

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 18th day of April, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Scott

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dave Rao appeared before the Commission. He thanked Commissioner Scott for all the help he has given him the last week. He has two sons and they are strong good boys, but their landlord turned their water off. He said no notice, not paying the bill and the City of Elkins said Mr. Rao can't pay the bill. He said he received a three day extension but on Thursday morning they turned the water off. He said he has talked to the Magistrate's Office and they can't do anything, the landlord lives in Virginia. He said State Code 36-6-30 says you have to supply essential services. The City refuses to put a lien on the person's property and refused to turn the water on. Mr. Rao said he hopes that one of the three Commissioners might call the Mayor today and ask him to turn the water on until the first of the month when the rent's due, it's the right thing to do, for twenty dollars worth of water. Mr. Rao said he is filing to run as Secretary of State to let everyone know about the City of Elkins. He said this has gone too far.

Susan Godwin appeared before the Commission. She said she was there about the annexation into the City. She said their company has been in business in the same area since 1927, Randolph Memorial Company. She gave a copy of the paperwork to the Commission. She said they are wanting to charge \$250.00 if you have \$50,000 dollars worth of value on your property. She said does that mean that after the first \$50,000 are they going to charge you \$250.00 more? Commissioner Scott said they cannot answer any questions during public comment. He told her he could check into that after the meeting. Ms. Godwin said there is a word in here that says blight and trash and if you go out their way they always keep their property clean and neat. She said that blight word can cover a lot of crap. She said there is only about 12 or 14 people out there so that is not going to give them much more in population like they want. She also asked who is paying for that light for the walking trail Bridge? She said she is very upset about all this. She said she saw a city police officer driving a brand new Charger, why do they need a car like that?

Steve Wymer appeared before the Commission. He thanked the Commission for what they have done for their water system in Whitmer this morning. He said Polino came and fixed the road and he was there supervising, and they done an excellent job and he wanted to thank the Commission, and the whole Town of Whitmer wants to thank them.

Mr. Wymer said another issue he wanted to discuss was about cats. He said they have a problem with cats in his area and he understands it's the whole County that has this problem. He said they are tossing the idea around of trying to incorporate Whitmer and people are wanting him to run for Mayor, which he is strongly considering, so people are already coming to him with problems and that is one of them. He said his father in law had five cats dropped off in his yard and now that five has turned into fifteen. He said his wife and he tried contacting the humane society but they are told there is nothing they can do so they turn them over to the shelter and they go there and they tell us they don't have any money for vouchers to take those cats and get them spayed or neutered. He said he would like to know where the funding is going and why can't they get help. It's becoming a real bad situation in this County, especially where they live. He said another issue is that they have an unlimited amount of traffic going thru Whitmer. He said this is day and night with people going up to Spruce Knob. He said if they get incorporated and he gets elected Mayor he is going to stop the speeding in the town. He said they have young children playing in that town and people are going 60 and 70 miles per hour. He said the speed limit is posted at 35-40 miles per hour. He said he is afraid some kids are going to be killed this year. He said one child almost got hit last week. He said he would like to get some signs to put up and both ends that reads children playing. Commissioner Scott asked Mr. Wymer and Ms. Godwin to both send an email request with all their questions and they will get back to them.

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2019 regular meeting, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

(See copy attached)

Randolph County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman reported to the Commission on the election costs of the special election that was held on March 9, 2019. She said her office has prepared an invoice to be sent to the Randolph County Board of Education in the amount of \$45,383.90. She asked the Commission to sign the invoice before she mails it to them. Commissioner Scott said they expected it to be higher than that and he thanked Clerk Wiseman for trying to keep the costs down as much as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Scott said a few months ago they voted as a Commission to lodge an informal complaint with the public service commission regarding Frontier and their service in Randolph County. He said they have had major issues with the quality of not only the phone service but the speed of the internet service in our County for years. He said as a result they asked citizens to reach out to them and let them know about their problems and they had several people call them. Commissioner Scott said he called Whitmer earlier in the day and he could barely hear the person because of the buzzing noise on the telephone. He said they prepared an informal complaint and highlighted the names of the people that called in and gave them permission to use their names. He said they have received a response from the public service commission. Commissioner Scott

