

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 7th day of April, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Taylor

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on March 17, 2016, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting that was held on March 24, 2016 to approve the budget for FY 2016/2017, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

North Central Community Corrections Director, Erin Golden, reported that there are currently 97 individuals on the Community Corrections program. She said that the program has saved the county \$1,228,782.25 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year.

911/OEM Director, Cindy Hart reported that since January 1, 2016 to April 1, 2016 the 911 center has taken 7,512 calls to 911.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Taylor announced that there will be a special meeting held on Tuesday April 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to Lay the Levy Rate for FY 2016/2017. This is required to be done every year on the third Tuesday in April.

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman announced that the last day to make any changes on your voters registration record for the May 10, 2016 primary election is April 19, 2016. She also announced that Early Voting will begin on April 27, 2016 and run through May 7, 2016 and it will be held in the County Commission meeting room at the Annex.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER SIGNAGE OF JOINT PROCLAMATION WITH MAYOR OF BEVERLY AND MAYOR OF ELKINS TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 5TH AS NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE (See attached copy of proclamation)

Logan Smith, along with several other people, appeared before the Commission. Mr. Smith said he wanted to thank everyone, the Commission and the Mayors and all of the national service members that were there. He said there are a lot of great programs in Randolph County serving in many different capacities. He went over some of the programs. They provide over 65,000 national service hours in the county. Mr. Smith said the Mayors of Mill Creek, Beverly and Elkins have all signed on to recognize April 5th as National Service Recognition Day. He said if anyone knows a national service member and they want to shake their hand and give them a hug or a hot meal they will appreciate it. Commissioner Johns said she would like to thank all of them and she really appreciates the service that they do. Commissioner See said he feels the same. Commissioner Taylor read a proclamation out loud. Commissioner Taylor said this is a tremendous benefit to the non-profit and governmental agencies here in Randolph County and throughout the Region. Commissioner See moved to approve the signing of the joint proclamation recognizing April 5th as national service recognition day.
All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AIRPORT IN REGARDS TO THEIR EXPANSION PROJECT

Ron Watson, President of the Harrison County Commission appeared before the Commission. He said he was there as President of the Benedum Airport Authority. He said they are requesting a letter of support from the Randolph County Commission in their efforts to secure a major commercial airline. He said the second thing they would like for them to consider is a monetary pledge when they get their final carryover in June or July. This is only a pledge, not real dollars. He said it is their airport also. They changed the name of the airport several years ago to the North Central Regional Airport. He said they have approximately 1,800 jobs at the airport and there are people employed there from Randolph County. They are working with American Airlines at this time to try to get them to come. Mr. Watson said they want to do direct flights to Charlotte. He said the application is due by May 3rd and then it would be awarded in October. If they are not successful they would have to wait another two years. Several counties have already joined in with letters of support and with consideration of a pledge during the carryovers have been Preston County, Doddridge County, Upshur County, Taylor County and Lewis County. Commissioner Taylor said he doesn't have a problem with doing a letter of support at this time.

Commissioner Johns moved to do a letter of support for the North Central Regional Airport Authority for their expansion project and to review the financial commitment in July.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM DAVIS HEALTH FOUNDATION
FOR THE EMERGENCY ROOM UPGRADES

Mike Bell and Jeannie Raines appeared before the Commission. Mr. Bell thanked the Commission for the opportunity to ask for their consideration of funding to the Davis Medical Center transforming care together initiative. He said last year alone more than 30,000 people visited the Davis Medical Center emergency room. In March 2016 they were averaging 90-100 visitors a day. He said 95% of the patients receive care there and are not transferred out to another hospital. He said it is just too small for the demand and it totally lacks privacy. This will be a 2 ½ million dollar investment to upgrade the emergency room. They would use local contractors to do the work. Mr. Bell showed a brief video at this time. He said it would be ½ million dollars in new equipment and they would make it a 21 bed facility instead of 15 beds that they have now. They already have one million dollars donated. The employees of the hospital have donated \$150,000.00 out of their own pockets. This will be a 9-12 month process and they hope to begin this summer. Commissioner Taylor said he is impressed by the level of commitment by members of the community and Davis Medical Center staff. He said he strongly believes it is very critical to have a facility close by, not 65 miles away, when there is an emergency. He said it is a great project but they are not ready to make a decision today. Their next meeting is April 21st and they may be able to make a decision by then.

