

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 2nd day of March, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard DeBias appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to talk about HOFNOD. He said he has been a resident of Randolph County for 22 years. He said these people don't care about the youth, no elected official does. Commissioner Kesling said this has nothing to do with Hooked on Fishing and asked Mr. DeBias to stop speaking. He said he was interrupting a government process. He said they would move on to the next public comment speaker. Sheriff Elbon instructed him to stop talking or they would go across the street. Mr. DeBias left the meeting at this time.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on February 16, 2023, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She reported that there are currently 94 participants on the program and the program has saved the County \$945,024.50 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year.

Kurt Gainer from Randolph County EMS reported that all three stations are fully staffed with 17 EMT's and 16 Paramedics. He said in 2022 they ran 8,093 calls for service. He said in January 2023 they had 811 runs, so they have been very busy. He said they have 10 ambulances in service right now.

Sheriff Elbon said they are advertising now for a new position to replace Carr who is now a PRO Officer at the schools. He said they are hoping to test the 18th and 20th of this month to try to get a new candidate for Deputy Sheriff. He said that would be 18 full time and that includes the 3 PRO Officers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kesling said the online portal to apply for federal ear marks thru Senator Manchin's offices is now open and the applications are due by March 12th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the first Friday of each month they have a progress report meeting with the contractors and engineering firm that is working on the pool/splash pad project. He said they got the pool filled up by the Beverly Fire Department during the nice weather. He said they will be painting the murals on the walls. The fencing will all be replaced. He said they are looking forward to having the grand opening on Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting will be March 16, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM ELKINS DEPOT WELCOME CENTER

Anne Beardslee and Samantha Peep appeared before the Commission. Ms. Beardslee said the Elkins Depot Welcome Center opened its doors in 2006 and since that time has been a fully credited, widely recognized convention and visitor's bureau. She said from the most recent figures that they have which was from 2021, 55 ½ million dollars has been brought into Randolph County through tourism. She said in 2022 the volunteers served 22,000 guests and answered over 900 telephone calls and distributed over 64,000 brochures. She said they also developed 3 new rack cards. Ms. Peep said the good news is West Virginia's tourism economy is recovering since the Covid 19 pandemic. She said small towns and state parks are being sought out by people since Covid. She said in 2022 outdoor recreation activities have experienced tremendous growth. She said their social media platforms have doubled. She said they had over 423,000 website views in 2022. She said Randolph County received national recognition in 2022 from several outlets. She said one of the 2023 highlights is to offer 3-5 night vacations that will showcase Randolph County destinations and will promote art, music and other interests. Ms. Beardslee said the travelers that come to Randolph County eat, stay, pay for gas and other items which circulates through the County. She said the contributions that the Randolph County Commission gives them helps them to accomplish the goals they spoke about today. Commissioner Kesling said he appreciates all they do to promote Randolph County as a whole. Commissioner Siler said they do a great job.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS

Owen Peet, President of HOFNOD board appeared before the Commission. He said in 2022 they had more than 600 kids come thru the doors. He said this event brought together people and organizations throughout Randolph County with the sole purpose of providing and interactive educational activities for kids in our community. The message is to instill the love of outdoor recreation and the dangers of drug use is the focal point. He said they are trying to become a non-profit organization which will give them more grant opportunities. He said they have 6 board members, which he named. He said they have submitted all the information to the Secretary of States Office and the IRS. He said he came today to ask for the Commissions support as they have in the past. Commissioner Kesling said he wanted to apologize for his outburst during public comment. He said that is why they had to change their public comment policy for people to only speak about what is on the agenda that day. He said they do care about the kids in Randolph County and this has been an organization that they have supported for many

years. Sheriff Elbon said they give away bikes and different things and have things the kids can do with the officers. He said they have been doing it a long, long time and they think it is a great opportunity for the kids. Commissioner Kesling said this is a perfect use of the hotel/motel tax money. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request for HOFNOD in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE 2023 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Cindy Stemple appeared before the Commission. She thanked them for last year's funding. She said the one coming up on April 22nd will be their fourth year. She said they get additional funding from the Women's Club of Elkins, which is who she is representing today, and also the Randolph County Democratic Women. She said they try to get the majority of the funding from the Women's Club who is one of the main sponsors of the event. She said they had an Arts and Crafts show but unfortunately they were \$3,000.00 short of their goal. She said the earth day celebration was a huge success last year. She said they had approximately 250-350 participants last year. She went over several organizations they invited to participate. She said they have planted trees at several schools. She discussed a photo contest and poster contest and will be giving out prizes and cash. She said they are requesting \$500.00 in funding from the Commission. Commissioner Kesling said he likes the idea of the reusable grocery bags she discussed so he suggested to the other Commissioners to add \$100.00 for more bags. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request for the 2023 Earth Day Celebration in the amount of \$600.00 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM JOY SZFRANIEC OF EVOLVE MODERN, LLC REGARDING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