read the letter out loud. Commissioner Scott said the problem is the main line of service that transmits the service to these areas. In the letter it stated that the Public Service Commission has filed a formal complaint against Frontier regarding the copper network in West Virginia. Commissioner Scott said he would like to ask the residents of Randolph County that have had issues with Frontier to please write to the Public Service Commission and explain to them what the problem is and what the technicians say when they come to work on it and whether or not they have gotten a resolution. He said residents can send their letters to the Public Service Commission or bring them to the County Commission office and they will forward them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Scott announced that the next meeting of the Randolph County Commission will be on May 2, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY KRIS WARNER, STATE DIRECTOR OF USDA

(See copy attached)

Kris Warner, State Director of USDA Rural Development, appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to give a brief overview of the agency. He said there are 19 departments within the USDA that they administer. The mission of the USDA Rural Development is to improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. They give out loans and grants to several different agencies. They have homeownership programs to assist low income families with housing. Charlotte Johnson, Community Programs Director, spoke to the Commission about the water and environmental programs they have assisted with. They helped the City of Elkins with funding to get the new water treatment facility. Mr. Warner said in fiscal year 2018, USDA Rural Development invested more than \$369 million dollars in loans and grants to communities, businesses and individuals across rural West Virginia. He provided the Commission with a copy of the loans and grants for Randolph County from 2002-2018. He said they have 40 programs right now that actually have money in them and they can help and assist with projects that the County Commission might have. He said to call on them for any help. Commissioner Scott Thanked Mr. Warner and said it is good to know they have a friend with USDA and they have been extremely helpful every step of the way with the Adrian PSD project and other projects in the County. He said they are looking forward to a mutual relationship going forward.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY GENE WATKINS, COST REDUCTION PRESENTATION

Gene Watkins with Rodgco, appeared before the Commission. He said he has been to the Commission in 2004, 2010, 2018 and again now. He said basically what they do is a cost reduction study to see if they can save the County any money with their utility bills. He said they have worked with 37 counties so far. He said they have had only 1 County they couldn't save money or recover money for. He said it takes about 3 months to do the audit. They crunch the numbers and look at the bills. He said if they can't save or recover any money then there is no charge for their service. He said the County can

approve or disapprove their recommendation's, they are not obligated to do it. If the County decides to make the changes then his company would do that. He said they require the County to provide the billing information and then they contact the vendors. Mr. Watkins said no budgeted money is used to pay them. He said they have to get an authorization signed to move forward and the County Commission should have their legal counsel go over that before they sign it. Commissioner Scott asked what their fees are? Mr. Watkins said it is 40% of what they recover for two years. The fees come out of the savings they get off of the bills. Commissioner Scott asked Mr. Watkins to send a copy of the contract and authorization and they will have their legal counsel review it and then they will get back with him.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY GARY COGLE, JR., STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Gary Cogle, Jr. with the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to answer any questions and get them down the path to get started using the WV Checkbook program that the Auditor presented to them back in December, 2018. Commissioner Scott said the Commission hasn't received a contract. Mr. Cogle said there is no contract just an intake form. Commissioner Scott said they haven't received that either. County Clerk Brenda Wiseman said they have been told by a couple other County Clerk's that this is not as easy as the Auditor made it out to be. She said one Clerk's office called and said it takes them two days to do it. Bookkeepers Kitty Poling and Debbie Wegman were also present from the County Clerk's office and had questions for Mr. Cogle. He said he has not heard of any of this from any other County. He said the Auditor would like everyone to do this and for each County to have the same accounting system eventually. Commissioner Scott told him to get the Commission a copy of the intake form to look at. Mr. Cogle said there is no obligation if they get the form and are not interested.

