

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 6th day of February, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: David Kesling, President of the Randolph County Commission and Chris See and Mark Scott Commissioners thereof.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marion Harless appeared before the Commission. She said this is an unsafe building and when she is in it her legs don't work and it also has a terrible smell that has been in it for 30 years. She said the previous night she attended an Elkins Tree Board presentation by Linda Burke. She is a forester with Monongahela National Forest and she spoke on tree diseases and tree pests. She said there was not a single City Councilman or County Commissioner there. She said it was very informative and she wishes everyone would have attended. She said when she moved here in 1977 there were articles in the newspaper about the City Park and Molly Busch worked to get drainage in the park. She said many trees in the City Park are in bad shape. The park trees are being killed by the car show and heavy equipment. She said Elkins is a tree city. She said Maplewood Cemetery trees are dying as well. The major problem are huge trees, black mites are killing them, as solution needs to be developed. She said money from the Commission should be used to develop a plan and solution. She said "The trees are dying" is a book that needs to be read by all.

Margaret Bruning from 2145 Poe Run Road appeared before the Commission. She said she would like to think of herself as an outsider living on the inside. She said she moved here three years ago with her husband and they are vendors at the Elkins Farmers market and the Bridgeport Farmers market. She said they are members of the local Bee club and Mountain Weavers district. She said she has a 25 year history in public sector work, in program management, project management, community services, working across the States and across the Continents. She said she is very fortunate to have moved to a community like Elkins and a State like West Virginia. She said people like Marion Harless are a rare gem in our community and she hopes the Commission listens when a soft spoken elderly expert wants to speak to them. She said Marion is a very active member of our community, speaking at various events. She said they host an air bnb and pay their hotel bed tax and are very happy to be contributing to the economy here. She said she is a former grant writer as well and has offered her service to Mountain Arts District to help write grants. She said grant writing isn't free and neither is running an organization like Mountain Arts District. She said it's great to see on the Agenda today they are considering an application for a grant. She said however the Agenda isn't very specific on the items and she also cannot locate on the website anywhere any previous County Commission minutes. She said she would also like to see Augusta become more

powerful in Elkins. She said she also found out about an organization called the Rich Earth Institute which uses urine as a fertilizer in home gardens and this is revolutionary stuff that we need to be a part of here in West Virginia and she hopes to be a part of solutions like this.

Kevin Phillips appeared before the Commission. He said he lives at 482 Israel Church Road Montrose, WV. He said he would like to ask the Commission to look at four pieces of paper he has from the Magistrate's Office and tell him if these are common law practices in West Virginia. He said he has had 3 lawyers tell him that this is common practice. He went over all the information he had on those papers regarding his DUI case. Commissioner Kesling said public comment is for people to come and speak but the Commission does not make any decisions on anything during public comment. He said if Mr. Phillips would like to stay after the meeting and talk with the Prosecuting Attorney he can do that. Mr. Phillips said he has five minutes to talk and Mr. Kesling cut him off. Commissioner Scott asked if these are the same papers that he already presented to them. He said he has a whole briefcase full of papers. Commissioner Kesling said public comment is over. Mr. Phillips kept talking and was very upset.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on January 22, 2020, as submitted.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on January 16, 2020, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker gave a report on what his office did in the past year. He said they had 106 felony convictions in circuit court, 127 felony cases filed and 19 misdemeanor cases and all those were in circuit court. He said they had 109 abuse and neglect cases which is a significant increase and they continue to go up every year. He said they had 29 juvenile delinquent cases and 20 juvenile status cases. In magistrate court they had 1882 misdemeanors filed and 257 felonies. He said they have been very busy and he appreciates the Commission's continued support. He said if they have any questions to let him know.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting of the Randolph County Commission will be held on Thursday February 20, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner See announced that he has had several people call him and ask him why Randolph County hasn't done a second amendment resolution like a lot of the other counties are doing. He said we did that back in 2013 and Randolph County was probably

one of the first ones to do it. He said he just wanted to get that out to the public. Commissioner Scott said a copy of it was put on their Facebook page.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

PRESENTATION FROM CHRIS LEE REGARDING HOFNOD

(See copy attached)

Chris Lee appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to speak about Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs. He said last year they had a change of philosophy about things and the idea was to get away from the community expo kind of thing and refocus on the originally intended message of anti drug and pro outdoor recreation. He said they wanted to do more of an experiential education for the participating youth. He said there was an estimated 1,500 people through the doors last year. He said the County Commission has been the primary sponsor of Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs. He said last year they ended up with only \$7,075.00 in total donations and \$5,000.00 of that was from the Commission. He said they do door prizes and give out fishing poles to the kids. He said they have already purchased 250 fishing poles for this event. He said they are going to try to work with a few different businesses in the community to sponsor some gift baskets. He said they still need to have these attractions and door prizes to get them through the doors. He said last year the attractions such as the climbing wall, fishing pond etc. cost \$4,000.00 to have there and these attractions are free to the kids that attend. Sheriff Mark Brady said the Sheriff's Office has always been a big supporter of HOFNOD. He said the change that was made was good because the kids are more involved and aware of actually what is going on. He would encourage the County Commission to continue to support this. Commissioner Scott asked if this is now a one day event instead of two days? Mr. Lee said yes, because it is too hard for the agencies to come both days. The event will be held on May 9, 2020 at the Phil Gainer Community Center.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve a donation of \$4,500.00 out of Hotel/Motel Tax to HOFNOD.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Scott said the other \$500.00 would be taken out of General County funds.

