

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 5, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: ALLISON TAYLOR, JOHN G. BRENEMEN, TOM LOUISOS

9:00

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Administrator Lanier.

Organization of the County for 2022

Commissioner Louisos moves to approve Commissioner Taylor as Commission president; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision. Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve Administrator Lanier as purchasing agent except for Sheriff's Department purchases due to her son's employment there and Commissioner Louisos as back-up purchasing agent and primary for Sheriff's Department purchases; Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve the previously-approved meeting calendar; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision

Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds Tara Tyree presented two consolidations; Commissioner Brenemen moves to approves the orders to combine -John Scalise and Donna Fields; Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision. Forms still listed Commissioner Brenemen as president; Commissioner Taylor moves he sign; Commissioner Louisos seconds; Unanimous Decision

Approve 1st Half January Payroll Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

Approve Vouchers and Invoices Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes 12.3.21 and 12.21.21 Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve; Commissioner Louisos seconds; Unanimous Decision

Approve Estate Settlements Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve as presented; Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision

9:30 Discussion & Decision: 911 GIS Mapping & Addressing

Dalynne Sizemore - she does not have all the maps from the fire departments yet. Six of the 16 fire departments have sent theirs. According to text messages, the fire chiefs were told to have it in to 911 by January 3rd or the next meeting. Discussion on when and where the next fire association meeting is - believed to be next Thursday in Gauley River at 7:30pm. Joe Crist appeared by ZOOM; clarified the meeting times and when the maps are due (next meeting). Commissioner Taylor will attend and asks Ms. Sizemore to attend as well. Commissioner Brenemen suggests withholding monies from fire departments that don't comply. Commissioner Taylor feels that would be premature since the deadline had not yet passed.

9:45 Discussion & Decision: 911 Job Descriptions and Building an Applicant Pool. Commissioner Taylor asks that the 911 center review its job descriptions again to be more complete - asked them to send to Administrator Lanier by 1.14.22 for the 1.31 meeting; hoping to build an applicant pool. They have vacancies and applications, but had not moved through the hiring process because the 911 Center Director is out on extended leave. Commissioner Taylor directed acting 911 Center Director Tonja McMullen to review applications and interview and send recommendations to Administrator Lanier for hiring.

10:00 Bid Award: Meadow River Rail Trail FEMA Remediation Project Commission consultant Bill Hines came forward to briefly discuss the bid process; low bidder had a small math discrepancy; but otherwise meets all requirements. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve Goal Technical Bid; Commissioner Brenemen second; Unanimous Decision

10:15 Discussion & Decision: Bill Hines & Matt Ford; Meadow River Trail (2016 flood damages) PW 573 - Current Status and Program Options and Extension Request Letter for Approval and Signature

Commissioner Taylor thanked Mr. Hines for getting the paperwork to the Commission in a timely manner. Actively meeting with WVDOT. Three options (type from packet). There are issues "deficiencies" in our current plans that these options help address; specifically with the timeline. Commissioners Louisos and Taylor feel Option B is more realistic in timelines. Mr. Hines said C has the appeal of cost savings. Commissioner Taylor felt there was too much bureaucracy involved in Option C. Commissioner Louisos asked if they decided on option B could it start "today" - it could. The Commission doesn't was to drag this out any more than it already has. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve option B; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision.

10:30 Discussion & Decision: David Altizer Re: White Oak PSD sewer Extension and PER funding from County ARPA for New Haven PSD and White Oak Projects. David Altizer of Thompson and Litton presented his finding -the extension will add 320 customers. Adding a pump station would cost 25 million, coming back to the main station would be 21 million. Commissioner Brenemen addressed the fact the New Haven PSD actually owns the sewer rights in that area. Asks that Kenny Hines talk to the New Haven PSD about signing an agreement with White Oak. PER funding - discussing whether there could be grants - and whether the County could be reimbursed. It does seem if the County pays for these reports upfront; they can be reimbursed. Mr. Hines brought up the concept of a "forgivable loan" and wondered if that might be a possibility. Commissioner Taylor discussed an email from Jina Belcher from NRGRDA explaining a funding source from a project called Dig Deep. More discussion on timelines; Administrator Lanier wants more clarification on how these monies could be allocated then reallocated.

Commissioner Louisos wants to get this process moving since the state is seeming to look for "shovel ready" projects to fund with its ARPA and Infrastructure monies. Commissioner Taylor reiterates that the only reason they are considering this is because of the impetus of the State allocating funds. Commissioner Louisos moves to allocate \$200,000 to fund the 5 PER reports from the County's ARPA funds at \$40,000 each; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Administrator Lanier asks for detailed invoices for each project to properly allocate the monies; Unanimous Decision. Commissioner Louisos asks that people present help with advocating for these projects at the state legislature.

10:45 Discussion & Decision: Removal of Thomas Crowder Jr. as Executor of the Estate of Thomas Crowder Sr. Phil Tissue appeared by phone; all heirs have been notified that someone else will need named administrator if Mr. Crowder is removed. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision

11:00 John David: Presentation of Letter from City of Oak Hill and Submission of Requested Information from SALS Commissioner Taylor moves to postpone until 1.31.22 meeting; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision

11:15 Discussion & Decision: Polling Place for Precinct 73 - polling place must be in 72, not adjacent to 73, because there isn't anywhere in 73 or 70. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve Chestnut Knob (which is in Precinct 72) as the polling place for Precinct 73; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision

11:30 Michael Callaghan, Re: Additional Counsel for the Environmental & Public Health Protection Unit Michael Callaghan presented a proposed co-counseling resolution to approve additional counsel. Prosecutor Ciliberti discussed the fact that this would not cost the county additional money. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision. Adding him to the 1.21.22 agenda for an additional item. The Judge overseeing the case wants to see some of these claims settled.