CONSIDER FUNDING REQUEST FOR SPECIAL PROJECT AT SCOTT'S FORD
ROAD FOR A RIVER DOCK THAT WILL BE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

Brenda Dasher and Cliff Schoonover appeared before the Commission. Ms. Dasher said she works at the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living. She said the agency works directly with individuals with disabilities. She said they try to make them be productive community members, taking them to schools etc. She said the Americans with Disabilities Law went into effect in 1993, which means that any business that is remodeled after 1993 should be compliant with ADA so that anybody can get into the business or recreational area that they want to. She said her son is in a wheelchair and she knows how hard it is to go places. She said Cliff Schoonover is the contractor that she works with. There is a dock on Scott Ford Road that they are trying to make handicap accessible and they have been working with the DNR and Lynn Phillips from the Governor's Office on this project. She gave the Commission a picture of the project. It is like a conveyor belt that puts you into the water. Some magazines are interested in coming to see it also. Mr. Schoonover said he would like to do it in stages. He would like to have more parking, pave the road and do whatever they can to make it more handicapped accessible. Commissioner Taylor said this would be a specialized piece of equipment. Commissioner Johns said it sounds like a very good idea. Commissioner See said it would be a benefit to Randolph County. Commissioner Taylor said they would like to look over everything and take it under advisement right now and asked if they could come back to the next meeting on April 21st.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM MINGO DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO FERC TO REVISIT THE FIRST ROUTE OF THE ACP PIPELINE THROUGH THE FOREST, THE ONE WHICH WOULD AFFECT RANDOLPH COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS THE LEAST (See attached copy)

Sylvester Fretwell and Doug Cooper appeared before the Commission. Mr. Fretwell said some of the landowners from the Mingo Flats area previously spoke with the Commission regarding their opposition to the recently proposed new route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He gave each Commissioner a copy of the comments they made up and then he read them out loud. He said they are asking for a scoping meeting and a Resolution. Mr. Cooper said one year ago he came to the Commission and was in favor of the pipeline but now it is a public safety thing. He said this high pressure pipeline is going within 100 feet of a house. Commissioners See and Johns both said they agree that it should go back to the original route. Commissioner Taylor recognized Lynn Phillips from the Governor's Office in the audience and asked Mr. Phillips to let the Governor and others in Charleston know about these concerns. Commissioner Taylor said this has raised some serious concerns in his mind about the Mingo historical area. Commissioner Johns moved to send a letter and an e-mail to FERC and also to our congressional and state delegation expressing our concerns as a Commission, on behalf of our constituents of southern Randolph County.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ELKINS DEPOT WELCOM CENTER TO GIVE YEARLY OVERVIEW OF FY 2015/2016 BUDGET AND TO REQUEST FUNDING FOR BUDGET YEAR 2016/2017

Ann Beardslee appeared before the Commission. She said the Elkins Depot Welcome Center opened April 6, 2006. They will be celebrating their 10th year and the County Commission has played a major role in it. It has not been an easy road financially because they are a non-profit organization. She said last year there were 42,090 people that came through the depot. She said it is growing every day and their goal is to keep people in our area once they are here. She said the 8th annual Ramps and Rails Festival is scheduled for April 30th and they are expecting 1,500 to 2,000 people to come. She said they are also doing a Christmas light campaign this year. Commissioner Taylor said the numbers speak for themselves. He said they have already included the Elkins Depot Welcome Center in the budget for next year at the same level as last year. He said the crowd that comes in at Christmas time is tremendous. The Polar Express is amazing, he said.

CONSIDER THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO THE RANDOLPH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Commissioner See moved to approve the re-appointment of Jeff Wood to the Randolph County Board of Health. His term began on January 1, 2016 and will end on December 31, 2020.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

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

Consuella K. Whiteman

Robert H. Baker

Calvin James Hartman

Janice J. Newhouse

Lula Phares

Ricky L. Haden, Jr.

Richard L. Byrd, Jr.

Oliver Williams, Jr.

Edna Mae Lee

Willetta Hinkle

Onie May Louk

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISION: (See attached copy)

Commissioner Johns moved to approve the one budget revision, 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: _____