

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a regular session of the Randolph County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the James F. Cain Court House Annex, on the 21st day of January, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Michael Taylor, President of the Randolph County Commission and Chris See and Joyce Johns, Randolph County Commissioners thereof.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Taylor

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting that was held on January 7, 2016, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

North Central Community Corrections Director, Erin Golden appeared before the Commission. She reported that there are currently 97 participants on the program. The program has saved the county \$884,615.50 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year. She said she received the grant application paperwork and has been busy working on it.

Sheriff Brady reported that Deputy Seth Kyle graduated the WV State Police Academy on December 18, 2015 and is now currently working on the road under the FTO program and Deputy Brice Cogar just began attending the WV State Police Academy in January and is on his third week there.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Taylor said we are under a storm watch and the OEM/911 Director will be giving daily updates on this storm. There will be another briefing today at 3:00 here in the meeting room. He said he was very pleased at the attendance of the emergency meeting yesterday. There were about 76 people here for the meeting. He said he thinks the community, as a whole, is about as prepared as we can be.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST FROM ELKINS JR WOMEN'S CLUB FOR
AFTER GRADUATION LOCK IN

Angie Goff from the Elkins Junior Women's Club appeared before the Commission. She said she was there to ask for funding again for the Elkins High School after graduation party. She said this year is the 31st year for the party. She said last year they had over half of the graduating class attend. They provide games, DJ, photo booth etc. She said

roughly \$16,000.00 is spent for prizes. Most of those prizes are for college. Commissioner Taylor said this is something we have done in years past. Commissioner Johns moved to approve the donation to the Elkins Junior Women's Club in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Elkins High School after graduation lock in. This is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

COUNTRY ROADS TRANSIT REPORT FOR 2015 AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FUNDING IN BUDGET YEAR 2016-2017

Laura Ward appeared before the Commission. She said she was happy to report that this coming July will make ten years that Country Road Transit has provided service to all of Randolph County. She said they were really excited about that and will be planning some celebrations and she hopes the County Commission will take part in that. She said she is reporting for last fiscal year which ended in July. She said they served 19,465 rides in Randolph County. Most of the people that they serve have no other transportation available to them. She said what they are doing is an important community service and it is an investment that the Commission is making for the people of Randolph County and she said they appreciate it so much. She said every dollar that they donate towards this cause gets a matching federal dollar, so they are making twice the impact of your investment in the folks of Randolph County. Commissioner Taylor said it has been a tremendous benefit to the citizens of the county. Commissioner Taylor said they will be working on the budget in March and will discuss it at that time.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RANDOLPH COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF'S CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO OBTAIN LEGAL COUNSEL IF NECESSARY

Randolph County Deputy Sheriff's Civil Service Board members, Todd Wamsley and John Miller appeared before the Commission. Todd Wamsley said they are they today on behalf of themselves and Jeff Pritt who is the chairman of the board, to request funding from the County Commission to obtain legal counsel, when and if the need arises. At the current time there are no known issues, but since they are an active board they are requesting the support of the Randolph County Commission. Mr. Wamsley said right now there are no issues but none of the three of them are lawyers and there could be a time when they would need counsel. They don't want to make any mistakes. Commissioner Taylor said he has done some research in the WV Code and he said he doesn't know that is specifically provides for it and he doesn't know if it provides against it. He said he would like the Prosecuting Attorney to review it. Commissioner Taylor said they need to see if the Prosecuting Attorney could represent them or if they would have to hire someone else and what kind of rates they are talking about. Commissioner Taylor said they will take the request under consideration and get back with them. Sheriff Brady said he is in full agreement with this. He thinks they need an attorney to help them out.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A NEW HIRE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF TO THE RANDOLPH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Mark Brady appeared before the Commission. He had with him Ethan B. Carr. He said he would like to request permission to hire Ethan B. Carr as a probationary Deputy Sheriff. He graduated the WV State Police Academy in October of 2014. He would like him to begin employment on February 1, 2016 at the salary of a certified deputy sheriff and will be placed on a one year probationary period. This position has been funded by the County Commission and would be a replacement of a deputy who is out on medical leave at this time. This will make 14 deputies on the books, but there will actually be 13 working. Ethan Carr and his father Jerry Carr were present. Commissioner Taylor said this will be the first time we have ever had this many deputies in Randolph County.

