

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 7th day of March, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President Chris Siler, and Commissioners Chris See and David Kesling

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Siler

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Madden from Senator Manchin's Office was present and just wanted to say Hello.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Review and Equalization session for 2024 which began on January 31, 2024. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on February 15, 2024, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Sheriff Elbon said he is working with a group out of DC that asked if anyone was having communication problems and Sheriff Elbon said they responded that they did. He said they are putting together a zoom call and this system would allow them to communicate through satellites. He said they have very bad cell phone reception in some locations in the County. He said they just need a letter of support from the Commission to do this. He said it would be a pilot program and if successful here they would expand it to other counties. Rob Daman from the 911 Center said it sounds good and if they got it that would help out the 911 Center too.

Commissioner Kesling reported that the County just completed a single audit for FY ending June 30, 2023. He said the audit was done by BHM CPA Group and the County got a clean bill of health. He said they only found 3 things and 2 of those are being disputed and the third was about the end of the year bills being carried over from year to year. He said it was a very good audit report and he thanked the County Clerk's Office for working with the CPA's to get this done.

Commissioner Kesling reported that the Commission has started the budgeting process and met with the elected officials earlier today. He said they are hoping to have it all done by the next meeting. He said they have a 12-13 million dollar budget to work with. He thanked all the elected officials for getting those in to them. He said the grant money helps out tremendously and Peggy Ross does a great job getting those grants. He said PEIA Insurance went up 14% this year and the County pays 100% of all full time employees health insurance. Commissioner See thanked Brooke Hinzman for all her work on the

budget and the staff at the County Clerk's Office too. Commissioner Siler said the employees here are great and we can't afford to lose them.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler announced that the next regular meeting will be held on March 21, 2024 at 1:30 p.m

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FOR ELKINS DEPOT WELCOME CENTER

Anne Beardslee, Executive Director of Elkins Depot Welcome Center and Samantha Peet, Marketing Director of Elkins Depot Welcome Center appeared before the Commission. They also had with them in the audience Melanie Harris, AmeriCorps member. Ms. Beardslee said the Elkins Depot Welcome Center opened in 2006 and has served over 559,000 guests since that time. She said in 2023 they put in 1,742 volunteer hours. Ms. Peet said in 2023 their digital footprint grew and they added Tic Tok and threads. She said they have 12,900 email subscribers and 700,000 web page views in 2023. She said they are promoting Randolph County and received national recognition in 2023. She said people can do itineraries online now and this is for 3 plus nights because they want people to come and stay for longer than just a weekend. Ms. Beardslee said in 2022 79.6 million dollars was brought in from tourism in Randolph County. Ms. Peet said in 2024 they are doing a new feature video and they are promoting the ramps and rails festival which will be coming up soon. They both thanked the Commission for their continued support and gave them handouts of their 2023 annual report. Commissioner Kesling said they use the hotel/motel tax money to put money into their budget and they really appreciate the partnership.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION REGARDING HIGHWAY ROUTES 32 AND 33 IN HARMAN (See copy attached)

Dan Bucher from Harman appeared before the Commission. He said he would like to start by saying that the Department of Highway workers do a great job. He said there are a number of problems with the location of the WVDOH substation and the intersection of Routes 32 and 33 in Harman. He said one of the issues is that it has underground fuel tanks. He said another big issue is that it currently runs only a few feet from buses loading and unloading students at Harman School. He said he found an opportunity to relocate it which is only 1 mile north of Harman. He said it is 2.5 acres which is essentially level ground. He said he wrote a letter to Mr. Jimmy Wriston, who is the Secretary of Transportation/Commissioner of Highways, and he would like the County Commission to tell Secretary Wriston to consider this move.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 29 BASEBALL (See copy attached)

Phil Wilson, Elkins Baseball President, appeared before the Commission. He presented the Commission with a plaque for helping out last year. He said their program is the only American Legion program in the State that doesn't require a fee to play summer baseball. He said they are up to 90% of Elkins High School and Tygarts Valley High School kids now. He said they do fundraising but that doesn't cover the costs. He said they have teams coming here from Florida, Maryland and other States. He said the Elkins team does a lot of traveling as well. Commissioner Kesling said it is great partnership and it is bringing people into the County and the Hotel/Motel tax collected helps fund projects like this. He said it is a very worthwhile cause. Commissioner Siler said he is very happy with the job Phil has done and it is great that it doesn't cost the kids to play. He said some families can't afford it. Mr. Wilson said some of the kids are going on to play at college. He said all the coaches are volunteers. He said they play for the Veteran's and have American flags on everything. He said they teach the kids about the American Legion. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the funding request from American Legion Post 29 Baseball in the amount of \$8,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FOR ELKINS ENERGY YOUTH SPORTS (See copy attached)

Ryan Thompson with Elkins Energy Youth Sports appeared before the Commission. He said this request is for Elkins Energy Youth Basketball which is travelling teams with 50-60 kids involved that are in 4th-9th grades from Randolph and surrounding counties. He said they have 2 volunteer coaches per team. He said they are in need of basketballs, uniforms and financial assistance for tournament fees. He said anything the Commission could give would be appreciated. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the funding request from Elkins Energy Youth Sports in the amount of \$1,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL UPGRADE FOR IBM SYSTEM

Commissioner Kesling said this is for continued service on the IBM System AS400 that several of the offices use. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the renewal upgrade for the AS400 in the amount of \$4,866.02 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER EXTENSION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN BOE AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR PRO OFFICERS

Sheriff Elbon said it is that time of the year to renew the contract with the Board of Education for the PRO Officers. He said the BOE already signed their portion and now the Commission just needs to sign it. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the contract with BOE, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM 911/OEM DIRECTOR (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling moved to appoint Rob Daman as the acting Director of the Randolph County Office of Emergency Management and 911 Center until a new Director is officially hired. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF STORAGE BUILDING FOR RANDOLPH COUNTY POOL AND SPLASH PAD (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said they need a storage building at the pool to store the lawn mower, pool cover and other things. He said they received a quote from Mountain State Structures, inc. and they will come to the location and build it. The quote is for a 10 X 20 building for a cost of \$6,357.88. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the purchase of the storage building in the amount of \$6,357.88 and that is to be taken out of the pool maintenance funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SPECIAL FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONER FEES ON HAMMER ESTATE

Commissioner Kesling moved to table this item until the next meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the (5) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Daniel David Giles

Betty Jean Moore

Herbert Piatt Marshall

Nessie M. Vandevender

Steven Roy Warner

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (See copies attached)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House budget revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,119.00 going into the Law Enforcement Training lines. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House budget revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Task Force Training. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House budget revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$500.00 for Jail Uniform line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House budget revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Other Fringe Benefits line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House budget revision in the amount of \$9,161.00 for the Dog Warden Contractual line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House Budget revision in the amount of \$42,803.29 to increase contractual services. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In-House Budget revision in the amount of \$1,250.00 for computer equipment. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget revision for the County Commission office in the amount of \$15,000.00 for contracted services line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision for the property enforcement grant in the amount of \$132,965.00 to increase RADPP Grant lines. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget revision for the County Commission office in the amount of \$25,000.00 to go into County Commission wage line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the erroneous assessments/division of property, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the 51 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 Kesling moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Attest: 