

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 Wees Annex, on the 17th day of October, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on October 3, 2024, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

North Central Community Corrections Director, Erin Golden reported that there are currently 121 participants on the Community Corrections program and the program has saved the County \$570,950.40 in regional jail bills, so far this fiscal year.

County Clerk Brenda Wiseman gave an Election report. She said the public test of the voting equipment/machines will be held tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Lobby and everyone is invited to attend. She said early voting will begin on Wednesday October 23 and run thru Saturday November 2nd. It will be held at the Wees Annex and at the Russell Memorial Public Library in Mill Creek. The hours of early voting are Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She reminded everyone that Saturday November 2nd at 5:00 is the cutoff for early voting. She said if you have not early voted by then you will have to wait until Election Day on November 5th to go to your precinct to vote. On election day the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m until 7:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting of the Randolph County Commission will be held on November 7, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Wees Annex. He said there was a special meeting scheduled for today at 1:00 p.m. but that has been changed to Tuesday October 22nd at 3:00 here. The special meeting is regarding the pre-construction of the new courtroom.

Commissioner Kesling also announced that Lady Justice has been taken off the main Courthouse building by High Point Construction and she will be taken to Morgantown to get restored due to ice damage and wind damage. He said they put in an insurance claim and will be receiving part of the funding to restore her from that, but the County will still be responsible for some of it. He said they are hoping to have her back by next spring.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON RANDOLPH COUNTY POOL AND SPLASH PAD

Stanley Teets and Amber Walsh appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Elks. Amber said for the 2024 season they had over 9,000 guests at the pool/splash pad. She said that averages to about 113 per day. She said they had buses from local schools come, kids from the 4-H camp, kids from the Children's home and the YMCA summer camp kids came. She said they held 67 private parties and the lifeguards gave swim lessons. She said they had 3 parties that were donated by local organizations and 2 free swimming days sponsored by businesses. She said they had \$23,000.00 in concession sales and used 20 employees. She said in December they will start selling passes for next season at a discount. She said the pool has been winterized and they will do maintenance in the spring. Stanley said they

have expenses at the Pool such as chemicals, maintenance and payroll. He said they had a very good crew and had a great year. He said the new slide was great. He thanked the County Commission for all their help and without them they couldn't do it. Commissioner Kesling said it was a better year than last year and he appreciates everything they do. He said he is aware of the maintenance coming up. Commissioner See said people are very happy with it.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM FRONTIER AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BEAD LETTER OF SUPPORT (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said they did a letter of support at the last meeting for CityNet and this time it's Frontier asking for the same letter of support. He said they are trying to bring fiber broadband service through Randolph County. He said with this letter of support Frontier can apply for funding from the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a letter of support for Frontier to apply for the BEAD grant, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM THE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Timothy Ferguson, President of the Celtic Festival and Highland Games appeared before the Commission. He thanked the Commission for their past support. He said they held the festival on June 20-22 this year. He said they had approximately 2,700 people attend. He said people came from all around such as Florida and Montana. He said all the hotels were booked and the RV Sites at Camp Pioneer were full. He said the vendors were happy and want to come back. He said the Humane Society was there and sold T-Shirts to raise funds. He said everyone should check out their website and facebook page for more information. He said they are starting to plan and organize for next year's festival. He said they haven't been able to secure the 4-H Camp Pioneer yet but they definitely still want to have it there. He said they will be having a few fund raisers coming up soon such as bar crawl. He said they would like for one of their committee members to be able to join the Parks and Recreation Board, if possible. Commissioners Kesling and See said they would have to check with 4-H Board to see if they have any openings.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROCLAMATION (See attached copy)

Emmaline Metheny appeared before the Commission on behalf of Centers Against Violence. Megan Phares was also in attendance. Ms. Metheny said October is a very important month to spread awareness about domestic violence. She said not only for Women but Men also. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the Proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Randolph County. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR NEW HIRE IN TAX OFFICE (See copy attached)

