

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a special meeting of the County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at Camp Pioneer in Beverly, WV on the 28th day of September, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission, Chris Siler and Randolph County Assessor Phyllis Yokum

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Siler

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

TOWN HALL MEETING

Informational Presentation from WV Association of Counties

Jonathan Adler was present and discussed Amendment 2 which will be on the ballot in November. He thanked Assessor Yokum for her hard work on this issue. He said they are not in support of this Amendment because it will take 550 million dollars away from the Counties. He said this will give the legislature the authority to use it for other priorities. He said how are they going to fill the hole left in the Counties budgets? He said the big businesses will benefit but not the regular people. He said everyone will have to go to Charleston to ask for money and compete with State agencies. He said the Governor is also against this and has been going around the State speaking about it. He said this will create big government and we don't want that. He said we need our local government and don't need Charleston to tell us what to do.

Informational Presentation from WV Center on Budget & Policy

Seth DiStefano was present and said he is a Randolph County native who lives in Charleston now. He said he wants people to know what they are voting on. He gave a power point presentation and showed charts and graphs of the 2021 tax year. He said this is really a big business tax cut and not for the average person. The plan is based on too much growth for West Virginia and also the pandemic relief money to make up for all this revenue lost by the counties. He said it was not wise of the legislature to look at our figures while Covid was going on. He said Ohio tried it and it didn't work. He said this is guaranteed to hurt our communities.

Questions and General Discussion

Assessor Phyllis Yokum read the words on the ballot out loud and said if it passes it just gives the authority to the legislature to do away with the taxes. It doesn't automatically happen.

Cody Thompson spoke about the Hope scholarship and the transportation costs in the County which would both be affected by this.

Laura Ward from the Randolph County Senior Center said this can't happen as it will destroy senior services and the transit program. She said they can't do it without local help.

Assessor Yokum provided charts and figures and said it will cost Randolph County approximately \$3,739,000.00.

Discussion followed

Adjourn the meeting:

Commissioner Siler adjourned the meeting.

Attest: _____