12:00 Presentation: Abbie Newell and Greg Urbanski - Fayette Trail Coalition Soft Surface Trails Plan. Sharing their final plan with the Commission. Some federal funding made this project move along a bit faster. Ms. Newell discussed the partnerships with all the municipalities. Commissioner Brenemen asked if the projects were listed in some kind of order, Mr. Urbanski said not really, but that they were a bit of order of scope - Fayetteville Park is smallest, then Needleseye, then Fayette County Park, then Wolf Creek. This plan is a roadmap, what they would like to see, now we can look at how to fund these. Since there may other funds available for the Fayetteville Park and Needleseye, The Coalition is ready to focus on

the Fayette County Park. Commissioner Taylor suggested they refrain from working on the Wolf Creek Park portion due to pending litigation. Commissioner Louisos spoke to Jenna Grayson and Jina Belcher NRGDA about another project he is working on that could benefit from a mentioned funding earmark involving the national park. Next steps would be looking at funding sources for these projects that might require a Commission match and then bidding out individual projects. Commissioner Taylor asked if this group also coordinates with the larger trail authority, and they do - their focus is different. Commissioner Louisos asked about the earmark funding and would it be wise to go ahead and fund some preliminary reports so that when this kind of earmark money becomes available again we would be ready. Jina Belcher from NRGDA asked for Commissioner Louisos to send her any ideas of trails, she would gather some idea of costs and help write this kind of earmark request again.

12:30 Presentation: Tom Louisos Grants for the Rt. 60 Historic Highway & EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant for State & Tribes

Gabe Pena presented via Zoom. Mr. Pena, Commissioner Louisos, and some of the mayors along Rt. 60 held a meeting in December discussing development along Rt 60. The Appalachian Regional Development Authority will have a great deal more funding to allocate than it has before, and Mr. Pena is hoping we can receive some of those funds. There have been some changes in the amounts of funding for Brownfields grants. Explained a little more about how the grant funding works - that if we are awarded this money, it is definitely allowable to use the monies anywhere in our service area. And all areas are approved by the EPA so we have no chance of using the money incorrectly. Commissioner Louisos discussed some trails he has mapped surrounding the Rt 60 corridor.

1:00 Discussion: Tom Louisos Kayak Rentals on the Gauley River, Swiss to the New or Kanawha Rivers removed until Commissioner Louisos requests it be added.

Exhibit List

9:10 Ruth Lanier, County Administrator - Exhibit A

1. Discussion & Decision: Review & Approval of Contract 19 Resolution #14 for New Haven PSD to be paid from funds the Commission allocated to the design phase of the project. Funds were allocated by the Commission on 11/13/2015. Commissioner Taylor asked Lesley Taylor about this; these funds were previously allocated, Region IV only asked for the monies as needed. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision

2. Discussion & Decision: Request from Upper Kanawha Valley Strategic Initiatives Council for EDA Grant Match Mayors Greg Ingram

and Anne Cavalier presented. UKVSIC has applied for a \$4.1 million grant. Asking the Commission for \$250,000 as a grant match for this grant (increased on the spot by Mayor Cavalier from the \$200K requested in the agenda request). The deadline is January 31, 2022. Mayor Cavalier explained some more of the grants focus on developing waking trails and park spaces. She also described some more of the projects throughout the area from various funding sources. Some of the monies are being held up by Congress. There was discussion with Commissioner Taylor about the bridge and whether a pedestrian access is planned to enable park users to enter Montgomery, Commissioner Brenemen asked about one funding source in particular because the projects seem to overlap; if funding for that project is approved, it would lower the amount of this funding. Commissioner Louisos wanted to know if the mayors had asked the Kanawha County Commission for its share; it is scheduled for the next meeting. Commissioner Louisos also discussed some previous conversations he had had with the mayors about making this more of a step project that might be less costly. Mayor Cavalier explained some of the time constraints caused by grant funding, and explained how they had removed pieces of the project already. Commissioner Taylor asked about food truck access, and they have it planned. She also asked Mayor Ingram about which project is more important this project or the Baisi center upgrade (a previous meeting item). He feels the Baisi Center might raise more revenue, but would also be more attractive for private funding. Allison Smith, extension agent from WV State University, spoke about the many opportunities going in the Valley. She feels this project could be a big draw to the Upper Kanawha Valley. They will be meeting with Kanawha County on 1.20.21, Mayor Cavalier would like for the Kanawha and Fayette County Commission Presidents to meet to discuss it. Commissioner Taylor wants to give Administrator Lanier an opportunity to look at the budget to see if we would even have these funds to allocate before reaching outside the County. Special meeting is set at 1.21.22 at 9am to discuss this.

3. Discussion & Decision: Request from Michelle Holly for approval of temporary part-time worker Lisa Keffer in the Elections Office

Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen second; Unanimous Decision

4. Discussion & Decision: Fayette County Park Sales & Use Tax Form for Approval & Signature and blanket approval to submit reports.

Administrator Lanier asked if this be approved as a blanket approval unless there are changes. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve this signature and future stamping of names; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

5. Discussion & Decision: Request from Angela Gerald vacancies on Board of Zoning Appeals postponed from November 17, 2021. Commissioner

Louisos moves to approve Rick Johnson for the vacancy; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

6. Discussion & Decision: Request from Diane Callison, Parks & Recreation Board Chairman, to appoint members to vacancies postponed from November 17, 2021 Presented a list of current members and by placing the five current applicants it fills their list with the exception of the high school student. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve all five applications; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision. Also had letters of resignation -Cliff Sullivan and Veronica Crosier. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

7. Discussion & Decision: General agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, New River Gorge National Park & Preserve and Fayette County Commission to retain signs at the Russell E. Matthew Park I the Harlem Heights Community as part of the African American Heritage Tour Commissioner Louisos motions to approve; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous decision.