Sheriff Elbon said they had an opening in his office and he has chosen Sherry Ann Gibson for the position of Tax Deputy. He said a background investigation was completed which she successfully passed. He would like her to begin working on October 29, 2024 with a 90 day probation and with a starting salary of \$25,000.00 per year with full benefits. Commissioner See moved to hire Sherry Ann Gibson as a full time benefited Tax Deputy with a starting date of October 29, 2024 and with a starting salary of \$25,000.00 per year and she will be placed on a 90 day probation period. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WV FIRST FOUNDATION LETTER OF SUPPORT (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Elizabeth Shahan, Executive Director of West Virginia Prevention Solutions, Inc. He said they are asking the Commission for a letter of support so they can apply for grant funding through the WV First Foundation. They plan to use the funding for state of the art methods and evidence based training and information to provide high quality training and technical assistance throughout the State of West Virginia. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a letter of support for West Virginia Prevention Solutions. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION AND NEW APPOINTMENT FOR THE VALLEY HEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from the Valley Head Public Library. Amber Saltsman's term ended on July 1, 2024 and she has not attended the last three board meetings so they wish to replace her with Dustin Clark. This is for a five year term commencing on October 17, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2029. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE BOARD MEMBER RE-APPOINTMENT TO HELVETIA PUBLIC LIBRARY (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the re-appointment of Donna Knotts to the Helvetia Public Library Board for a term beginning June 30, 2024 to June 30, 2029. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the (2) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Timothy Allen Elmore

Sterling Wallace Yeager

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (See attached copies)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In House budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1680.33 to adjust fund 075 lines to accommodate pass through grant 23-JAG-36. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In House budget revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$12,369.20 to adjust fund 075 to facilitate distribution of shares as well as reimbursement by AHIDTA. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS: None

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: _____

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

October 17, 2024

Kelly Workman, Director

West Virginia Department of Economic Development

Office of Broadband

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 3, Suite 600

Charleston, WV 25303

Re: Randolph County Letter of Cooperation and Support for Frontier BEAD Fiber Broadband Grant

Dear Ms. Workman:

The County of Randolph has determined that ubiquitous availability of affordable fiber broadband services for residents and businesses is essential and would enhance the quality of life for our residents and position the County for continued economic growth. Frontier West Virginia Inc. ("Frontier") has been working cooperatively with Randolph County and its stakeholders in the pursuit of Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment ("BEAD") funding to bring world-class fiber broadband service to unserved and underserved locations that are desperately in need of fast, reliable broadband service, at affordable rates.

Randolph County is committed to working cooperatively with Frontier to bring fiber broadband service, with residential speeds of at least 5/5 Gbps and small business speeds of at least 2/2 Gbps to unserved and underserved locations in the County. It is the intent of Randolph County and Frontier that the proposed project will support the broadband connectivity needs of our residents and businesses well into the future.

Frontier's expansion of fiber broadband in our county will support Randolph County's economic development and growth initiatives which include connecting every resident and business with access to high-speed internet to help transform the way our residents interact with technology,

education, and business opportunities with a goal of elevating the standard of living and economic prospects for the entire County.

Frontier has discussed with the County its intent to pursue BEAD funding to reach unserved and underserved locations, locations that are high-cost and cannot be economically justified without grant funding. Randolph County has committed its support of Frontier's grant application(s) and welcomes the benefits that will result from Frontier's deployment of fiber in the community.

Randolph County and Frontier agree to work cooperatively in this effort to: 1) gather the necessary localized documentation and support (including letters of support from community members) for Frontier's BEAD grant proposal; 2) in simplifying and expediting the permitting process to minimize disruption to right-of-way, reduce project cost and expedite project completion, as feasible; and 3) to communicate service availability and low-income/affordable service options to the community, with an emphasis on targeting disadvantaged households and closing the digital divide.

The Randolph County Commission hereby endorses Frontier's proposed BEAD applications. Frontier has worked with the County to seek input on the project which would bring world-class fiber broadband to our residents and businesses. The project will provide new educational, employment and health care benefits to our residents that lack reliable, affordable high-speed broadband service. Further, Frontier's service rates are highly competitive, including a 200/200 Mbps service priced at \$29.99 per month with enrollment in autopay that is available to all consumers regardless of income, and Frontier participates in the federal Lifeline program, which provides a service credit to low-income consumers. As a result, Frontier has taken steps to make its services not only available but also affordable.

On behalf of the County of Randolph, the County Commission endorses Frontier's BEAD applications and the benefits Frontier's fiber will bring to the economic viability of Randolph County and the overall quality of life it will bring to our residents as well as local businesses.

