

A meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Steve W. Slonaker and Commissioners David R. Parker and Robert Q. Hott were present. President Slonaker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Reverend James Tyree of the Romney Ministerial Association offered prayer. The President then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the Commission meeting held on October 11, 2016 were presented. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Hott seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Slonaker and the other Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Morgan County had sent a letter expressing concerns caused by Morgan County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses into Hampshire County because of non-response by Hampshire County services. E911 Director Nathan Sions and Geographic Information Systems specialist Aaron Cox provided information and answered questions raised by the Commissioners. E 911 Operations Director Jerry Loudin arrived later in the discussion with additional information requested earlier by Commissioner Hott. The Commissioners asked the Clerk to send a letter to the Morgan County Commission suggesting a joint meeting to work on a solution.

A member of the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad had called the Clerk requesting that a "chase unit" vehicle be added to the insurance coverage. The Clerk directed this matter to the Commission for approval and it was agreed that a letter would be submitted. The letter was not received by Commission meeting time.

Sheriff Alkire submitted a personnel request by letter asking for approval of an annual pay increase of \$1,399.00 for each of the 17 established Sheriff's Deputy positions. The proposed pay increase is funded from a surplus in the Sheriff's approved salary budget caused by the loss of a very senior officer. Commissioner Hott moved to approve Sheriff Alkire's request and Commissioner Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Norma Wagoner, County Assessor, prepared and sent exonerations for consideration and approval. Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve the exonerations as presented. Commissioner Hott seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mr. Rick Harshbarger had asked the Clerk to present an addendum to the lease of the double wide at the old hospital which would identify the residents as the lessors from the County Commission. This revision is being requested to allow the program to remain in compliance with funding requirements imposed by the governmental entity which subsidizes this housing program. The Commission agreed that legal review would be beneficial and Commissioner Hott moved to table the consideration of the lease until the Prosecutor can give input. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Cindi Corbin, Executive Director of Hampshire County Pathways, Inc., presented information to the Commission regarding the two recovery efforts that they operate. Ms. Corbin talked about the Drop-In Center which she described as a resource broker, offering many weekly recovery meetings, and the Lighthouse Women's Recovery Residential Facility, which offers a phased program of recovery over an eighteen month period.

Attorney Jonathan Brill, Circuit Clerk Sonja Embrey and Assistant Prosecutor Helmick came to discuss the matter of legal representation in the Freedom of Information Act litigation as addressed at the last meeting. Commissioner Parker moved the Commission go into executive session under WV Code § 6-9A-4 due to the matter involving both personnel and unresolved litigation. Commissioner Hott seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Slonaker declared the meeting in closed session at 10:31 am.

President Slonaker declared the meeting back in regular session at 10:50 am and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Hott moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Craig Isaacs of Crews and Associates and Fred Williams of Steptoe and Johnson met with the Commission to discuss and give an update on the bond reissue which is nearing completion.

The Commission agreed that the November meeting will be held on the third Thursday in November which will be the 15th. The General Election will be held on the 8th which is the normal meeting day and the Commission will sit as Board of Canvas of the Election on Monday November 14, 2016. The December meeting date of the 20th (third Tuesday), was set in January when the annual calendar was established. The Commission decided to hold the annual Christmas dinner at noon on the 20th.

Mr. Grant Cunningham had sent a letter of resignation from the Planning Commission and the President commended Mr. Cunningham's service and help to both the County Commission and the Planning Commission.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Hott moved the invoices be paid as presented and Commissioner Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Clerk had been asked to have the President to sign the monthly grant reimbursement report for the South Branch Valley Day Report. The Sheriff normally signs the report but will be unavailable until after the due date. Commissioner Parker moved to authorize the President to sign the report in the absence of the Sheriff. Commissioner Hott seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Assessor had sent a list of suggested dates for the Board of Equalization and Review, including February 1, 2017, February 6, 2016, February 9, 2017 and February 15, 2017. Ms. Wagoner pointed out that WV Code § 11-3-24 states that the Board convene no later than February 1 and can sine die no earlier than the 15th, and the Board cannot adjourn for more than three business days not including Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Commissioner Hott moved to adopt the Assessor's suggested dates for the Board of Equalization and Review for 2017. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Hott moved to adjourn. Commissioner Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Slonaker declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.