8. Discussion & Decision: Request from 911 for Promotion and Pay Increase Commissioner Louisos moves to go into executive session at 12:48 to discuss this agenda item; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds; Unanimous Decision
Back from Executive Session at 1:33pm - Discussed a personnel matter of the promotion to Shift Supervisor and salary increase to \$30,240 for Sarah Hill. Previous employee and has certifications. Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve and Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision

9. Discussion & Decision: Order setting the 2022 Mileage Reimbursement Rate per U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) Moving from 56 cents 58.5 cents per mile. Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen seconds; Unanimous Decision

10. Discussion & Decision: Resolution of Participation & Cooperation as a Certified Development Community (CDC) and naming New River Gorge Regional Development Authority as Fayette County's Local Economic Development Organization. Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve; Commissioner Taylor asks Prosecutor Ciliberti if the County then decides to create its own EDA, could it then be named. He felt it could. Commissioner Louisos; Seconds; Unanimous Decision

11. Discussion & Decision: GST Support Contract for Renewal Commissioner Taylor moves to approve Commissioner Louisos Seconds; Unanimous Decision

12. Discussion & Decision: 2022 Budget Memo to Elected Officials

Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds;
Unanimous Decision

**13. Discussion & Decision: 2022 Board of Equalization Letters to
Prosecutor and Assessor**

Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds;
Unanimous Decision

**14. Discussion & Decision: Memorandum of Understanding with the
Supreme Court of Appeals for Family Law Judge facilities until 2026.**

Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen Seconds;
Unanimous Decision

Motion to adjourn at 1:36pm

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL SESSION
JANUARY 21, 2022
FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PRESENT: JOHN G. BRENEMEN, TOM LOUISOS, ALLISON R. TAYLOR

To Be Approved..

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 31, 2022
FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE PRESENT: ALLISON R. TAYLOR, JOHN G.
BRENNEMEN, TOM LOUISOS

The Fayette County Commission met in a regular session this 31st day
of January 2022 via Zoom. Commissioners Brenemen, Louisos and Taylor
all attended in person.

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gabriel Pena.

The Commission reconvened as the Board of Equalization and Review.
First case: Mr. Larry Love, was not in attendance. Commissioner
Taylor motioned to reschedule his hearing for the February 16th, 2022
meeting based on Mr. Love's request of the County Administrator.
Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Second case: Mr. Edward Garbett presented his petition, contesting the
increase his property taxes given that he has not done substantial
improvements to his property in the last year. Commissioner Brenemen

asked how much his taxes were raised? Mr. Garbett responded \$350.00 or more. The Fayette County Assessor, Eddie Young was present and informed the Commission that Mr. Garbett's property value was \$55,300 for the years 2020 and 2021, then rose to an assessed value of \$82,420 for 2022. The actual taxes paid equaled \$708 for 2020 and 2021 and have been raised to \$1,053 for the 2022 year; which is a difference of \$345. The property is a 3/10-acre lot with a house located in Adena Village. Mr. Young went on to explain that values are derived using the County value, the property value is based on past and present sales in the area or comparable sales. Commissioner Taylor asked if riverfront properties are valued differently than non-riverfront properties in that area. Mr. Young replied they were and that this particular case of Mr. Garbett's property and others in the Valley saw significant increase this year because in 2020 when the schools and WVU Tech closed the assessor's office lowered the values to a difference depreciation table. Then in fiscal year 2021, there were five sales of residential real estate that were sold for more than appraised value, thus creating comparables. Everyone in Adena Village is being treated the same. Mr. Young further explained that he and his office are bound by State requirements and he must follow the guidelines set out by the State, i.e., comparable sales and current tax rates which he has no control over. Mr. Garbett is not arguing the logic, he stated that he hoped when the taxes were lowered that WV would continue to incentivize people to stay and start businesses. Raising taxes is just an added pain given the national inflation we are experiencing. Mr. Young stated he is just playing catch up, using information from fiscal year 2021 (07.02.2020 to 07.01.2021) sales, and if the info changes, then he will re-adjust rates. The real estate bubble could burst. Mr. Garbett reminded the Commission that the census data showed that Fayette County is losing people and these increases are not helping. Small towns are dying, and while he understands the logic, he does not understand what Fayette County is gaining by raising property taxes. Commissioner Louisos shared that the current Commission removed the Route 19 corridor management plan to show that it is taking action to improve things in the County but until new revenue comes, we can't do much. Commissioner Taylor further reinforced that she understands his frustration, there are applications in for broadband with the goal to bring broadband service all the way down 60; the County is using ARPA funds for infrastructure plans (water, sewer), as without the infrastructure we cannot attract businesses and grow the economy. There is a greater focus on the outer parts of the County by this Commission than any other. Commissioner Taylor motioned to take Mr. Garbett and Mr. Young's testimonies under advisement and a decision will be made on the final day of BOER, February 16th, 2022. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision. The BOER will reconvene on February 4th, 2022.

No exonerations were presented from the Assessor.

