

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 16th day of February, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President David Kesling and Commissioner Chris Siler.  
Commissioner Chris See was absent.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on February 2, 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 95 participants on the program and the program has saved the County \$887,607.00 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year. (See copy attached)

Rhett Dusenberry from Congressman Mooney's Office was present and introduced Mike who is a new addition to their staff. He said they are going to do a letter of support for Community Corrections to help with getting a grant and they are always ready to help the County, if needed.

Sheriff Elbon said his Deputies have been being the Dog Warden until the County Commission hires a new one. He said they have been really active and get calls around the clock. He said they are trying to assist as much as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kesling said the Commissioners received a letter from a former resident of Elkins agreeing with the Commission regarding the TIF. (See copy attached)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next regular meeting will be held on Thursday March 2, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. He also announced that the Courthouse Complex will be closed on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> for President's Day. He also announced that Budget meetings will be coming up and all elected officials/department heads are required to have their budgets turned into the Commission by March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

##### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM WHITMER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (See copy attached)

Captain Johnathan Turner of the Whitmer Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the Commission. He said they are currently in the process of building a new fire station in Whitmer. He said so far the process is going very smoothly and the outer shell of the building has been assembled. He said one issue arose that they were not aware of which is they have to have an automatic fire suppression system along with an automatic fire alarm system. The total cost is \$58,850.00. He said they are asking the Commission to fund this expense because if they have to take on this expense it will delay the completion of the building until more funds are raised. He said this building will also be used as a warming shelter for citizens during natural disaster incidents. Commissioner Kesling asked how long until this is needed? Mr. Turner said anytime now they could get it. Commissioner Kesling asked if they looked into getting grants to help pay for this? Peggy Ross said she has researched grants for them and there is none available at this moment. She suggested when the fire departments are looking for grants to put their money into construction costs and use the grants for equipment. She said grants very rarely cover construction. Commissioner Siler said it's hard to do fundraisers in such a small community. Commissioner Kesling said they would like to talk to Commissioner See and they would have a decision at the next meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

##### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FOR COUNTRY ROADS TRANSIT

Laura Ward appeared before the Commission on behalf of Country Roads Transit. She said for Fiscal Year 2022 and so far in 2023 they have seen an increase in riders. She said they gave 14,560 rides in FY 2022. She said not all County residents have transportation to get groceries, go to doctor's appointments and so forth. She said Country Roads Transit is very important to them. It is the only transit available in the County. She talked about some of the frequent riders and how much they depend on transit. She invited the Commissioners to come take a ride with them. She said the County Commission has been partners with them since 2016 and she hopes they will continue to support Country Roads Transit. Commissioner Kesling said this is something they budget for every year and they will continue to do so.

##### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM INTERACT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM (See copy attached)

Lisa Martin appeared before the Commission on behalf of Interact Children's Museum. She said they started this mobile museum in 2019 and they go to every school in the County. She said they have a storage unit at U-Haul where they store the exhibits and pack them in and out when they have an event. She said they are looking for a permanent home close to downtown Elkins. She said the exhibits are funded by grants and donations. She showed a power point presentation of some of the exhibits and said they children love them. She said they have reached over 1,300 children but they are not reaching the families. She said they decided outdoor events would be good. She said they have scheduled three outdoor events which will be held at Coalton, Homestead Community Center and in Elkins. She said they need to purchase outdoor exhibits as they don't have any now. She said currently all they have is



indoor exhibits. She said they are short \$2,500.00 and are asking the Commission to help with funding for that. Commissioner Kesling asked if they had asked the City of Elkins for any funding? Ms. Martin said no not as of this time. Commissioner Kesling said they would help with funding for the Coalton and Homestead Community Center events in the amount of \$1667.00. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Interact Children's Museum in the amount of \$1667.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FOR TYGARTS VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION LOCK IN (See copy attached)

Jacob Currence appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Tygart Valley Lions Club. He had along with him two students from Tygarts Valley High School. He thanked the Commission for supporting this event for the past several years. He said they want a safe place for graduating students to go to and stay all night on graduation night. He said the event will be held at the YMCA and they will have food and games etc. He said the Commission is welcome to come. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request in the amount of \$2,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM COALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling read a letter out loud from the Coalton Fire Department Chief, Justin George. The letter states that they need to purchase 4 MSA G1 SCBA to equipment their Fire Engine. They received a quote from Johnson's fire equipment, which is the sole provider for MSA's in this area. The quote is for \$7,450 each. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Coalton Fire Department in the amount of \$14,900.00, which would cover the cost of 2 of these pieces of equipment, and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FOR PRO OFFICERS