This item was skipped as no one was present

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR FY 2024 BUDGETING PROCESS (See Copy Attached)

Commissioner Kesling said they are starting their budget meeting process for FY 2024 and will begin meeting on Wednesday March 8th at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday March 9th at 8:30 a.m. and March 13th at 8:00 a.m. to meet with the elected officials. He said they will finalize the budget on March 16th at the regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the dates for the budget process for FY 2024 as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections, appeared before the Commission. She said the grant application is due March 14th for next year. She gave the Commissioners a spreadsheet of what she is requesting from the grant. The total grant request is for \$140,922.00 with a cash match of \$60,395.14. She said this is just the application process and she is hoping they will give them all they are

asking for. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the grant application for Community Corrections, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACBA LICENSE FOR SPEEDWAY

Commissioner Kesling said this is for the Speedway station that is located on the five lane. He said they just need to approve the no zoning letter for property outside of city municipalities. Commissioner See moved to approve the ACBA no zoning letter for Speedway, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACBA LICENSE FOR JOHNNY B'S CAMPGROUND

Commissioner Kesling said this is the same as the above item. Commissioner See moved to approve the ACBA no zoning letter for Johnny B's Campground, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR JJP GRANT (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling read the Resolution out loud. Commissioner See moved to approve the Resolution for the JJP Grant, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CED GRANT BID OPENING

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this is the covered electronic devices grant. There were 3 bids received. The first bid was from Tri-State in the amount of \$19,800.00 for 2 events, the second bid was from Secure Us in the amount of \$33,800.00 for 2 events, the third bid was from E Cycle in the amount of \$8,500.00 per event so for 2 events it would be \$17,000.00. Commissioner Siler moved to accept the lowest responsible bid that meets the budgeted amount, and other requirements, after the bids are reviewed and approved by the grantor. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

RA GRANT BID OPENING

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Kesling said this is for the recycling assistance grant. Peggy Ross said there should be a bid for a forklift and an attachment in these bids. There were 3 sealed bids. The first bid was from Fomax in the amount of \$35,000.00, the second bid was from A K Equipment in the amount of \$32,000.00. Peggy Ross said both of these are incomplete due to not including the sweeper broom attachment. The third bid was from Newlons for a Forklift in the amount of \$35,000.00 and the broom attachment in the amount of \$6,500.00 for a total of \$41,500.00. Commissioner Siler moved to accept the lowest responsible bid that meets the budgeted amount, and other requirements, after the bids are reviewed and approved by the grantor. All yes - Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF HIRE FOR DOG WARDEN TRAINING

Commissioner Kesling said they hired Ron Gooden as the Dog Warden and have asked Jim Cain who is a retired Dog Warden to come back and help train Ron Gooden. This is a temporary part time position

with a starting date of February 27th which is the same day that Ron started working. Commissioner Siler moved to ratify the hire of Jim Cain, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HIRE FOR 911

Rob Daman appeared before the Commission. He said they would like to hire Ethan Crites as a full time 911 telecommunicator trainee. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Ethan Crites as a full time telecommunicator trainee with a probationary period of 6 months with a starting pay of \$13.00 per hour and he will begin working on March 6, 2023. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

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

Johnny Wayne McDonald, Sr.

LaDonna Maxine Frost

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision in the amount of \$4,000.00 for the Dog Warden. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State budget Revision in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office . All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision in the amount of \$28,648.00 for state grants. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$4,455.00 for grants. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes. Motion passed

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (60) Fire Fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner Siler 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

March 2, 2023

To whom it may concern:

Budget meetings for Fiscal Year 2024 will take place on Wednesday, March 8th beginning at 10 a.m. and Thursday, March 9th beginning at 8:30 a.m. The commissioners will be available to meet with any elected official who has additional questions regarding his or her budget at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 13th.

The finalization of the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 will be considered during the regular meeting of the Randolph County Commission that is scheduled for Thursday, March 16th at 1:30 p.m.

Sincerely,



David Kesling, President

Randolph County Commission

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

RESOLUTION

The Commission of Randolph County met on 3-2-23 (date) with a quorum present and passed the following resolution.

Be it resolved that the Commission hereby authorizes Christopher See, President of the Randolph County Commission, to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the Division of Administrative Services, Justice and Community Services to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Program.

Signed: Brenda Wiseman
County Clerk