CONSIDER FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR TYGART VALLEY LIONS CLUB GRADUATION PARTY FOR TVHS

(See copy attached)

Steve Currence appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Tygart Valley Lions Club. He said every year the Tygart Valley Lions Club provides an all night graduation party for the Tygart Valley High School graduates. The lions club and parents and students raise money all year for this event. They provide a fun night of food, drinks, games, contests, music and other entertainment. He said about 80% of the class usually participates. The event will take place on May 23, 2019 at the YMCA in Elkins. He said they never have any trouble and several of the Lions Club members will be there to chaperone. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Tygart Valley Lions Club in the amount of \$2,000.00 and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER SIGNING OFFICIAL LETTER OF GRANT AWARD FOR RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Commissioner Scott said they applied for a grant through the records management program and received that grant. He said this is the actual agreement between the Department of Arts Cultural and History for and on behalf of the Archives and History for and on behalf of the Records Management Preservation Board and the Randolph County Commission. He said this will be dated the first of July but it has to be sent in advance so that they can receive the funds January 1st.

Commissioner Kesling moved to sign the agreement for the records management awards grant.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER A BEER PERMIT FOR OTR IN SEPTEMBER

(See copy attached)

Commissioner See said this is something the Commission has done every year since he has been there. He said the Sheriff has told them they have had no problems with them during the event. Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of a letter of no objection of a beer permit license from August 29 – September 2, 2019 for the Old Timers Reunion.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER ESTIMATE FROM BATES CARPET

Commissioner Scott said the Commission received a request from the Circuit Court Judge, who was approved to hire two more probation officers, and as a result the County Commission needed to do some work to add some office space. He said at an earlier meeting the Commission approved a contract with BCT Construction to do the actual work. He said the carpet that is in there now has been there for at least 20 years and is in really bad condition. He said they asked Bates Carpet to put together an estimate for them to do flooring that looks like hardwood floors in those offices. The estimate they received from Bates Carpet is \$8,736.00.

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the estimate from Bates Carpet for the flooring for the probation offices, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER REAPPOINTING CLARK MARTIN TO RANDOLPH COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

(See copy attached)

Commissioner See moved to re-appoint Clark Martin for a four year term to the Randolph County Solid Waste Authority, with a term ending on June 30, 2022.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF JAMES ROSSI TO AMBULANCE AUTHORITY BOARD

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling moved to appoint James Rossi to the Randolph County Ambulance Authority Board to fill an unexpired term that ends on June 30, 2019.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPOINTING SARAH MCDERMONT TO PIONEER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

(See copy attached)

Commissioner See moved to appoint Sarah McDermont to fill an unexpired term on the Pioneer Memorial Library Board with the term ending on June 30, 2020.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION OF SPECIAL FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER ON THE ESTATE OF JUNIOR CHARLES WEGMAN

(See copy attached)

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman said this is an estate that there was a conflict about and Special Fiduciary Commissioner, Jefferson Triplett, held a hearing and this is his recommendation as to what needs to be done next. She said no one has come into her office to object to this recommendation. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the recommendation of the Special Fiduciary Commissioner on the estate of Junior Charles Wegman, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER SIGNING CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Commissioner Scott said this is a renewal of a contract with Software Systems for our system that was installed in May 2016, and the contract is to expire April 20, 2019.

Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of the renewal contract with Software Systems, for one year beginning on April 20, 2019 and ending on April 20, 2020 at an annual cost of \$3,770.47.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

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

Robert Lee Lowther

April Rose McCauley

Jack D. Messer

Amy Mitchem

Anna Jean Simmons

Jeffrey Lynn Taylor

Mary Ellen Villers

Charlotte Ann White

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

(See attached copy)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve one In House budget revision in the amounts of \$1,500 and \$3,000 for the Sheriff's Office, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY /ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve 11 fire fee adjustments, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to pay the bills, as submitted.

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner See moved to adjourn the meeting.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ATTEST: _____