Commissioner See moved to approve the hiring of Ethan B. Carr as a probationary deputy sheriff for the Randolph County Sheriff's Office and his employment will begin on February 1, 2016 at a salary of a certified deputy sheriff and he will be placed on a one year probationary period.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See said he has known Ethan for a while and thinks he will do a great job.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF BID FOR A VENDOR TO PROCESS CREDIT/DEBIT CARD TRANSACTIONS WITH THE COUNTY OFFICES

Sheriff Mark Brady and Deputy Treasurer for the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, Angela Barrickman appeared before the Commission. Sheriff Brady said Angela has taken upon the job of working and researching things for all the county offices to be able to accept credit/debit cards for payment. Angela said many customers come in and want to know if we take credit or debit cards and when we tell them no they say in this day and age how can we not take credit/debit cards. She said they have taken those comments seriously and want to allow them that opportunity. She said the first thing she did was look in the WV Code to see if it allow us to do it. She said WV Code 7-5-2A does offer us the ability to use a credit card vendor to accept credit cards. There will be a convenience fee that the customer would have to pay. We only have two qualified vendors that we are looking at right now. Those are Point and Pay and WV I Pay. Angela said they are recommending WV I Pay. Commissioner Taylor said he participated in a conference call with WV I Pay yesterday. He said he believes that Angela has done her due diligence in picking the right vendor. He said we are in the year 2016 and there are about 20 some counties in the State of West Virginia that are already accepting credit cards so we need to do this. Sheriff Brady said they want to offer the customers an alternative to using cash or checks. It will be up to the customer if they want to use credit cards and pay the extra fees involved or continue to pay by check or cash. Sheriff Brady said they are not asking for a decision today but would like the County Commission to review it. Sheriff Brady said they want the other offices to be able to use the system also. They said they would like to implement it by April. They want to start out using it in the office first and then eventually do on line payments. Sheriff Brady said there will be no cost to the County for hardware or equipment. The only cost would be for the software to be installed. County Clerk Brenda Wiseman said

she would be very happy to get this implemented in her office also. Commissioner Taylor said they will take the request under advisement.

REPORTS:

OEM/911 Director, Cindy Hart appeared before the Commission. She said they will be having a meeting at 3:00 today with the stakeholders. West Virginia is still under a state of preparedness, Virginia declared a State of Emergency this morning and they are getting ice now. New York and D.C. is getting snow and white out conditions. This storm is going to cause slick roads and possible power outages. She advised everyone to stay off the roads once the storm starts. She said the timeframe for it to hit here is about 11:00 a.m. tomorrow. They are now saying Elkins area could get 20-30 inches of snow.

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO ADOPT EMERGENCY ABSENTEE VOTING POLICY (See attached copy)

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman appeared before the Commission. She presented them with an Emergency Absentee Voting Policy for Randolph County. She explained that this is something that has to be done every election cycle. This will allow the two ballot commissioners to take an absentee ballot to a voter that is in the hospital or nursing home on Election day and did not do early voting or absentee by mail voting.

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the emergency absentee voting policy, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSS AFTER HOURS USAGE OF ALL MEETING ROOMS IN THE COUNTY COMPLEX WITH REGARD TO ALL OUTSIDE ENTITIES

Commissioner Taylor said recently it has come to our attention that the County, over the years, has had a very liberal policy with use of this room and the meeting room at the Wees Annex and pretty much any meeting room on the Courthouse campus. We have allowed various groups to use the rooms after hours. In discussion with the Sheriff and the County Clerk we know it is one of those things that has been historically done. Commissioner Taylor said it is his recommendation that they temporarily suspend the use of the meeting rooms to outside agencies until such time we can get together and have a discussion and policy made up on the terms and conditions that if an outside agency wants to use the facility that there would have to be some guidelines and security procedures to be followed. Commissioner See said he agrees and it would be nice to have someone here to oversee it. Commissioner Taylor said he thinks there should be a court security officer here or custodian here and somebody would need to compensate them to be there during the meeting. We need to know that the building is secure. County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman said she doesn't have any opinion either way. She said the people that have been using it are pretty upset about it but she will do whatever they want done. Sheriff Brady said this is the taxpayer's courthouse. We need to be as accommodating as possible to the taxpayers, but at the same time we need to make sure it is secure. There is always going to be inconveniences when you try to tighten up security. Commissioner Taylor said we will have some work sessions with the elected officials soon regarding this issue.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the nine final settlements/annual accountings, as submitted.

James H. Biggs

Clarence N. Wansley

Mary Lou Pingley

Mabel Fox

Carolyn J. Gum

Jerry Lee Pack

Donna B. Lester

Richard H. Montoney

Carrie Florence Swecker

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (See attached copies)

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the two budget revisions, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS/DIVISIONS OF PROPERTY:

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the erroneous assessments/divisions of property, as submitted.

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner Johns moved to pay the bills, as submitted.

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner Johns moved to adjourn the meeting.

All yes - Motion passed unanimously

Attest: _____