Sincerely,

Cris Siler

President, County Commission

Randolph County, West Virginia

Allison M. Ellis,

Senior Vice President, Fiber Partnerships

Frontier West Virginia Inc.

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROCLAMATION

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Violence against women and children continues to become more and more prevalent, because of the imbalance of power due to gender and age.

The problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial, societal barriers and are supported by societal indifference.

The crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, due to systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse.

The impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, directly affecting not only women and children, but society as a whole.

Only a community effort, with the support of leadership, will help put a stop to the culture of violence. It is everyone's responsibility to end domestic violence.

Now, Therefore: In recognition of the important work done by domestic violence programs and community partners, it is hereby proclaimed on this 17 Day of October 2024, that the month of October will be known as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Randolph County, West Virginia.

Chris See

Cris Siler

David Kesling

Office of the
SHERIFF OF RANDOLPH COUNTY

Law Enforcement

32 Randolph Avenue
Suite 201
Elkins, WV 26241

Web: RandolphSheriff.wv.gov
Phone: (304) 636-2111
Fax (304) 630-0467



Tax Office

4 Randolph Avenue
Suite 100
Elkins, WV 26241

Web: wvpropertytaxes.com
Phone: (304) 636-2100
Fax (304) 636-2093

Robert R. Elbon Jr., Sheriff

October 17, 2024

To: The Randolph County Commission
RE: Request to hire Sherry Ann Gibson

I respectfully request the approval to hire Sherry Ann Gibson as a full-time benefited Tax Deputy. If approved, her beginning salary will be \$25,000.00 annually/\$12.82 per hour. Ms. Gibson will be on a 90 day probation period starting on October 29, 2024.

Ms. Gibson is a current resident of the Elkins area of Randolph County. A background investigation was completed by our Office, which she successfully passed. Ms. Gibson is available to begin work with the Sheriff's Office on October 29, 2024.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Elbon Jr.
Sheriff

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

October 17, 2024

West Virginia Prevention Solutions
118 N. 6th St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Randolph County Commission, I am writing to offer our full support for West Virginia Prevention Solutions' application for the WV First Foundation Initial Opportunity Grant. As a partner committed to the health and well-being of our community, we recognize the importance of the prevention efforts and initiatives you undertake in addressing critical issues such as substance abuse, mental health, and public safety.

West Virginia Prevention Solutions has long been a trusted and respected leader in delivering evidence-based programs that create lasting positive impacts on individuals, families, and our community. Your organization's commitment to reducing substance misuse and building resilience in youth and adults aligns closely with our own goals of fostering a safer and healthier Randolph County.

We strongly support this grant application and its focus on substance abuse prevention workforce and training development. West Virginia Prevention Solutions serves as the Prevention Lead Organization for Region 4, covering a total of 13 counties in West Virginia. Your efforts to build capacity and expertise in prevention across this region have been commendable, and we fully support your plans to expand these initiatives.

This grant funding will establish the WV Prevention Solutions Center for Excellence, a vital resource that will utilize state-of-the-art methods and evidence-based training to provide high-quality training and technical assistance throughout the state. The Center

for Excellence will play a key role in addressing the critical need for workforce development in prevention, helping to ensure that local communities are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively combat substance misuse.

The resources provided through this grant will enable West Virginia Prevention Solutions to further expand its services and reach even more individuals and communities who need support. We are confident that the initiatives you will implement with the help of the WV First Foundation's funding will make a significant difference across West Virginia.

We fully endorse your application for this funding and trust that you will continue to be an invaluable asset to our community and region. The Randolph County Commission is proud to stand behind West Virginia Prevention Solutions and looks forward to the continued success of your programs.

Should you need further support or information from our office, please do not hesitate to reach out. Our office number is (304) 636-2057.

Sincerely,

Cris Siler
President, Randolph County Commission

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

Valley Head Public Library
25369 Seneca Trail
Valley Head, WV 26294

October 17, 2024

To the Board of Directors,
Valley Head Public Library,

We are writing to inform you that Amber Saltsman's resignation from the Board was considered and is effective immediately. Amber's term was set to expire on July 1, 2024.

After careful consideration, the Commission has decided to appoint Dustin Clark as her replacement. Dustin Clark will serve a five-year term on the Board, commencing on October 17, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2029.

