

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 26th day of March, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Scott

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

APPROVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022

Commissioner Scott said this was a very challenging budget year as this was the first time in a long time they saw a decrease in property tax revenue. He said the reason behind that was that one of the utility companies was bought out by another company and those utilities were revalued and when they revalued them Randolph County took a 74 million dollar reduction in value of those utilities. He said this meant a reduction of about \$440,000.00 in revenue from that particular company. He said they were able to make up some of that through just normal increases but they still are looking at the revenue estimates for property taxes for this coming fiscal year being down \$350,460.00. He said as a result they went through and looked at all of their spending and asked the elected officials and department heads to make a budget as close to revenue neutral as possible and the elected officials stepped up and have done that. He said they have got less approval in spending this year, not able to approve a pay raise this year as they have generally done in the past, however they are going to give full time employees a \$2,000.00 stipend for this year and part time employees will receive a \$1,000.00 stipend. He said although they aren't able to do any increase in payroll that will continue year after year they do have enough money from the Cares Act received to honor the employees during a very difficult year during this pandemic. He said they were also able to reduce the budgets of the County Commission courthouse budget, the election budget, economic development and other buildings. He said they were able to make some reductions that made up the difference in what they anticipate in lost revenue. He said they also looked at the possibility that long term there may be some more reductions in property taxes due to citizens having hardships beyond this, such as if they lose their unemployment benefits they may not be able to pay their property taxes. He said they considered all of that in the figuring of the budget. He said after all that is said and done they have a budget of \$10,005,502.00.

Commissioner Kesling said when the Assessor came to them about this she said it was unprecedented the amount she seen as she has not seen that large of an amount of reduction since she has been the Assessor. He said she also told them that it is not just for this year but years going forward, so they took that in consideration in every line and they cut their budget and the courthouse budget and several things to try to bring it in so where they could still operate without that extra \$300,000.00 every year going forward.

Commissioner Scott said they are getting Cares Act funding but they can't include that in the budget for every year going forward. He said they can use it for short term projects and short term expenditures but they can't believe that is going to continue to happen every single year. Commissioner See said he would like to thank all the elected officials for keeping their budgets down as low as they could and to the other two Commissioners for their work on this and their Administrative Assistant for all the work she has done too. He said it's been a very busy year and he believes this is a very fiscally responsible budget. Commissioner Scott said they did not approve any new hires or new positions this year. He said they only increases in pay would be promotions and the only new hires will be to fill already existing positions. Commissioner Kesling said they also want to thank the County employees for what they went through this past year and they did what they could for them by giving them the stipend.

Commissioner See moved to approve the budget for fiscal year 2021/2022, as submitted.  
All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

Commissioner See moved to adjourn the meeting.  
All yes – Motion passed unanimously

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