

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a regular meeting of the Randolph County Commission held in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the James F. Cain Court House Annex, on the 18th day of January, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Taylor

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael Kline appeared before the Commission. He said he is a water protector and he is reading a new book called the Green Amendment and it addresses securing our rights to a healthy environment. He read part of the book out loud. He said he was there today to ask the County Commission for a moratorium on this pipeline.

Carrie Kline appeared before the Commission. She said she was there to speak about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. She said explosions happen and they are not all that uncommon and could be fatal. If the new pipeline exploded it would burn everyone within a 3,600 foot radius. She said pipeline leaks endanger our water and our health. She said it seems like we are going forward as a County so well and this would just stop everything. There is likely to be accidents and deaths of the pipeline workers on this steep terrain and there was one recently in Ohio County. The access roads they build could cause landslides that could endanger homes. The gas bills will increase. Not many local jobs will come out of this and it is not stable. She said they are arranging a tour and would like to invite all the public officials and community citizens to tour Lewis and Doddridge Counties to explore and see firsthand and to make a good decision for our community. She brought with her ordinances from Fayette County. These ordinances are anti fracking and anti waste disposal ordinances that the County Commission there passed. She would like for our County Commission to do the same.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on January 4, 2018, as submitted.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker said at the last meeting Doctor Topping talked about crimes in the area and what is being done about it. He said he would like to give the Commission a brief report on the work that his office has been doing. He said in 2017 there were 170 felony indictments and 163 felony convictions. In 2016 there were

Commissioner See said this is a first time thing for the commissioners and we will work through it and next year when the bills go out it will be a lot smoother. He said we will do our best and all work together and get through this.

Commissioner Taylor announced that the next meeting will be held on February 1, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A THIRTY DAY EXTENSION OF THE LOMBARDI COMPANY TO START RENOVATIONS OF THE 911 CENTER

Commissioner Taylor said about a month and a half ago we opened up the bids for the renovation project of the proposed 911 Center up at the Airport. We had 60 days in order to sign the contract with the contractor in order to solidify that contract. This letter is to inform us that Lombardi Development will accept an extension to the date for award of the Randolph County Regional Communication Center project until March 5, 2018 and will entertain further extensions if necessary. Commissioner Scott moved to approve the letter to Lombardi Development Company accepting the extension of 30 days for the Randolph County Regional Communication Center.

Discussion: Commissioner Scott said there is a big push by the Governor to regionalize the 911 Centers. We want to do that. We are ready, willing and able. This will bring more jobs to Randolph County. We want to be the hub for regionalization.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER/REVIEW PROPOSAL FROM CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK RE: PROPOSAL FOR 911 CENTER LOAN

Commissioner Scott moved to enter into Executive Session for a real estate matter.

All yes -- Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting back to order at 2:03 p.m. and no action was taken in executive session.

Commissioner Taylor said over the past few months we have been working with various financial institutions both locally and outside the County trying to figure out a financial package for the renovations of the proposed new 911 Center. The ultimate goal was to get the best possible deal for the citizens of Randolph County. He said what we have here today is a proposal from Citizens Bank of West Virginia to consider establishing a term to lend the Randolph County Building Commission an amount up to 3.8 million dollars for the construction, renovations, improvements and equipping of the Randolph County 911 Center and the Emerson Phares building at the Randolph County Airport. He said by signing this letter here today the County Commission will make the recommendation and authorize the bank to move forward with the Randolph County Building Commission to begin the necessary paperwork to secure the financing for the project. There were two representatives present from Citizens Bank of West Virginia. Commissioner Scott said we have all been calling and talking to many, many different lending institutions regarding this and this is the option that is best with our situation.

Commissioner Scott moved to authorize the President of County Commission to sign a letter to Citizens Bank of West Virginia to move forward with the loan process for the construction, renovations and improvements for the new 911 Center at the Emerson Phares Building at the Randolph County Airport.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY DIRECTOR, ROBBIE MORRIS RE: TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES IN
AND AROUND THE TOWN OF BEVERLY

Randolph County Development Authority Director, Robbie Morris appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to ask for support from the Randolph County Commission and any entity under the Randolph County government that could assist with some traffic issues popping up in Beverly and have been for a while. He said the big issue is that large trucks that are trying to go to business's and plants up the valley are using their GPS and it is taking them onto Files Creek road where there are sharp turns and then they get stuck. He said this is causing a big issue. A lot of the drivers are only going there once in their life and have no idea where it is. This causes a delay in the shipment and is bad for the residents and the truck drivers. He said he would like to work with the 911 mapping and addressing coordinator and the GPS companies to get them updated. He said he knows that process is ongoing and he appreciates that. He said the town of Beverly is working with the Department of Highways on trying to straighten the curve on the south side of Beverly that goes around a house. He said it has been reported that when two semi trucks try to get through that turn at the same time it can get a little hairy and can cause a backup of traffic. He said Armstrong is set to expand and there will be additional truck traffic with that. He said they have discussed putting up flashing lights at the plant entrance. Commissioner Taylor said the Commission and 911/OEM Director Cindy Hart have been working on this and have met with some of the officials from Armstrong and they got their address figured out and they are trying to get it communicated to all the GPS devices out there. Commissioner See said he would suggest the Development Authority get a hold of the DOH and have them put signs up at the Files Creek road that says not suitable for large trucks like the ones they have at Laurel Mountain road until something else can be done. Commissioner Scott said the S turn at Beverly is dangerous. It needs to be taken care of also. Commissioner See moved to have Cindy Hart be the liason between the Randolph County Commission and the other agencies involved to work on the traffic issues in the Town of Beverly.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM THE ELKINS CVB, THE BEVERLY HERITAGE
CENTER AND THE ELKINS DEPOT WELCOME CENTER IN REGARDS TO THE
DISBURSEMENT OF HOTEL/MOTEL TAX