Assessor presented properties to divide and combined.
Commissioner Brenemen motioned to combine and divide land as presented. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to approve vouchers and invoices and release checks with the exception of the payment to the 911 center consultant as there was an error. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve estate settlements.
Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Taylor presented the MOU with the WV Office of Technology for State Email Service. She hopes that in a year the County will have its own server and email service. Commissioner Taylor asked Prosecuting Attorney Anthony Ciliberti if he had a chance to review the document and were there any issues? Ciliberti stated he saw no issues. Commissioner Brenemen motioned to approve the MOU. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

Letter to the WV State Tax Property Division extending permission to make adjustments until February 15, 2022. Commissioner Taylor shared that she had the letter revised to include more restrictive language, and PA Ciliberti stated he agreed with the revision. Commissioner Louisos motioned to approve the letter with the revision. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision

Presentation of Foremost Insurance Co. Flood Insurance Policies expiring February 16, 2022 for 461 Laurel Creek Cut Off Rd, Fayetteville; 469 Laurel Creek Cut Off Rd, Fayetteville; and 547 Shelter Rd., Fayetteville. Commissioner Taylor shared that this is flood insurance coverage for the animal shelter expiring next month leaving the County uninsured. Commissioner Brenemen motioned to approve the policy. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Tiffany Cottle presented via zoom the request for signatures on the exhibits associated with the Hazard Mitigation Federally-Assisted Acquisition Project for Kim R. & Kathy M. Eades and The Loup Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., a WV Corporation. These have been open since the 2016 flood and it was not initially detailed that exhibits needed to be included with the corresponding deeds. Prosecuting Attorney Ciliberti stated that if they were not recorded with the deed originally, then it is necessary to rerecord the deed as a deed of correction. In doing so, mentioning that the exhibits were not attached and that the purpose of the deed of correction is to add the exhibits to the deed. These exhibits place restrictions on the property so they must be signed by the grantor. Commissioner Taylor

recommended that the Prosecuting Attorney reach out to the original lawyer who created the deeds -Mr. Blankenship and settle this, and any others that may have errors. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Request for White Oak PSD to reappoint Michael Whisman, II to the PSD Board, term to expire January 1, 2028. Brenemen to motion to approve the request. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

John David, SALS presented a letter from the City of Oak Hill and submission of requested information from SALS. Commissioner Taylor asked if there is a specific grant that SALS is looking for support on at this time. Dr. David replied: no, I am here to speak to the City of Oak Hill's request of the Fayette County Commission (FCC) regarding replacing the roof on the SALS building in Oak Hill. Commissioner Louisos inquired what funding the City of Oak Hill committed to? Dr. David responded: nothing yet, its support will be contingent upon what the FCC commits and that the code enforcement officer has access to the property which the officer has had had since the beginning. Commissioner Taylor replied to Dr. David that the Commission is not currently hearing any requests from community members for ARPA funds. She inquired what the estimate for the roof was? Dr. David informed the Commission the estimate is approximately \$70,000 for the roof over the gym, and that it is a 911 emergency center, on the national registry of places, and SALS invested \$100,000 in a sprinkler system for the first floor only. They are doing their best to keep the building in good condition. Commissioner Taylor wanted to know if SALS has applied to any historic building revitalization grants? Dr. David said: yes, we have applied but have not been accepted. Commissioner Louisos asked if SALS has any funds in their accounts to do this work? Dr. David replied that most of their funds are restricted and are used for programming. They are operating on fumes right now, so no, we do not have funds to do the proper roofing work. Commissioner Brenemen asked if SALS received any money from the County for the sprinkler system? Dr. David confirmed that yes, a few years ago they received a helpful but modest amount from the county \$5,000-10,000, thank you. Commissioner Brenemen further inquired whether SALS has the official Red Cross approval paperwork certifying the building as an emergency shelter? Dr. David assured the Commission he could provide the paperwork if needed. Commissioner Taylor would like to see that as the county EMS center believes the building is certified as a warming center and not a true emergency shelter. Dr. David, responded that they have documentation stating that is it a full emergency shelter. Commissioner Taylor wanted to know whether they have been open during these winter storms or not. It was stated that when they are requested, they open, but they cannot recall the last time it had been requested. In addition, the Oak Hill Fire Department has a key to use the building whenever needed.

Commissioners Louisos and Taylor recommended that SALS fills out the County ARPA funding request that is hosted on the FCC website and then the Commission will evaluate SALS' request along with all other community requests. Dr. David understood and will look into that form, he wanted to note that SALS will provide labor as an in-kind match for grants. As a reminder to SALS for future meetings and grants, Commissioner Taylor shared with Dr. David that the commission needs information on each specific grants and cannot give blanket letters of support as they may have received in the past. They must get on agenda and go through the proper process like everyone else.

County Clerk Michelle Holly presented the ballot of commissioner names. Each election year, the County Clerk's office appoints the office of ballot commissioners, these officers ensure that election information is posted properly and properly certifies the ballots post-election. The parties that are able to nominate officers are the parties that received the top two highest number of votes in the previous election. Both parties appointed people: Democratic party appointed Jack Thompson and the Republican party appointed Joseph Re. The ballot drawing will be held on February 22, 2022. Commissioner Taylor inquired whether there could or will be substitution given COVID and increased absences of people. Ms. Holly was not aware of any substitutes but would look into it.

Discussion of the notice of change of polling place: moving Valley early and Election Day voting for precinct 47 to Montgomery Community Center 612 3rd Ave, Montgomery due to construction at current Montgomery City Hall. Commissioner Taylor's main concern is that the notice details whether the change is for just the primary or for both the primary and general elections. She thinks it should be the same place this year to avoid confusion. Ms. Holly agreed, and added that signs will be hung at the former place directing people to the new place to ensure people go to the correct place. Commissioner Louisos motioned to clarify both early and election day voting in the notice. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision. In closing, Ms. Holly reminded the Commission that the County has to publish all precinct information and early voting locations, she is hoping that one publication can serve both needs.

