

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 28, 2016

COURTHOUSE

FAYETTEVILLE, WV 25840

MEMBERS Present: Matthew D. Wender, John H. Lopez, Denise A. Scalph

The Fayette County Commission met in a regular session on this 28th day of January, 2016.

President Wender convened the 2016 session of the Board of Equalization and Review at 9:04 a.m.

No one was present with a request for the Board.

The Board will reconvene if someone brings a case forward.

The Board recessed as the Board of Equalization and Review until February 2nd.

President Wender called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Eddie Young, Assessor, presented 4 refunds for Rebecca Satterfield \$26.82 and \$335.74; CGP Development Company Inc. \$397.22; and Landquest \$80.00 which was already processed.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the refund that had been previously processed. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve the other 3 refunds. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve 2nd half payroll and release on the 29th. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Debbie Berry, County Administrator, presented a refund request presented by Mr. Young, due to a clerical error, to Thomas and Tammy Koontz for \$6,812.82.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the refund due to a clerical error from 2011 to 2015. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the January 12th minutes. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve vouchers and invoices and release checks today. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Kevin Walker, OEM director, appeared to recommend a person for the planner position. There were 7 applicants and the panel also looked at applicants for the Assistant Resource Coordinator position. 8 were given interviews.

Mr. Walker reviewed the interview process and recommended hiring Tiffany Cottell. He recommended that over the next year, she complete 6 training classes in each 3 month period, receiving a pay raise after each trimester until she reaches \$30,000.00.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the recommendation to hire Tiffany Cottell. Starting salary will be \$25,000.00 following the probationary schedule suggested. Ms. Cottell will start on February 2, 2016. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Kelly Jo Drey, Resource Coordinator, appeared to discuss a support letter for a ground water study. Ms. Drey has been working with Doug Chamber with USGS to complete a ground water study. The grant is for \$260,000.00. There are 3 partners: USGS, Fayette County Commission and the National Parks Service. The New River area, Gauley area and Bluestone area. USGS will test the quality of the water.

USGS gave the Fayette County Commission an option to test the quality of water with a 1:1 grant. The Commission would be required

to commit \$15,000.00 for each 3 years. Ms. Drey read the support letter. President Wender stated the quality of water is the main concern.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve and sign the support letter. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

President Wender requested that all other county commissions involved also write support letters. Ms. Drey will work with John Tuggle, Region IV Planning & Development, to contact the other commissions.

Dan Bickerton, West Virginia American Water (WVAW), appeared to discuss the New River Water Treatment Plan project. WVAW is expanding their area by 9 or 10 acres so more land application residuals can be included. The Commission owns the facility and WVAW wanted to keep them informed. President Wender asked if any of the plans need to go before the Planning Commission and requested that Ms. Berry contact Tim Richardson and keep him up to date.

Jonathon Grose, Mayor of Gauley Bridge, appeared to update the Commission about the town of Gauley Bridge. The discussion started with the old Gauley Bridge High School Football Field area. The town owns this area and wants to renovate it. If the WVU Tech football field falls through for Valley, this would be their home field. Mr. Grose wants to show the community that Gauley Bridge is there for them.

Mayor Grose is having an assessment conducted on the Miller House across from Gino's to see what needs to be done. They are in the process of re-opening the travel center across from Sunoco. President Wender suggested that Mayor Grose contact the Tamarack Foundation.

Mayor Grose suggested to the Commission renovating Hawks Nest Golf Course into a water park. President Wender suggested Mayor Grose speak with Brookfield, the owner of the golf course land, to see if they have any interest in that project.

President Wender stated how pleased the Commission is to have an energetic mayor who wants to make a piece of Fayette County a better place. Mayor Grose mentioned he is also working to have a grocery store located back in city limits.

Ms. Berry presented an order designating boards for the Presidential election. Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve and sign the order. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented a letter for approval and signature of President Wender to Steven Cole, WV Department of Transportation concerning a road in the community of Midway, outside of Oak Hill that has poor drainage and large, deep potholes. Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve the order and authorize President Wender to sign. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented another letter to Mr. Cole for approval and signatures of the Commission requesting the installation of signage stating "SHARE THE ROAD" for public safety along an advertised Scenic Byway/Backway for: Entrance to the WV Turnpike to Pax, Mossy and Mahan; Intervals along Paint Creek Road between Pax and Mossy; Intervals along Paint Creek Road between Mossy and Mahan. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve and sign the letter to Mr. Cole. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

President Wender requested that a copy be sent to Midway resident, Bessie Thomas.

Ms. Berry presented a budget revision which was tabled until the budget work session on February 2nd.

Adam Hodges appeared to discuss the Meadow River Rail Trail project agreement. There is no additional cost with this agreement. No signatures were needed; simply informational. Doug Hylton will appear for signatures once completed.

Ms. Berry presented a Fayette County Fire Levy Pumper Replacement Agreement for Gauley River Volunteer Fire Department for approval and signatures. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve and sign the agreement. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented a Fayette County Fire Levy Pumper Replacement Agreement for the City of Oak Hill Fire Department for approval and signatures. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve and sign the agreement. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented support letters for approval and signature of President Wender to local legislators thanking them for continued support of the mission of funding the CFIA and notifying them of what the Courthouse Facility Improvement Authority is doing with fees collected for Courthouse projects. President Wender suggested that a list of county funding be attached. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the letters. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented a letter to Melissa Garretson-Smith for completion of Phase 2 of the courthouse roof project. The Commission signed.

Ms. Berry presented a discussion on a request from John David to place Page-Kincaid PSD on the next round of funding from SCBG. President Wender suggested tabling until we have commitment for our

next in line, Armstrong Creek PSD. Ms. Berry will write a letter to John David.

Ms. Berry presented a Memorandum of Understanding for approval and signature of President Wender in accordance with the Violence Against Women Act to develop more comprehensive strategies addressing violence against women. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve and authorize President Wender to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented a letter for approval and signatures to Kevin Walker, James Bennett and staff thanking them for their hard work during Storm Jonas. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the letter. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Angela Gerald appeared to discuss Smithers and Ansted projects. A discussion was held about Smithers and what the city needs to do next. Mayor Hobbs will need to schedule a time to appear before the Commission.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve to pay for the asbestos inspection on the Larry Brown property. Commissioner Lopez seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Gerald will contact Mr. Brown to see if the gas tanks have been removed. Ms. Gerald will also contact Ansted and Empire Salvage to get the contract started.

Ms. Gerald then presented two quotes that need approval. Nancy Ratliff in Whipple \$3,750.00 and Heather Jones in Stover Hollow in Scarbro \$5,800.00. Commissioner Lopez motioned to approve the two quotes. Commissioner Scalph seconded. Unanimous decision.

Ms. Berry presented NRHS bills. President Wender stated we will pay this bill and send a letter stating what we have paid above and

beyond budget and the Commission hopes that they are being cognizant of their utility usage. Heat should not be set at such a high temperature. Commissioner Scalph motioned to approve the payment. President Wender seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Scalph motioned to enter into an executive session for legal consultation at 11:56 a.m. President Wender seconded. Unanimous decision.

The Commission exited the executive session at 2:00 p.m.

The Commission signed a letter to all employees regarding a courthouse mass notification system.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.