Commissioner Taylor said we will allow each entity 15 minutes to present documents and a presentation as to why they feel they qualify for the 50%, or a share thereof, of the hotel/motel tax. He said under WV Code Chapter 7 Section 18 Article 14 it states as follows: subsection 1 under convention and visitors bureau and convention bureau the definition as outlined in the state statute is convention and visitor's bureau and visitor's and conventions bureau are interchangeable and either shall mean a non stock non profit

corporation with a full time staff working exclusively to promote tourism and to attract conventions, conferences and visitors to the municipality, county or region in which such convention and visitor's bureau or visitors and conventions bureau is located or engaged in business within.

Michelle Depp, President of the Randolph County Convention and Visitor's Bureau appeared before the Commission. She had a handout for the Commission and several posters with information on them that she displayed. She said for 28 years the Randolph County Convention and Visitor's Bureau has been the lead agency in bringing tourism to Randolph County. She said they have one interest in mind and that is to see tourism grow in our county. She said they have helped generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in tourism and are appreciative of the added support from the County Commission. They bring in several hundreds of bus tours every year. She said they are not the attraction but the attractor. Mrs. Depp said they are the only organization that meets the requirements of the Code and had a chart showing that. She said that RCCVB is the only entity that is legal to get the 50% of the funding because the other organizations do not meet the requirements.

Commissioner Scott asked if she would provide a copy of her comments to the Commission. Mrs. Depp agreed to that. Commissioner Taylor said the WV Code says that they must provide an annual financial report and itemized list of expenditures and asked if they would have a problem with that. Mrs. Depp said no they wouldn't but please make the request through their Attorney.

Phyllis Baxter, board president from the Beverly Heritage Center and board member Barbara McCreary appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Taylor read WV Code Chapter 7 Section 18 Article 14 out loud again. They handed out a packet of papers to the Commissioners. She said when they were invited to come and make this presentation, the Beverly Heritage Center has received funding from the County Commission for about five years from the other half of the hotel/motel tax, and she just wants to say to her friends at the RCCVB they didn't go seeking this but if the County Commission feels that what they are doing qualifies under the CVB portion of that funding then they would be pleased to have that support. She said they do not expect to replace the CVB because they do a lot of things that they don't do but she said they do feel by reading the Code and looking at what they do they feel they can fit under this definition. She said their mission is tourism and their business is tourism. She said this is a joint operation with Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation and are both 501C3 non profit organizations. They do have a full time director whose job is to operate the heritage center and to provide services to the visitors. They have a conference center and have held 25 statewide and local meetings serving over 900 attendees. Having the assurance of funding from the County Commission is appreciative. She said they are not asking the County Commission to fund their whole organization. If funding is increased they would do more advertising.

Commissioner Scott asked her to provide a copy of her statements and she agreed. He said it was noted by the CVB that you do not have a conference center. Mrs. Baxter said yes they do and it is a new thing. Commissioner Taylor said the WV Code requires them to present a financial report and itemized statement of their expenditures. Mrs. Baxter said they would be glad to provide it.

Ann Beardslee from the Elkins Depot Welcome Center appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Taylor read WV Code Chapter 7 Section 18 Article 14 out loud again. Mrs. Beardslee said on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff they would like to thank the County Commission for inviting them to come. She said their main goal is to promote tourism for Elkins and Randolph County. She said they have been in business for 11 ½ years and their Director has 28 years of experience and they are a non-profit 501C6. She said they have high standards and take it very seriously. Trip advisor has awarded them with excellent service the last two years. They are in charge of the ramp festival and the Christmas lights at the depot. She said they use social media and have twitter, insta gram and you tube accounts. They have developed three brochures and have prepared city and county maps. They try to encourage people to stay longer in our county and to return again. She said they watch every single penny they spend and she is really proud of what they have done the past 11 ½ years. She said they do not hold conferences but she finds space for them and connects them to the right people. Commissioner Scott asked her to provide a copy of her written comments and asked if they have a full time person. She said she works 30 hours per week and has an assistant that works too. Commissioner Taylor asked if they would provide an annual report and give a list of itemized expenditures. Mrs. Beardslee said no problem at all.

Commissioner Taylor said we will confer with the Prosecuting Attorney and go over all of this and then we will make a decision in a County Commission meeting.

Commissioner See left the meeting at this time.

FOLLOW UP ON PERSONNEL COMPLAINT – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Scott moved to go into executive session.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

3:38 p.m. – Commissioner Taylor said we are out of executive session and no action was taken in executive session.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the six (6) final settlements/annual accountings as submitted on the following estates:

Nyoka June Acord

Betty L. Casto

David K. Hagerty

Debra Kay McCollam

Donald James Morfitt, Sr.

Mary Louise Phillips

All yes – Motion passed unanimously