

## STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

### RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a regular session of the County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the James F. Cain Court House Annex, on the 5th day of January, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President David Kesling and Commissioner Chris Siler. Commissioner Chris See was present, by phone.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard DeBias appeared before the Commission. He said he came today to talk about what happened at the last meeting in the hallway. He said he can't believe Deputy Talkington talked to Mr. Ballin like that. He said one day someone is not going to take that from Deputy Talkington. He said the problem is David Kesling and it is very biased in this County. He said the people in this town, the elected officials, are gutless cowards. He said he isn't defending Mr. Ballin but Talkington has a bad attitude. He said what Dave Kesling did is ridiculous. He said on his FOIA requests Sheriff Elbon doesn't follow the rules. He said he didn't come to cause trouble today but this town is biased. He said if you don't have a big name you don't get nowhere.

Tony Bergin appeared before the Commission. He said he read over the rules for public comment and saw that he is not allowed to ask the Commissioners any questions. He said he was there because he was concerned about an article in the Inter Mountain regarding the City of Elkins. He said it was about the tax incrementation financing which gives authority to raise money. He said he is concerned about the groups that are advising the City. He said they are all left wing, Obama policy groups. He said eventually it will affect the County too.

### MINUTES:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on December 15, 2022, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

### REPORTS:

Peggy Ross gave an update on the list of grants she has been working on for the County. She said there are 8 grants open now with some getting ready to close soon. She said the total for all these grants comes to \$351,971.00 with the County match of only \$4,484.00. She said for the past three years, not including the ones she just spoke about, she has gotten grants in the amount of \$3,392,009.00 and the County match for those was \$68,785.00. Commissioner Kesling said he appreciates her work.

Curt Gainer from the Randolph County Emergency Squad appeared before the Commission. He said in

working to get staff and finances to open it 24/7. He said they just had 3 of their full time EMT's graduate paramedic school. He said that added another 3 paramedics to their staff. He said as of this time they have 33 full time employees.

Rhett Dusenberry from Congressman Mooney's Office wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said they are now starting to move into the new district and some of the counties that were theirs is now going to Congressman Miller. He said as always the Congressman is here to support with any grants that the County wants to apply for. He said they would do letters of support.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next regular meeting will be held on Thursday January 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS (See copy attached)

Commissioner Siler read the letter out loud that the Commission received from Elizabeth Wymer, County Coordinator of the Randolph County Special Olympics. He said the Commission has given them \$2,500.00 in the past. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Randolph County Special Olympics and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Commissioner Kesling abstained from voting as he is related to Ms. Wymer. - Motion passed

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR ASSESSOR'S OFFICE (See copy attached)

Lance Marcum appeared before the Commission. He said he was there on behalf of Assessor, Phyllis Yokum. He said she is requesting to hire Bryce Taylor as a full time appraiser for her office. She would like him to begin working on January 9, 2023 with a starting salary of \$25,000.00 with full county benefits and this is to come out of her regular county budget with which she already has the funds in there for. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Bryce Taylor as a full time appraiser for the Assessor's Office. His starting salary will be \$25,000.00 per year with full benefits and he will be paid from the regular county budget and he will be placed on a 90 day probation period. He will begin working on January 9, 2023. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROMOTION FOR 911 CENTER (See copy attached)

Sydney Tate appeared before the Commission on behalf of 911/OEM Director Shonna Fox. She said Ms. Fox is requesting to promote and do a pay adjustment for Teresa Blosser. She said Teresa Blosser is now



approve the promotion of Teresa Blosser to a stand-alone telecommunicator with a pay adjustment to \$13.97 per hour. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FOR PRO OFFICER AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT

Chief Deputy Brad Sharp appeared before the Commission. He said \$15,000.00 was approved for another PRO Officer to be stationed at Elkins High School. He said the City of Elkins was trying to do this but they don't have enough staff. Commissioner Kesling said they have two PRO Officers already, one at Tygarts Valley High School and one at Elkins Middle School. He said for one officer it costs \$70,000.00 a year. He said that is with their salary and benefits. He said they have come up with an agreement with the Randolph County Board of Education for the County to pay \$27,500.00 and the Board of Education to pay \$27,500.00 toward this position. He said the County will provide a cruiser, equipment etc. Deputy Sharp said since implementing this in the schools the kids are interacting well with the officers. He said it has been well received in the County. Commissioner Siler moved to accept the grant and the memorandum of understanding with the Randolph County Board of Education, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF COMMISSION PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE FOR SALE OF COUNTY PROPERTY

Commissioner Kesling said this is just to ratify the signature of Chris See, who was president at the time, for the sale of K-9 Hacker. They have found him a good home. Commissioner Siler moved to ratify the signature of Chris See on the paperwork for the sale of K-9 Hacker. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Chris See left the meeting at this time.

#### FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (3) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Carolyn June Davison

Jerleen Marie Hinkle

John Magnes Howard

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### BUDGET REVISIONS: (See copies attached)

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision for Community Corrections in the amount of \$118,000.00. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,440.00 to increase fund 073 contractual services. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$5,250.00 to increase Law Enforcement Wages line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:**

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the divisions of property and erroneous assessments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**DISTRESSED PROPERTIES:** None

**FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:**

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (3 ) Fire Fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Commissioner Siler moved to pay the bills, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

Commissioner Siler moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_