

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 4th day of February, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Scott

Commissioner David Kesling said he respects everybody's right to public comment but from his standpoint he will not tolerate foul language or disrespecting any individual during public comment. He said he would like to set some ground rules that there will be no foul language or disrespecting of any individual.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Debias appeared before the Commission. He said he believes those are good ground rules but too bad they can't be followed when they are dealing with the public. Commissioner Kesling said that is being addressed during the meeting under public comment and he would like for everyone to follow those rules. He said he deals with what goes on in here not out in the public. Mr. Debias said the reason he was there was to discuss dash cams for the police. He said the deputies need them. He said Deputy Bryan Talkington came to his house to arrest him and was very disrespectful to him and his wife. He said if this officer had a body cam then he would have evidence to prove it. He said he filed a complaint with former Sheriff Mark Brady but he didn't even investigate anything. Mr. Debias said they made him plead guilty to something he didn't deserve. He said the cops get away with a lot of stuff. He said people act like cops are the greatest people in the world but they aren't. He said his record is ruined.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting that was held on January 22, 2021, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on January 21, 2021, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Rhett Dusenberry from Congressman Alex Mooney's Office was present and said the Congressman sends his best and is always willing to do letters of support for the Commission for any grants they are seeking.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Scott announced that next meeting of the County Commission will be February 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Kesling thanked Sheriff Elbon and his deputies for all they do.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FOR EHS PROJECT SAFE GRADUATION PARTY (See letter attached)

Angie Goff from GFWC Junior Woman's Club appeared before the Commission. She said this party is something they have done for many years. She said last year they held it at the Phil Gainer Community Center because it was bigger and they could spread out more due to COVID. She said they gave \$100.00 pre paid visa cards as gifts. She said they are hoping to be able to have it there again but not sure if they can due to COVID. She said if they can't have it in person they would still give out the gift cards. She said any help would be appreciated. Commissioner See said he appreciates what they do. Commissioner See moved to donate \$2,000.00 out of Courthouse Contractual funds to the GFWC Junior Woman's Club for EHS Project Safe Graduation. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM ELKINS DEPOT WELCOME CENTER CVB

Anne Beardslee, Tara Landavere and Morgan Gloop appeared before the Commission. They did a power point presentation showing everything they did in 2020. Ms. Landavere said COVID changed the way people travel and people are looking for outdoor recreation. She said they increased their on line presence and social media sites. Ms. Gloop said they submitted a grant to get a new camera for pictures instead of using an Iphone. Ms. Beardslee said they have printed a new travel guide and they are following all CDC guidelines. She thanked the Commission for their continued support and gave them a copy of their annual report.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK REGARDING SENIORITY PAY (See copy attached)

Commissioner Scott said the Commission has been discussing what to do about the law enforcement seniority pay. He said they have talked to other counties and found that the counties are given broad leverage. He said for the last several years the deputies have been receiving \$100.00 a year for seniority pay and the Commission would like to

continue to do that. He said they just need to put it in writing in the employee handbook. He said regular county employees will continue to get \$60.00 per year and Deputies will continue to get \$100.00 a year. He said they deserve it as they put their lives on the line every day. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the amendment to the employee handbook to reflect the \$100.00 seniority pay for deputies.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE RANDOLPH COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Scott said there has been a resignation of a board member at the Randolph County Housing Authority. Commissioner See moved to appoint Mike Bell to fill the unexpired term of Leesa Harris on the Randolph County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The term will begin today, February 4, 2021, and end January 31, 2022.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER SIGNING REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION FOR COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Commissioner Scott said this is regarding the roof project on the jail. He said several things have happened to delay getting the project done. He said COVID-19, weather and problems with some of the tiles being concreted down have caused issues. He said they are requesting a 30 day extension on the grant to get the roof done. Commissioner See moved to approve signing a request for a 30 day time extension on the grant for the jail roof repairs.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE FOR HARMAN BRIDGE REPAIRS

Commissioner Scott said the Commission has been working with the Tygart Valley Conservation District and VOAD on two bridges in Harman that were destroyed by flooding. He said the Blizzard Gate Bridge needs to be replaced. He said in order to do that they need a landowner's grant of authority for work to be done. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve authorizing the signature for the Harman Bridge repairs as requested.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the 8 final settlements/annual accountings as submitted on the following estates:

Albonna Sue Howbert

Nancy Lee Iseli

Carroll Eugene Kidd

Joseph Paul Lowther

Eleanor Jane Tacy

Steven Fay Vance

Josephine Eleanor Vanscoy

Junior C. Wegman

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

(See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve an In house budget revision in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Courthouse Contractual to County Commission Audit fees.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY /ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve two orders from the Unsafe Buildings Commission, as submitted. These are case#1932 and case#2022.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the 160 fire fee adjustments, as submitted.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner Kesling 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: _____



2021 EHS Project Safe Graduation Party
c/o GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Elkins
PO Box 505
Elkins, WV 26241
email: chsprojectsafegraduation@yahoo.com

January 1, 2021

Dear Elkins/Randolph County Area Organizations and Businesses:

In 1984, a tragic accident killed an Elkins High School graduate only hours after his graduation. In 1985, an all night, supervised graduation party was started to ensure that this never happened again...

For many years, the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Elkins, Inc. has carried on the tradition of the all night graduation party, which will be held at the First United Methodist Church gym. The goal of the party is to give all graduates a safe, but fun way to spend the night of their graduation. This party depends solely on the donations of local organizations, churches, and businesses. This marks the 36th Anniversary of the EHS Project Safe Graduation Party and plans are already in motion to make this year's event the biggest and best ever! We have found that enjoyable entertainment and quality prizes are the best incentives for the seniors to come and stay at the party. We have been very successful with this party in the past, as every graduating senior left the event with a prize. Based on that information and the fact that we have planned more great entertainment, we expect record participation this year!

Graduation has been set for Friday, May 21, 2021 and any help that you could give us would be appreciated. We do realize and take into account the state of the economy and are making every effort to plan this party accordingly. If your organization could make a monetary donation, hold a fundraiser which would benefit the party (such as a bake sale, raffle, etc.), donate door prizes or food, or simply "pass the hat" at your meetings, it would give us a great start in our efforts to fund the party. We would gladly come to pick up your donation, or you could simply mail it to the EHS Annual Graduation Party c/o Angie Goff at PO Box 505 Elkins, WV 26241. Due to banking policies, all checks must be made payable to EHS Annual Graduation Party.

If the COVID 19 virus plays havoc on graduation again, we will still get the seniors that register for the party a gift like we did with the 2020 seniors. Our plan is to get the registering seniors Walmart gift cards along with a gift from the Junior Woman's Club if we cannot have the party. If we are allowed to have the party for them, then the traditional prizes will be bought for them.

This party is a huge undertaking for an organization of 10 young women. However, it is an event that the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Elkins is determined to continue. With that being said, we are looking to not only make this a Junior Woman's event, but make it a community event by including the local Fire Departments, the EHS Alumni Association, the local and state police departments, and the local emergency squad, just to name a few. Many of our members have attended as students over the years, and it is a project that is very near and dear to our hearts. We would happily answer any questions which you may have, as this project means so much to our club and our community. Thank you in advance for your time, support, and kindness.

Sincerely,
Angie Goff
(304)636-5626 home or (304)614-7726 cell
2021 EHS Project Safe Graduation Chairwoman & GFWC Junior Woman's Club President

POLICY 4.4

SENIORITY PAY

Employees of Randolph County shall receive a monthly bonus on their paycheck based on their years of service with the County. After being employed with the County for one (1) year, Randolph County employees, excluding deputy sheriffs, shall receive Five Dollars (\$5.00) a month added on to their paycheck. That amount increases by Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each year of service with the County. Example: If you have worked for the County for five (5) years you would receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month added on to your paycheck.

After being employed with the county for one (1) year, Randolph County Deputy Sheriffs shall receive Eight Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$8.33) a month added to their paycheck. That amount increases by Eight Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (\$8.33) for each year of service with the County. Example: If you have worked with the county for five (5) years you would receive forty-one dollars and sixty-five cents (\$41.65) per month added to your paycheck.

If an employee separates employment with Randolph County and is rehired within one (1) year, they shall be reinstated to their previous level of seniority pay.