PRO Officers Rocky Hebb and Ethan Carr appeared before the Commission. Officer Hebb said Officer Pennington is sorry he couldn't attend today but he had to take one of his children to the doctor. He said Thank You to the Commission for their support of this program. He said their support has been invaluable and this program has been a huge success in Randolph County. He said Officer Carr has been a tremendous asset and has been on the job now for one month at Elkins High School. Officer Hebb went over some of the things they have been doing and some events that are coming up. He said they have had active shooter classes in all 13 schools in the County. He said they go back and conduct code red drills afterward and everyone is doing great with those. He said they have also been doing hunter safety courses and helped with driver's education classes at the schools. He said they work with the students on forensic science, criminal justice, social media and drug prevention. He said they are trying to show the students that they are not the enemy. He said they have basketball games with the deputies playing basketball. He said they want to show the kids who all of the deputies with the Sheriff's Department are not just the PRO Officers. He said they would like to make up baseball cards

with the picture of the Deputy on it along with their hobbies etc. He said he takes his guitar to the schools and has mini concerts with the kids. He said they have HOFNOD coming up that they will also be involved in. Officer Carr thanked the Commission for supporting this. He said he has been busy but it is extremely rewarding. He said in his first month he has been going into classes and helping teach. Officer Hebb said in his humble opinion Danny and Ethan are two of the best PRO Officers around. Commissioner Siler said they are doing a good job and to keep it up. Sheriff Elbon said they are also working on a couple of pretty intense cases. Commissioner Kesling said he wanted to remind everyone that the Randolph County Board of Education partners with the County Commission to do this and they should get the credit too, not only the Commission. He asked if they had done a presentation like this to the Board of Education. Officer Hebb said yes they have and they Thanked them for their support as well.

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIPS FOR GIRLS STATE (See copy attached)

Commissioner Siler read a letter out loud from Carol Erickson on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #29. The letter states that they would like to send at least 12 young women from our County to the American Legion Rhododendron Girls State at Davis and Elkins College. This is a one week course and the cost is \$300.00 each. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request in the amount of \$900.00, which would fund 3 participants, and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR REGION VII MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Commissioner Kesling said Shane Whitehair, Executive Director of Region VII Planning and Development Council , reached out to the Commission about this. He said they are asking for each of the 7 counties in their region to contribute \$1,500.00 to be used to match their federal planning grant to complete their 5 year update. This used to be funded by the State but is no longer funded by them so that is why they are asking the Counties to do this. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Region VII in the amount of \$1,500.00 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ROAD NAME CHANGE

Sandy Bibey from the OEM/911 Office appeared before the Commission. She said she was just made the new flood plain manager and is trying to catch up on things. She said they received a letter from Jarod Phillips asking for a road name change. This is to honor his grandfather. The family members on the road signed the application and he got verbal permission from the other people on the road. She said she spoke with the Department of Highways and there is no issue with them. Mr. Phillips would have to pay for the sign which he agreed to do. He would like it changed from Lamb Road to Elsie Lane. It is a dead end road located in Ellamore. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the road name change from Lamb Road to Elsie Lane as requested by Mr. Phillips. All yes – Motion passed unanimously



CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HIRE OF HUMANE OFFICER (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said they held interviews for the Humane Officer position and chose Ron Gooden. The commissioners all felt he was the best candidate for the position. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Ron Gooden as the Randolph County Humane Officer. This will be a full time benefited position with a starting pay of \$15.14 per hour and he will be placed on a 90 day probationary period. His starting date will be February 27, 2023. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HIRE FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (See letter attached)

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She said she had an employee resign from her office and they advertised for the position and conducted interviews. She said she would like to hire Zachary Judy as a full time DRC Officer. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Zachary Judy as a full time DRC Officer in the North Central Community Corrections Office with a starting date of February 21, 2023. The starting wage is to be \$14.42 per hour with full benefits and he will be placed on a 90 day probationary period. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PITNEY BOWES

Commissioner Kesling said this is a lease agreement for a new postage machine for the James F. Cain Court house Annex building at the rate of \$418.02 per month. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the lease agreement, as presented and that is to be taken from Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CED GRANT BID OPENING

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this is the second time they have requested bids and she still has not received any bids on this grant. She said at this point she will contact the DEP and see what they want her to do.

RA GRANT BID OPENING

Peggy Ross said this item is for the next meeting. She inadvertently put it on for this time. Commissioner Siler moved to table this item until the next meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO CLOSE OLD ESTATES PURSUANT TO HOUSE BILL 2746

Randolph County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman presented a list of old estates to the Commission for closure. She said that notice was mailed out to all the personal representative and creditors on these estates as well as a legal ad in the newspaper. These are old estates that have had no activity for three years and can be closed by the County Commission per House Bill 2746. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the closing of old estates as presented by the County Clerk. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO RANDOLPH COUNTY UNSAFE BUILDINGS AND LAND ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (See copy attached)

Commissioner Siler said two people resigned from this agency and they would like to appoint Ray LaMora, III and J. W. Jones to fill those unexpired terms. Commissioner Siler moved to appoint Ray LaMora, III and J. W. Jones to fill the unexpired member at large positions beginning today and ending on August 31, 2023. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (5) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Judith Ann Arbogast

Dora June Carvalho

Doris Jean Luzader

Dorman Steven Phillips

Lonnie Neal Ramsey

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (See copies attached)

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In House Budget Revision in the amount of \$675.00 for the Sheriff's Office to increase FED CI Equipment line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the Community Development line. This is a correction as the money was placed in the wrong line.

Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes - Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$12,000.00 from Courthouse Contractual to LE Auto Maintenance. Commissioner Kesling 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 Siler moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

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