

AT A COUNTY COMMISSION HELD FOR PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AT THE COURTHOUSE, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: CARL HEVENER, ROGER DAHMER AND JIMMIE BENNETT

OTHERS PRESENT: ELISE WHITE, COUNTY CLERK; KAREN PITSENBARGER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; RICK GILLESPIE, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR (BY PHONE); DIANA MITCHELL, 911 DIRECTOR; SHERRY MONGOLD, SRRDA; DARREN TAYLOR, DIRECTOR, SOUTH BRANCH VALLEY REGIONAL DAY REPORT CENTER; STEPHEN SMOOT, THE PENDLETON TIMES; MIKE ALT; BROOKE ALT, 4-H EXTENSION AGENT; RICK PANNELL; PHOEBE PANNELL; ROSS PANNELL; MCKENNA HEDRICK; LYDIA HEVENER

Commissioner Dahmer led those present in prayer. Commissioner Hevener called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting of the County Commission, on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Dahmer read the National 4-H Week Proclamation. On motion of Commissioner Bennett, vote unanimous, the Commission proclaimed October 6 – 12, 2024 as National 4-H Week.

Maintenance:

Karen Pitsenbarger received a quote of \$1250 for a structural engineer with Allegheny Design Services to come on site and evaluate the possible cause and potential remedy for the damaged floor in the hallway of the courthouse.

Rick Gillespie, Emergency Services Coordinator, called in by phone to discuss with the Commission that the Sandy Ridge water extension project did not include any fire hydrants on the water line. Mr. Gillespie reached out to Cerrone and talked with them as to whether at least one fire hydrant could be supported. He indicated that one could be installed at the junction of Sandy Ridge Road and Moyers Gap Road to be used solely for filling the tankers at a cost of approximately \$4,500 - \$6,000. As the Public Service District (PSD) has no funds to cover the cost of this hydrant, Commissioner Dahmer made motion to provide funds from ARPA and General County up to \$6,000. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Gillespie also mentioned that Pocahontas County is strongly supporting our efforts to change the National Radio Quiet Zone (NRQZ). There are now eight counties supporting this issue.

Karen Pitsenbarger, County Administrator, reported that there is a meeting on October 10, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with the USDA to go over the letter of conditions for the Courthouse Annex.

She also stated that Lantz Construction will be meeting today with the Commission to discuss the handicap ramp. There will also be another meeting on October 3, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with both Omni Associates and Lantz Construction about the ramp.

Darren Taylor, Director of South Branch Valley Regional Day Report Center, updated the Commission on there endeavors. He stated they have been able to upgrade the part-time position in Franklin to a full-time position. He said they appreciate the use of the opioid funds given by the County to pay the annual rent for the office.

Mike Alt reminded everyone about the Mental Health Crisis class scheduled for November 15 – 17, 2024 at the Pendleton County Community Building (PCCB) from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. They currently have about 12 – 15 people signed up for the class.

Mr. Alt said the emergency calls in September had increased from the previous month.

On motion of Commission Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission approved the Region 8 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution.

Sherry Mongold, SRRDA manager, reported that the WVEDA was raising the LED grant to \$42,000 per County.

On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, they approved the FY2024 Financial Statements for the County.

The Assessor, Sandie Smith, has completed the Farm Census of 2024 and has satisfactorily complied with the requirements of the Farm Statistics Law. On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission approved her payment of 5% of base salary for the Farm Census compliance.

On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, letters of support will be sent to Senators Manchin, Capito and Representative Miller to keep the Upper Tract Post Office open.

There were no fiduciary appointments presented.

The following settlements of accounts were this day presented to the Commission and approved on motion of Commissioner Bennett, and unanimously confirmed:

Karen M. Murray, Executrix of the **Estate of Carroll W. Hedrick, deceased**; Affidavit and Waiver of Final Settlement

The following exonerations, on motion of Commissioner Bennett, vote unanimous, were approved:

John W. & Ronda L. Simmons, Franklin Corporation, \$587.49

ORDERED THAT THE FOLLOWING ALLOWANCES BE MADE PAYABLE OUT OF:

GENERAL COUNTY FUND:	Check Nos. 35210 – 35229	\$21,360.42
COAL SEVERANCE FUND:	Check No. 200259	\$299.04
MAGISTRATE COURT FUND:	Check No. 300228	\$24.00
911 FUND:	Check Nos. 4278– 4284	\$53,995.36
PARKS & RECREATION FUND:	Check Nos. 1486 - 1490	\$1,306.39

ORDERED THAT COMMISSION DO ADJOURN ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BENNETT, VOTE UNANIMOUS, UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024.

President