

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a special session of the Randolph County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the James Cain Court House Annex, on the 29th day of March, 2017 at 9:00 a.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:

Steve Abey with AES Laurel Mountain Windmills appeared before the Commission. He said Senate Bill 16 passed through the Senate and this will be very damaging to the Windmill business. It would quadruple the taxes in the State for them. He said he was there to ask the Commission to not support Senate Bill 16 and to call their delegates in Charleston and send a letter to Charleston to say they are not in support of it. He said this would speak volumes for them. Commissioner Taylor said they are aware of Senate Bill 16 and they would try to look into it more and educate themselves more about it. Commissioner Scott asked why they could not raise their rates to cover the extra cost? Mr. Abey said they charge nothing and get whatever the market rates are at the time.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER SIGNAGE/APPROVAL OF LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR RICH MOUNTAIN 911 TOWER SITE

Cindy Hart, 911/OEM Director appeared before the Commission. She provided the Commission with the Lease that was prepared by Attorney, Geraldine Roberts of the law firm McNeer, Highland, McMunn and Varner. The Commission previously reviewed it and said it looked good. Mrs. Hart said this is for an erection of a new 911 Tower on Rich Mountain. She said a grant from the State will cover most of the cost. She said it will be located on the other side of Rich Mountain which will give them better coverage. This property will be leased from the Posson Family Trust. The State and County will share the maintenance costs. The County will be responsible for the antennas, lights etc. The life span for this tower is between 15 to 18 years and the completion date is set for April, 2018. Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of the lease agreement with the Posson Family Trust for a 911 Tower Site on Rich Mountain, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER REQUEST TO HIRE 4 NEW EMPLOYEES FOR 911 PART TIME/FULL TIME POSITIONS (See copies attached)**

Cindy Hart, 911/OEM Director appeared before the Commission. She said they have been having a lot of turnover at the 911 center lately and she has some openings that she needs to fill. She advertised in the newspaper and took applications. She said the reason she is asking for four is because sometimes the training does not go well and they don't work out. There was four picked for training. Those people are Amber Graham, Erica Woods, Christopher White and Molly Greenhouse. The current budget will cover the cost of training and wages for all four of these individuals. The starting pay will be \$9.94 per hour with an effective date of hire to be April 3, 2017. These will be non-benefited positions. Cindy said two of the four will possibly move to full time. Commissioner See moved to approve the hiring of Amber Graham, Erica Woods, Christopher White and Molly Greenhouse for part time employment at the Randolph County 911 Center with starting wages of \$9.94 per hour with no benefits and with a starting date of April 3, 2017.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VOCA GRANT APPLICATION**

Jayne Rawl, Victim Services Coordinator with the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, appeared before the Commission. She said it is time to apply for the VOCA Grant for fiscal year 2017-2018. She said last year they received more than usual and that was great. The amount that they are applying for this year is \$39,436.00 and the county cash match will be \$9,859.00. She said 650 victims were served the last fiscal year. Commissioner Taylor said he appreciates what Jayne does in serving that many victims and wishes there was no need for the services. Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of the VOCA Grant application with the State of West Virginia in the amount of \$39,436.00, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COUNTY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

The Commissioners provided each elected official that was present a copy of the revenue and expenditure sections of the budget along with the individual office budget that they approved. Commissioner Taylor said some of the requests were granted and some of them were not granted. Randolph County remains a Class 2 County with a total assessed value of \$1,595,284,362.00 and that is the total assessed value of all the property in the County. He said last year we brought in \$5,150,977.00 and this year we anticipate bringing in \$5,153,038.00 which is an increase of only about \$3,000.00. He said the budgeted revenues for last year were 8.6 million and this year they anticipate it at 9.1 million. They anticipate an increase in coal severance of \$20,000.00 this year. Commissioner Taylor said what the Commissioners have decided to do is increase the supplemental pay at Christmas time from \$350.00 to an increase of \$950.00. Commissioner Scott said when they looked at the total estimated revenues over the prior year they saw that there is not a whole lot available, so they discussed if they could do any type of pay increase in this fiscal year with the situation of where the revenues are