Commissioner Taylor motioned for the Commission to postpone the 911 job description agenda item to the February 10th, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to postpone the discussion by Mr. Phil Tissue for the estate of William Claggett Price to the February 4th, 2022 meeting. She recommended that the Fayette County Prosecuting Attorney reach out to Mr. Tissue to see if the Commission needs to

sign the documentation because she believed it did not. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Mr. Nick Mooney presented an update on grant application processes and results of grant applications submitted by Region IV for the Midland Trail Community Center. During the 2021 grant cycle they were not approved but are looking forward to grants in the 2022 cycle and wanted to present updated information to the commission.

The Midland Trail Community Center serves the greater Midland Trail, Gauley Bridge, Alloy, Falls View, Danese, Meadow Bridge, Mount Nebo, and Mount Lookout areas. Programs that they provide are: -youth sports -football and cheer (200 kids); basketball (150 kids), Little league (225 kids); wrestling (50 kids); and soccer will be coming soon. In addition to youth sports the facility provides open batting cages that are available to the public; fields for travel baseball and softball teams; conference space for Girl Scout meetings, ministry-based programs, Fayette County Teen Court, Active Southern WV programming, and other meetings and/or parties. This facility really helps support community development and on game days helps the local businesses with the influx of people coming into the area. Fees charged for the space are \$25 per hour, however it costs \$74 per hour to open the building so they are running at a deficit. They manage \$6,000 a year in scholarships to really give kids great opportunities in sports and academics. Future projects the Midland Trail Center are hoping to take on are to provide a trailhead parking to facilitate walking trails from Hawks Nest and finalize decisions whether they will improve or demo the classroom building. There are plans to make a greater push for membership to raise funds for problems the group faces. Currently a membership is \$50/year but they need more members for this to sustain the Center. The challenges for the space are the extremely high heating/cool bill and relative building maintenance on an old school building. The center has lost \$12,000 a year in revenue due to ending the relationship with the Fayette Board of Ed. Because of this the Midland Trail Center will now have additional space to provide for future revenue generation if they maintain the building and do not demolish it. The same resources are tapped over and over again in this community so Mr. Mooney is really trying to think outside the normal entities. One planned grant is the Small Community Block Grant for emergency shelter designation, prevention of future flooding, and handicap access improvements. This application will be submitted shortly. They are in great need of a generator and a HVAC system; any applicable grant funds would go directly to this. Currently uses a waste oil boiler and even that doesn't cut costs enough as it is a huge space to heat. Commissioner Louisos stated that he will try to provide any oil he can to them. They will also submit an ARPA application to the county to be reviewed with other community applications. Commissioner Brenemen suggested they work with Kevin Walker at the county 911 center to see if he is aware of

any grants for generators. Reaching out to the tourism department and county resource coordinator's office to see what these offices could do to help was also mentioned by Commissioner Brenemen.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL SESSION
February 4, 2022
FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
PRESENT: JOHN G. BRENEMEN, TOM LOUISOS, ALLISON TAYLOR

8:00 Pledge of Allegiance lead by Clerk Holly

Board of Equalization & Review Mineral & Industrial Hearing - Convened at 8am; No one appeared. Commissioner Taylor stated the Board will reconvene on February 16.

8:15 Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds - Eddie Young - Assessor Young presented one combination of property. Sharon Walters to combine two pieces of her own property. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Vouchers & Invoices - N/A.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes - 11.17, 11.22, 12.15, 1.5 Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Estate Settlements - N/A.

8:30 Discussion and Decision Purchase Requests for Farm - no discussion or decision necessary; item removed.

9:00 Discussion and Decision: Meadow River Rail Trail Matt Ford presented. Chapman Technical has a "master" contract that includes all the FEMA required clauses; no money involved. Also had two other contracts for consideration. Matt Ford felt everything was going smoothly.

Consider Engineering and Construction Services Contract Signing (Master A&E Services Agreement) -Roger from Chapman Technical

Consider signing contract with Goal Technical, L.L.C. for FEMA Repair

Consider scope of work and fee proposal for bidding and construction services for Russellville Bridge. Roger from Chapman Technical presented. Putting our bids for a pre-constructed bridge has pros and

cons; get a lot of bidders, but not ones necessarily experienced in building these types of structures. The bid proposal therefore contains many contingencies. He isn't sure about the bid qualification for FEMA.

Bill Hines, consultant for the project, was present and asked for clarification on what exactly was voted on at a previous meeting - to ask for construction bids or to direct hire Chapman Technical. Bid Construction. FEMA does allow some qualifications in the bidding process. Mr. Hines felt the County could restart the 5G process if they wanted (to bid and hire an engineering firm), but he is worried about the time it would take. 5G is the state code that governs the procurement and construction of bridges and other architectural items. Mr. Ford felt these processes could be concurrent - bids can go out for the Russellville Bridge while a RFQ could go out to start the 5G process. Mr. Kennedy asked if that invalidated Chapman's contract. It does not necessarily do that, but Mr. Kennedy feels that if another engineering company is chosen it would delay the project. Mr. Hines agreed. Commissioner Louisos asked if that would cause problems, Mr. Hines answered it could. Commissioner Taylor asked what Goal Technical was hired to do - current FEMA repairs. She tried to clarify what was needed from the Commission - the FEMA repairs and whether to repair the bridge or choose an alternate route. Prosecutor Ciliberti discussed his concerns with the draft contracts. He is not fond of required arbitration or the language within the contract that could change the price of the contract. Concurrent discussions between Matt Ford and Commissioners and Prosecutor Ciliberti and Mr. Kennedy concerning the contracts at hand.