Please make the necessary arrangements to facilitate this transition and update your records accordingly.

If you have any questions or require additional information, feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Cris Siler

President of the Commission

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

October 17th, 2024

Gracie Childester, Director

Helvetia Public Library

P.O. Box 15

Helvetia, WV 26224

Dear Ms. Childester,

Subject: Reappointment of Donna Knots to the Board of Helvetia Public Library

I am pleased to inform you that the Randolph County Commission has approved the reappointment of Donna Knots to serve on the board of the Helvetia Public Library. Her new term will run from June 30th, 2024, to June 30th, 2029.

Please consider this letter as the formal confirmation of her reappointment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and should you require any further information, please feel free to contact our office at (304) 636-2057.

Sincerely,

Cris Siler

President, Randolph County Commission

Office of the SHERIFF OF RANDOLPH COUNTY

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Robert R. Elbon Jr., Sheriff

10/17/2024

The Sheriff's Office respectfully requests the following budget revisions.

In-House BUDGET REVISION

Reason for Revision: Adjustment to Fund075 lines to accommodate pass-through grant 23-JAG-36

REVENUES:

| ACCOUNT NUMBER | Account Name | PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AMOUNT | INCREASE | DECREASE | REVISED AMOUNT |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 075-322-903-00 | 23-JAG-36 funds received Receipt #81601 | \$12,914.62 | \$1,680.33 | | \$14,594.95 |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|--------|------------|
| TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) REVENUE: | \$12,914.62 | \$1,680.33 | \$0.00 | \$1,680.33 |
|---|-------------|------------|--------|------------|

EXPENDITURES:

| ACCOUNT NUMBER | Account Name | PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AMOUNT | INCREASE | DECREASE | REVISED AMOUNT |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 075-404-2-49-01 | Grant 23-JAG-36 Barbour | \$919.96 | | | \$919.96 |
| 075-404-2-49-02 | Grant 23-JAG-36 Upshur | \$4,278.99 | \$1,680.33 | | \$5,959.32 |
| 075-404-2-49-03 | Grant 23-JAG-36 Buckhannon | \$0.00 | | | \$0.00 |

| | | | |
|--|------------|--------|------------|
| TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) EXPENDITURES: | \$1,680.33 | \$0.00 | \$1,680.33 |
|--|------------|--------|------------|

| | |
|---|--------|
| REVENUE CHANGE LESS EXPENDITURE CHANGE | \$0.00 |
|---|--------|

Respectfully,

Robert R. Elbon Jr.
Sheriff/Treasurer

10-17-2024
DK moved
DK yes
C see yes
C siler Absent

Office of the SHERIFF OF RANDOLPH COUNTY

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Robert R. Elbon Jr., Sheriff

10/15/2024

The Sheriff's Office respectfully requests the following budget revisions.

In-House BUDGET REVISION

Reason for Revision: Adjustment to Fund075 to facilitate distribution of shares as well as reimbursed by AHIDTA

REVENUES:

| ACCOUNT NUMBER | Account Name | PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AMOUNT | INCREASE | DECREASE | REVISED AMOUNT |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
| 075-368-90-0 | Receipt #81483 Forfeited Property | | \$11,941.20 | | |
| 075-322-90-1 | Receipt #81584 AHIDTA training reimbursment | | \$428 | | |

TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) REVENUE: \$0 \$12,369 \$0 \$12,369

EXPENDITURES:

| ACCOUNT NUMBER | Account Name | PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AMOUNT | INCREASE | DECREASE | REVISED AMOUNT |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| 075-404-5-67-00 | TF DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES | \$1,809.56 | \$7,951.47 | | \$9,761.03 |
| 075-404-2-21-00 | 075-404-2-21-00 TF TRAINING | \$5,000.00 | \$428.00 | | \$5,428.00 |
| 075-999-9-00-00 | 075-999-9-00-00 Contingency | \$72,066.99 | \$3,989.73 | | \$76,056.72 |

TOTAL INCREASE/(DECREASE) EXPENDITURES: \$12,369.20 \$0.00 \$12,369.20

REVENUE CHANGE LESS EXPENDITURE CHANGE \$0.00

Respectfully,

Robert R. Elbon Jr.
Sheriff/Treasurer

10-17-2024
DK moved
DK yes
C see yes
C Siler Absent