PRESENTATION FROM MARGOT EVICK/RANDOLPH TUCKER CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY

Margot Evick, Executive Director of Randolph Tucker Children's Advocacy Center, appeared before the Commission. She said she wanted to give a report of what they did last year and what they have done in 2020 so far. She said last year they saw 138 new children on site at the CAC. She said they made 2,665 advocacy contacts last year. She said 38 children were referred for trauma purposes, 9 children were referred for medical follow up and 4 children received medical forensic examinations. She said last year only 14% of the children coming through their doors were seen for drug endangerment but they knew that was not accurate. She said they got together with a team and came up with a better response and already this year they have had a 38% increase in the children coming forward about it. She said they also provide scholarships and education training programs for their team members. She said they also do programs for prevention

measures in schools. They hope to hold workshops with parents as well this year. She thanked the Commission for their continued support.

PRESENTATION FROM VIVIAN PARSONS OF WV CORP.

Vivian Parsons did not appear at the meeting.

CONSIDER RATIFYING SIGNATURE ON 2020 CENSUS GRANT APPLICATION

Commissioner Scott said the Commission had an opportunity to apply for a grant for up to \$3,500.00 through the US Census Bureau for complete count for this year. The deadline on that was the 31st of January. Commissioner Scott said we received the grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 but there is paperwork that needs to be signed by the Commission president.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the ratifying of the County Commission President on the 2020 Census Grant Application.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST FROM MID-OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SENIOR PROGRAM

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said the Mid-Ohio Regional Council for Senior Program receives federal funding in the amount of \$8,474.00 per year, but they need a match of that in the amount of \$250.00 to continue receiving this funding. This program helps seniors get senior companions for 15 to 40 hours per week.

Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council for the Senior Program in the amount of \$250.00 from Courthouse Contractual funds.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER SIGNING RESOLUTION FOR COURT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said this is a grant that the Commission already applied for. He said they will be able to provide panic buttons thru out the facility as it was originally designed. He said they will also be able to upgrade some of the older cameras.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the signature of the Randolph County Clerk on the Resolution for the Court Security Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER SIGNING RESOLUTION FOR WV DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said this is a grant for cleaning the facilities outside. These are very historic structures and we have a brand new roof but the outside of the buildings are dirty.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the signature of the Randolph County Clerk on the WV Department of Arts, Culture and History Development grant in the amount of \$25,000.00.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER PROCLAMATION FOR WV 211 DAY

(See copy attached)

Karrah Washington, Executive Director of United Way appeared before the Commission. She said United Ways in WV have the opportunity to take over the 211 call center in our State. She said 211 has always been in our State but not many people knew about 211. She said 211 is basically a call center that you can call in or text 24/7 with issues such as your elderly and out of your medication, or need housing or food etc. She said this replaces the FRN booklet that used to be given out that listed all the resources for assistance. The call center will have a United Way representative that will tell them of all the resources available to them. She said if anyone has any resources that the United Way is not aware of, please call and have it added to their list. She said they are also taking data on this so this will help them figure out what our community needs most. She said there are no income guidelines, anyone can call 211. She said national 211 day is Tuesday February 11, 2020. Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of a Proclamation of WV 211 Day.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVING BALLOT COMMISSIONERS FOR 2020 ELECTIONS

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the appointment of Patricia “Pat” Rossi as the Democrat Ballot Commissioner and Barbara W. Tyre as the Republican Ballot Commissioner for the 2020 Elections, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CONVENTION

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said this is for the WV State Council’s 118th 2020 State Convention. Commissioner Scott moved to approve the half page ad in the amount of \$75.00 to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said this is a request from the Elkins Randolph County Chamber of Commerce that was received last year for the annual Christmas Parade. It was discussed at a prior meeting but was never done. Commissioner Scott moved to approve \$3,000.00 out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds to the Elkins Randolph County Chamber of Commerce.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER ASSESSOR PHYLLIS YOKUM’S REQUEST FOR PERSONNEL MATTER

Commissioner Scott moved to go into executive session concerning a personnel matter.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling said the time is 2:34 pm and they are back out of executive session and no decisions were made in executive session.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the Assessor's request to advertise for a full time position in her office.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the fourteen final settlements/annual accountings as submitted on the following estates:

Janet F. Baldassano

Donald Wayne Boltz

Linda Marie Butler

Mabel Irene Cooper

Roy Lee Crickard

Frances E. Ford

Clinton Eugene Hamrick

Harold Arthur Langevin, Jr.

Jean G. Meader

Margaret Helen Meredith

Alan Dale Phillips

Lettie N. See

Charles Wayne Swecker

Charles A. Thomason

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: None

DIVISION OF PROPERTY /ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the Division of Property/ Erroneous Assessments, as submitted.

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES:

Commissioner Scott moved to table this item. All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the 265 Fire Fee Adjustments, as submitted.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner See moved to pay the bills, as submitted. All yes - Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

ATTEST: _____