Commissioner Taylor asked for concrete next steps. Commissioner Brenemen discussed his experience with RFPs from a contractor's perspective.

Goal Technical Contract - Mr. Kennedy is going to answer Prosecutor Ciliberti's questions by email. One issue is an invalid contractor's license. Mr. Ford suggests that Chapman Technical take the contract back, address the Commission's concerns, get all documentation reviewed then place it on the agenda. Commissioner Taylor requests that they follow the deadlines the Commission has set for documentation for meeting. Prosecutor Ciliberti is mainly concerned with the opportunities of the contractor to charge more money. Everything will get reviewed and placed back on the agenda 2.16.22.

Russellville Bridge - Mr. Ford explained some options. His concerns are whether the DOT properly followed the 5G process in choosing Chapman to oversee this whole project so the conservative route is for Fayette County to do its own 5G process. DOT has its own process for choosing contractors that they say follow 5G process. The question is

does Fayette County want to rely on the DOT's process or do they want to do it themselves.

Commissioner Taylor clarifies how she sees the issues - If we build the bridge and who builds it. And if they do build the bridge; is there any reason to not trust the DOT's process to select Chapman. Mr. Ford and Mr. Hines did not have concerns, but thought the FCC had concerns. Commissioner Taylor asked what is the status on the County's request for an extension from FEMA - very close; waiting on one piece of documentation.

Mr. Ford gave his suggestion: Bid out the construction on the bridge to see some costs then decide whether to build the bridge. There are issues doing the alternate route that would majorly delay the project. There are also major delays involved with the SOQ process. Mr. Kennedy suggests to bid out the bridge (even though it may cause some questions with FEMA). Consensus is to bid out the bridge.

Administrator Lanier states the Commission cannot sign these documents because they weren't received in time. Mr. Ford will find the specific documents needed for Commission review.

Commissioner Taylor asked for the scope of the master agreement. This agreement is required documentation for any kind of work to be done. It would currently cover their supervision of the Goal Technical Contract, and would extend to cover them for the bridge replacement if Chapman is chosen. Also called Minimal Contract Clause. Commissioner Taylor asks that it be placed on the 2.16.22 meeting.

Commissioner Taylor moves to postpone this until 2.16.22 meeting;
Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Commissioner Louisos moves to adjourn at 9:45; Commissioner Brenemen
2nd; Unanimous Decision

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

February 10, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: JOHN BRENNEMEN (attending via Zoom), TOM LOUISOS, (attending via Zoom) ALLISON TAYLOR

9:00 AM Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Taylor.

Commissioner Taylor announced that due to the illness, she will make a motion at the end of the meeting to move all non-essential business to a special meeting on February 23, 2022.

Board of Equalization and Review: Nothing to present. Commissioner Taylor stated the Board would reconvene on February 16, 2022.

Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds-Eddie Young
None.

Approve 1st Half February Payroll: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve 1st half February payroll. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION

Approve Vouchers and Invoices: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve vouchers and invoices. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: Moved to next meeting.

Approve Estate Settlements: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the estate settlements of Daniel Allen Dobbs, Bobbie Lee Eder, Charlotte Snyder Frisby, William S. Greiner III, Jessie Oliver Parker, Linda Lou Shieler, and Zella Madge Weeks. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION.

9:05 Ruth Lanier-Exhibit A

1. Discussion & Decision: 911 Deputy Director Job Description: (moved to February 23, 2022).

2. Discussion & Decision: Shooting Range Letter for Senator Baldwin: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the Shooting Range Letter for Senator Baldwin. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION.

3. Discussion & Decision: Letter to Fayette County Board of Education Re: Boomer Ballfield Transfer: (moved to February 23, 2022).

4. Discussion & Decision: Letter to State Leaders Regarding County Growth (moved to February 23, 2022).

5. Discussion & Decision: Department of Justice FY 2021 Grant Form for Signature: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve signing the grant form. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION. County Administrator, Ruth Lanier explains that Commissioner Brenemen will have to sign the form since it deals with the year 2021. Commissioner Taylor asks Commissioner Brenemen if he will give his approval for his signature to be stamped on the form. Commissioner Brenemen agrees.

6. Discussion & Decision: Letter of Support for the Good Jobs Challenge Southern West Virginia Multi-Region Fiber Training Project: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the letter of support. Commissioner Brenemen seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION.

7. Discussion & Decision: Appointments to URA: (moved to February 23, 2022).

8. Discussion & Decision: Appointment of PJ Stevenson as Vendor Representative on Bridge Day Commission: Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the appointment of P.J. Stevenson who already participates on the Bridge Day Commission. Commissioner Louisos seconds. UNANIMOUS DECISION.

9:30 Budget Presentation: Deborah Hendrick, Circuit Clerk (moved to February 23, 2022).

9:45 Budget Presentation: Anthony Ciliberti, Prosecuting Attorney (moved to February 23, 2022).

10:00 Budget Presentation: Mike Fridley, Sheriff (moved to February 23, 2022).

10:30 Budget Presentation: Brian Sparks, WVU Extension Office (moved to February 23, 2022).

11:00 Page Kincaid PSD-update on reimbursement (moved to February 23, 2022).

11:15 Discussion & Decision: 911 Starting Pay (moved to February 23, 2022).

11:30 Kevin Walker & Phillip Pack Re: Request to use additional funds to upgrade radio communication network - this item was removed from the agenda because it was already handled within the 911 Center budget.

11:45 Update on Domain

Commissioner Taylor moves that all other business remaining, except for the 11:30 item, which can be handled through County Administrator, Ruth Lanier, will be moved in bulk to the February 23, 2022 meeting in the same time slots. Commissioner Louisos seconds. Unanimous Decision.

