Certified Public Administrator and Tennessee Certified Economic Developer. He also

graduated from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Mayor Rial was appointed to serve on the Tennessee Collateral Pool board by State Treasurer David Lillard. He was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam and re-appointed by Governor Bill Lee to serve as a member of the Tennessee Underground Storage Tanks and Solid Waste Disposal Control Board. Rial serves as the chairman for the Tennessee Short Line Rail Alliance.



MAYOR MOORE, CITY OF FRANKLIN



Dr. Ken Moore, Mayor of Franklin is the 31st Mayor and second physician to head the City of Franklin. Ken practiced orthopedic surgery for more than twenty-eight years and gained recognition on a state and national level as a leader. In May 2012 he was elected to serve as the Chair of the Middle Tennessee Mayor's Caucus that covers a 10-county area with a population of 1.67 million people, comprising of 27 percent of Tennessee's population. In the same month, Mayor Moore was given the Leadership in Regional Thinking and Action Award at the Power of Ten Summit. He was recognized as the Tennessee Mayor of the Year in 2018 by the Tennessee Municipal League. The Greater Nashville has recognized him twice with the Hank Thompson Award for leadership and integrity. He currently serves on the Pollution Control Board and the Opioid Abatement Council for the State of Tennessee.

JEFF STILES, NAIFEH CENTER FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Jeff Stiles joined the Knoxville Police Department in 1992, where he served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, patrol lieutenant, and police academy instructor. He is a former member of the Department's Special Operations Squad (SWAT), retiring from the Team after twenty years of service. He has also served as the Department's Homeland Security Coordinator, Director of Training, and the State Commander for the Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Jeff is a graduate of the University of Tennessee. He is also a graduate of the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (Class 256). He completed his Master's Degree in Business Administration in 2014. Jeff retired from active-duty law enforcement in December of 2019 at the rank of Captain after serving 28 years. Jeff became the Leadership Program Manager for the Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership at the University of Tennessee in January of 2020, where he manages professional development programs for state and local government leaders, as well as serving as an instructor and executive coach.



PAT HARDY, MUNICIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICE



Pat grew up in New Jersey and attended East Tennessee State University earning undergraduate and graduate degrees (in City Management). He worked in the city management profession in Big Spring, Texas and in Blue Earth, Minnesota. Pat came to MTAS in 1989 working as a General Management Consultant in the Nashville office. He spent about 4-5 years there and has been in the Johnson City office since then. Pat is there with Rick Hall from CTAS and Dwaine Raper and Kenny Smith from CIS. He serves the cities in upper East Tennessee as a General Management Consultant.

RUSSELL SELLS, METRO LYNCHBURG-MOORE COUNTY

Russell Sells is the general manager of the Metro Utility Department (MUD) for Metropolitan Government of Lynchburg and Moore County. He is licensed in several areas including Grade IV Water Treatment, Grade II Distribution, and Grade II Collection.



NEXT MEETING TBD 2023

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