

WEST VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Raleigh County Commission held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023 in the Commission Courtroom thereof:

CALL TO ORDER

President Tolliver called the meeting to Order.

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ROLL CALL

Present: David Tolliver, President  
Linda K. Epling, Commissioner  
Greg Duckworth, Commissioner  
Carl Roop, County Attorney  
Jay Quesenberry, County Administrator  
Billy Michael, Assistant County Administrator

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was opened with the invocation by Paul Chapman, Pastor of Beckley Praise Center of Beckley, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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EXONERATIONS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve 4 exonerations, 5 cancellations and 0 refunds for personal property; and 0 exonerations, 3 cancellations and 0 letters of correction for real property as presented today. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT A)

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**BUDGET REVISIONS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the \$7,500.00 inhouse budget revision of the County Clerk. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the inhouse budget revision of the County Clerk for Elections in the amount of \$45,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT C)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the \$10,000.00 inhouse budget revision of the Prosecuting Attorney in the amount of \$10,000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT D)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the \$20,000.00 inhouse budget revision of the Raleigh County Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT E)

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**OPEN BIDS FOR THE CLEAR FORK RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT**

The following 3 bids were received for the Clear Fork Rails to Trails Project:

Bid	Base	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5
Eastern Air Corp.	\$3,236,420	\$541,284	\$430,308	\$240,360	\$480,828	\$422,184
Alcon	2,244,009	370,302	228,567	141,447	293,815	244,457
Aspen Corp	1,611,000	336,000	163,000	249,000	149,000	163,000

The bids were referred to Billy Michael, Molly Williams, Eric Combs and Roger Kennedy for review and to make recommendation to this Commission.

Upon the recommendation of Billy Michael, Molly Williams, Eric Combs and Roger Kennedy, Commissioner Epling moved to approve the bid of Aspen Corporation in the amount of \$1,611,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT F)

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**NEW EMPLOYEE RALEIGH COUNTY ASSESSOR; CYNTHIA DAY DEPUTY ASSESSOR**

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the hiring of Cynthia Day as a Deputy Assessor in the Personal Property Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT G)

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**TAX INCREMENT FINANCING – RESOLUTION**

Roger Hunter of Bowles Rice stated the TIF District would pay for infrastructure on the “Briar Patch” and “Smith” properties. The “Tamarack” parcels are not included in this TIF District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to set the public hearing to consider the Resolution for the new TIF District for April 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth. The Resolution will authorize the County Administrator to work with Bowles Rice regarding the publication of the notice of the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

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**CONSIDERATION OF A \$20,000 GRANT TO THE WVU EXTENSION SERVICE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve a \$20,000 Grant to the WVU Extension Service. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously.

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**CONSIDERATION OF A \$10,000 GRANT TO JUST FOR KIDS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve a \$10,000 Grant to Just for Kids. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously.

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**APPROVAL OF ARPA GRANT PAYMENT REQUEST #1 FOR \$4550.00 FOR THE BRADLEY PSD WEST RALEIGH SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT**

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the West Raleigh Sewer Extension Project – Phase 1 Grant Requisition #1 in the amount of \$4,550.00. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT H)

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**APPROVAL OF FY 2024 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the West Virginia Community Corrections Grant Program Application for the Day Report Center for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$387,352.00. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT I)

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**APPROVAL OF SPAY/NEUTERING GRANT FOR \$10,000 FROM THE WV DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the Agreement with West Virginia Department of Agriculture for the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program in the amount of \$10,000.00. Vouchers will be distributed by the County Commission. The procedure will be performed at the Beckley Veterinary Hospital. In order to obtain a voucher, you must receive State assistance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT J)

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**CONSIDERATION OF \$2 MILLION ARPA GRANT FOR APPALACHIAN HEIGHTS WATER AND SEWER PROJECT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the \$2,000,000.00 ARPA Grant for the Appalachian Heights Water and Sewer Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously.

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**APPROVAL OF DRAWDOWN #8 FOR THE WHITE OAK WATER PROJECT FOR \$574,160.44**

Commissioner Epling moved to approve Drawdown #8 in the amount of \$574,160.44 for the White Oak Water Project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT K)

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**APPROVAL OF DRAWDOWN #10 FOR THE CLEAR FORK RAIL TRAIL PROJECT FOR \$426.58**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve Drawdown #10 in the amount of \$426.58 for the Clear Fork Rail Trail Project. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT L)

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**APPROVAL OF DRAWDOWN #11 FOR THE AML SOFTCOST REQUEST FOR \$4311.00 FOR THE CLEAR FORK RAIL TRAIL PROJECT**

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the AML Soft Cost Sub-Recipient Request for Payment #11 in the amount of \$4,311.00 for the Clear Fork Rail Trail Project. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT M)

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**APPROVAL OF GRANT AND AGREEMENT WITH SHARPE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the Animal Rescue Transport Grant and Agreement with Sharpe. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

None

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mabscott resident Juanita Ross came before the Commission for an update on the flooding of Big Whitestick Creek. Detlef Ulfers informed Ms. Ross that the Commission will meet with the Southern Conservation District. Mr. Ulfers has also contacted a Grant writer to assist with applying for a grant. County Attorney Roop questioned if Ms. Ross is paying the Storm Water Fee, then she should be able to get assistance from the Beckley Sanitary Board. Ms. Ross will check with the Beckley Sanitary Board.

Danielle Stewart, resident of Beckley, per phone conference, asked the Commission to hold informational sessions regarding the TIF District. He also questioned the ethics of giving a tax break to businesses associated with the Governor. Mr. Roop stated the Commission has received a letter from West Virginia State Ethics declaring there is no connection with the Governor. Mr. Roop stated this is not within the City of Beckley but the purview of the County Commission.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

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VACATION ORDERS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the Vacation Orders from February 21, 2023 to March 6, 2023, inclusive. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT N)

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FINAL ACCOUNTINGS AND WAIVERS OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

The following Final Accountings and Waivers of Final Settlement of the Fiduciary Supervisor were read into the minutes. (SEE EXHIBIT O)

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BILLS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

None

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ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Epling moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular scheduled meeting of this Commission on March 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Duckworth and motion carried.

s/s



David Tolliver  
President

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