Commissioner Taylor moves to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Louisos seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 am.

To Be Approved:

January 21

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

February 16, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: JOHN BRENNEMEN, TOM LOUISOS, ALLISON TAYLOR

9:00 Pledge of Allegiance Led by Commissioner Louisos.

Board of Equalization and Review Larry Love & any other petition brought forward Commissioner Taylor convened the Board and asked for petitions from Mr. Love or any others. County Administrator, Ruth Lanier explains that Mr. Love has decided not to pursue his claim.

Fayette County Assessor, Eddie Young states that Clarence Blake is present regarding a petition. Commissioner Taylor asks about amount of

increase on Mr. Blake's property. The Assessor stated amounts for both Mr. Blake's New Haven and Fayetteville properties. The assessor has adjusted the amounts since the petition was filed. Commissioner Taylor asks about adjustments for the property in Fayetteville. Commissioner Louisos mentions higher the higher tax rate in Fayetteville. Those giving testimony are sworn in. Commissioner Taylor asks Mr. Young if the \$34 for Fayetteville were adjustments. Yes. Commissioner Louisos asks about the property being in Fayetteville, He just wants to understand where the Fayetteville property is located. Mr. Young explains where the Fayetteville property is located. Commissioner Louisos asks if Fayetteville is part of the Board of Equalization's purview. Mr. Young explains that the County Commission, acting as the Board of Equalization has the whole county. Commissioner Taylor asks if they adjusted down. Mr. Blake's property has little accessibility Mr. Young went out to the property. Both properties were adjusted down to match the ones around them. Commissioner Louisos wants to go with assessor's recommendation. Mr. Blake says the New Haven property is on top of a mountain with no timber and no access. He can't understand why he has to pay more for less. He says that there is no access to his Fayetteville property either and that it is worthless. Certainly not worth what he paid for it. He does not agree with upping the assessment. The assessor's office has it classed under woodland which is the cheapest class. There is not much lower you can go. Commissioner Taylor asks if it is taxed similarly to other properties. Mr. Young explains that all woodland has gone up. Mr. Blake states that another gentleman owns the road, otherwise Mr. Blake could not get in to his property. Commissioner Taylor says that on her part she sympathizes but everyone's values have gone up and she sides with the assessor. Commissioner Louisos agrees. Commissioner Taylor moves that the assessment from Mr. Young's office be upheld. Commissioner Brenemen seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Commissioner Taylor moves that the assessment regarding Mr. Ed Garvet from January 31st be upheld. Commissioner Brenemen seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Commissioner Taylor says that the Board of Equalization and Review will adjourn sine die.

Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds-Eddie Young Michael D. Toney has a consolidation. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Approve Vouchers and Invoices- Commissioner Taylor moves to approve voucher and invoices. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes-None.

Approve Estate Settlements Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the estate settlements of David Bruce Barnhart, Billie Jean Bates, James

David Berry, Robert Lee Cavalier, John Lawrence Puckett, and Ethel Marie Scarbro. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

9:05 Ruth Lanier-Exhibit A

1. Discussion and Decision: Reappointment to EnAct

9:15 Notice of Number of Election Officials and Emergency Absentee

Voting Commissioners WV State Code 3.1.29- Clerk Holly will need total a list of 195 elections officials. She has an order for the policy extending emergency absentee ballots to hospitals in adjacent counties or nursing homes. There is a third option for those confined to their home because of illness. She states that it is up to the County Commission to decide. The County Commission will be naming commissioners later on as well. Commissioner Brenemen states that he would support the first two options. Commissioner Louisos asks if the first two options would cover the third. Commissioner Taylor mentions those persons with home health. Clerk Holly gives an example of how the emergency ballot process works. Commissioner Taylor questions how the third option would be administered. Clerk Holly says that ballot commissioners are appointed separately, and one from each party would deliver the absentee ballots as needed. Commissioner Brenemen says the county has had very little use of this option. Commissioner Taylor wants to go for all three options. Commissioner Taylor would agree to all three options. Commissioner Brenemen agrees also to all three options. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve all three options. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the list of 195 elected officials. Commissioner Brenemen seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Break 9:28

Back in session 9:35

9:30 Budget Presentation: Michelle L. Holly, County Clerk: The elections budget has no change from last year, except she added \$1,000 to overtime. They are having to move people voter by voter in the system. Clerk Holly requested an actual door on Elections to avoid unnecessary traffic. It is the only open door at the entrance, so the public comes in asking for information about other offices. She is looking for a grant to cover the cost. Looking ahead to the elections in two years, she wants to move to electronic poll books. They provide more security. They have the ability to scan voter IDs update voter information. It also checks for absentee ballots. There is a one-time expense of \$35,000. The yearly fee would not change much.