and rather than forego a pay increase for this year we decided to do a year end stipend and so that way we would be rewarding our employees but without a permanent pay increase. Commissioner Scott said there is a lot of unknowns this year. There are major changes happening at the State level that will affect us on the County level also. Commissioner See said one of the biggest reasons is the jail bill. He said it scares him to death. He said we are committed to pay the jail bill no matter what. Commissioner Taylor said they feel that this is a prudent and cautious approach. Sheriff Brady said is there a way they can speak about this before they approve it. He said this is the first time this document has been provided to him and in the past each elected official has met with the Commission before the document has been provided to them so that they can discuss the differences in what we proposed and what they granted. He said he thinks it is a little bit putting the cart before the horse as we now don't have a chance to speak with you in our concerns with the budget because it has just now been presented to us and he would at least like to have an opportunity before they approve it to speak with them about it on each elected officials budget. Commissioner Taylor said from a scheduling standpoint Commissioner Scott has some other engagements today and this document has to be in Charleston today. He said if there is any discussion it is going to be with all three of us. Sheriff Brady said he understands that and he knows it has to be in today but to him it would have been much more prudent for the County Commission to have met with the elected officials before this meeting. He said possibly last week. County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman said she agrees with Mark Brady that we should have been called in last week to discuss this. Commissioner Taylor said we can continue the discussion and we can always go back and do a budget revision before July 1<sup>st</sup>. There is nothing to prevent us from doing that. Sheriff Brady said he has a lot of questions and once it is approved and sent to Charleston there is things that cannot be changed. Commissioner Taylor said the Prosecuting Attorney requested two positions in his office and they did not grant it but when they do the rollover if they feel comfortable that they can accommodate one of those positions then they will do a budget modification. He said it is a very conservative budget. Sheriff Brady said what is the deadline for him to come back to the Commission for changes to be made? Commissioner Taylor said up until July 1, 2017. County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman said she is not asking in her budget to hire any more staff, she is happy with them and they do a good job and she would like to see them get a raise not a one time bonus at Christmas. She said she is aware of the money situation as Mark Brady is and we see the money coming in and the money going out and they understand that. There is some things that she feels the Commission spends money on that are not necessary such as the remodeling of the Commission meeting room that is only used twice a month for Commission meetings and a \$1,600.00 Christmas tree. She said if the money was that tight coming down to this why spend the money on things like that instead of giving employees a raise. She said she has worked there for 26 years and she thinks this is only the second time that no raises were given. Commissioner Taylor said the room was budgeted for last year. Sheriff Brady said the employees appreciate their jobs and feels that they are lucky to have their jobs. He said this is about equality and fairness to everyone. He said when some employees have received over a \$20,000 pay increase over the last three years, and that employee is within the Commission office, and the rest of the employees are receiving minor pay increases, when we start seeing that much discrepancy between each elected office there is a problem. He said where are the

checks and balances for the County Commission? He said we can hire two employees for the salary that they have one employee. Commissioner Taylor said Sheriff Brady sets the budget for the way he sees fit for his staff and they set it for their staff. He said they don't interfere with him in his running of the Sheriff's Office and the way he structures the promotion system, the way he hires deputies and so forth and he said if there are questions that he has sure, as a taxpayer and a Commissioner yes, but those are his decisions and he is running that office and the Commission runs their office the way they see fit and to be competitive with the other counties and he doesn't think their salaries for their employees are out of line with any of the surrounding counties doing the same job. He said that is their prerogative. Commissioner Scott said that is why they did the year end stipend so that each employee is going to get the same amount and they want to be fair. Sheriff Brady said he agrees that is a fair way to do it and he does not have a problem with the year end stipend. He said he represents the taxpayers and the taxpayers would have a major issue with one employee getting a \$20,000.00 pay increase in three years and nobody else getting anything. Commissioner Taylor said we are going to stop right now. We have heard enough. Sheriff Brady said he believes in public meetings. Commissioner Scott moved to approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### ADJOURN THE MEETING

Commissioner Scott moved to adjourn the meeting.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



**Randolph County E911 / Randolph County Office of Emergency Management**  
**30 Randolph Avenue, Suite 1, Elkins, WV 26241**  
**911 Center 304-636-2000 OEM 304-636-0483 Fax 304-636-3298**

March 29, 2017

Commissioners,

I am requesting to hire Amber Graham for part time employment at the Randolph County 911 center to fill a vacant position;

The current budget will cover the cost of training and wages. Her starting pay will be \$9.94 per hour.

Upon approval, I am requesting that she be able to start her training on April 3, 2017.

Thank you,

Cindy Hart, Director



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911 Center 304-636-2000 OEM 304-636-0483 Fax 304-636-3298

March 29, 2017

Commissioners,

I am requesting to hire Erica Woods for part time employment at the Randolph County 911 center to fill a vacant position.

The current budget will cover the cost of training and wages. Her starting pay will be \$9.94 per hour.

Upon approval, I am requesting that she be able to start her training on April 3, 2017.

Thank you,

Cindy Hart, Director



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March 29, 2017

Commissioners,

I am requesting to hire Christopher White for part time employment at the Randolph County 911 center to fill a vacant position.

The current budget will cover the cost of training and wages. His starting pay will be \$9.94 per hour.

Upon approval, I am requesting that he be able to start her training on April 3, 2017.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Hart".

Cindy Hart, Director



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March 29, 2017

Commissioners,

I am requesting to hire Molly Greenhouse for part time employment at the Randolph County 911 center to fill a vacant position.

The current budget will cover the cost of training and wages. Her starting pay will be \$9.94 per hour.

Upon approval, I am requesting that she be able to start her training on April 3, 2017.

Thank you,

Cindy Hart, Director