Clerk Holly says that regarding the regular clerk's office budget there is not a lot difference. She is asking for a three percent cost of living increase for all of her employees. She used last year's budget numbers. She is not using all of her budget because the new person hired is not making as much as the person he replaced. She is

asking for money to redo the front office; new desks because it makes it safer and more secure. She would like to get the probate area fixed. She estimates approximately \$2,000 for cubicle walls so that it would be more private. Revenue for the clerk's office was approximately 1 million dollars of which about half goes to different state and county agencies. She explains where part of the money goes. Angela Gerald and Allen Ballard run zoning monies through the clerk's computer system for accounting purposes. There is approximately \$400,000 left. Revenue was up. She was conservative in her numbers but that there have been more people buying property. Clerk Holly says that last year approximately \$5,700 was spent on the county clerk's office. She says that they might need to have that money separated. According the West Virginia State Code § 59-1-10(a)(8), two dollars of a ten-dollar fee collected on every deed of conveyance, with or without a plat, deed of trust, fixture filing and security agreement concerning real estate lease. Commissioner Taylor asks about farmland money. Do we know what would happen if we did not collect that money? Clerk Holly explains that \$20 goes to state farmland protection. A transfer tax of 2.2 percent per \$1,000 goes to county farmland; if it did not exist, that money would not be collected. Instead of a total of 7.7, just 5.5 would be collected and that would be divided between county and state. Commissioner Louisos asks what happens if the County Commission did away with farmland. Clerk Holly explains when transfer tax money is collected, \$20 goes to state farmland. Those fees would not go away if farmland did not exist. But of the Transfer tax, State gets so much and the county gets so much eventually that whole 5.5 would be for the county use. Commissioner Taylor points out that the County Commission is trying to encourage merit-based raises. She wants Clerk Holly to consider merit-based raises. Clerk Holly says that she needs to have a formal evaluation process in place. Commissioner Taylor says that Clerk Holly has almost a year under her belt. If given the choice, would Clerk Holly prefer merit-based or cost of living raises. Clerk Holly states that she would be fine with merit-based raises. She wants to keep good people and wants to be sure they are paid well. Commissioner Taylor states that the County Commission wants to hold on to all budget requests before a decision is made.

9:45 Budget Presentation: Wayne Workman, Park & Garage: There is an increase on both the Park and the Garage budget most of the increase on park is two vacancies with \$13,000 for the increase in insurance. That amount could stay or come off depending upon who is hired. Commissioner Brenemen says that utilities are going up and maintenance and supplies will go up. The County Commission will have to take that into consideration when doing budgets. He gives examples of what the County Commission will have to take into consideration. Mr. Workman states that a drum of washer fluid went up \$60 per drum, there was a \$700 per drum increase for oil and agrees that everything going up. Parts are scarce with long waits. Commissioner Brenemen says that some

electrical parts are scarce. He asks if there is anything special for park expense. Mr. Workman says that everything is more expensive. Commissioner Brenemen restates the difficulties of the budget. Mr. Workman says there are maintenance fluctuations; 14 to 15 thousand dollars for paint for the pool. Maintenance numbers will come down after spring projects are completed. Commissioner Brenemen suggests buying in bulk to save money. Mr. Workman asks for an increase on salaries of employees of .48 cents. Inflation is causing suffering for everyone. He cut what he could. There is a \$7,000 difference in insurance for single v married employees. Everything is moving. Commissioner Taylor asks if maintenance positions are posted. Mr. Workman says that he interviewed a person yesterday. Commissioner Louisos asks about actual expenses versus covid impacted expenses. Mr. Workman says that part timers have worked due to the two vacancies. Commissioner Brenemen says one thing that helped was the event that was held in October and asks if Mr. Workman has considered doing extra events. Mr. Workman already has an Easter event planned, a trout derby and he is looking at craft fair at the Memorial Building. He states that April and May are hard months due to weather. He tries to plan around everyone and tries to do weekends. Commissioner Brenemen says that Christmas Land was great. He complements Mr. Workman on job well done. Mr. Workman states an increase from \$68,000 to \$93,000 in revenue. Mr. Workman states that he did the same thing on the garage as the park and agrees with merit-based raises. He would like a .74 raise for Angela, junior was the .48.

5-minute break at 10:05

Back in session 10:08

10:00 Budget Presentation: Gabe Pena, Resource Coordinator: Mr. Pena presented a budget request for \$91,432. The attached addendum has the amount of \$64,528 factoring in the fact that the cost total is down eight percent from last year. The addendum shows a \$21,904 contribution from farmland work plan of which 60 percent is spent on grant management. Paperwork Mr. Pena provided shows that the Resource Coordinator's Office is managing \$649,500 in grant funding to the end of fiscal year 2023. Mr. Pena goes over potential grants. They have a number of grants for 2023. He asks for any additions to the list. He lists Board of Administration work for Farmland Protection, Solid Waste Authority, Fayette County Planning and Zoning and the County Commission. He included a job posting for assistant and resource coordinators, as Mr. Pena will be leaving on March 4. Commissioner Brenemen congratulates Mr. Pena and wishes him well on future endeavors. The County Commission prefers that all resumes go to the County Administrator, Ruth Lanier. Commissioner Taylor states that the County Commission has not decided to post yet. They are looking at revamping the County Administrator's office.

10:15 Budget Presentation: Solid Waste Authority: Aletha Stolar, Fayette County Solid Waste Authority chair begins by saying that the SWA has an excellent working board. Two of the staff are phenomenal. Tommy Harris, Litter Control Officer, pulls in a lot of other resources. Ami Dangerfield, financial person, keeps them on track. Their membership in WV Corp. is due to Ms. Dangerfield. It reduces the insurance. Abby does an excellent job putting packets together. Gabe Pena does a phenomenal job of writing grants. Ms. Stolar presents a \$30,000 budget request. The SWA is asking for the same amount as last year. There is a seven percent increase in salaries. Inflation is factoring in for the seven percent increase. A new thing added to the request is office supplies and office postings. Grants need be bid at class 5 which can be expensive. They do get grants to support funding initiatives. The tipping fees they receive have to be used for certain items. Commissioner Brenemen adds that he straightened them out on board procedures regarding voting. He is helping them out as much as he can. Ms. Stolar would like to hire someone to help Tommy Harris.

Commissioner Taylor moves to go into executive session at 10:21 regarding EnAct. Commissioner Louisos seconds.

Back in session at 10:37.

Commissioner Taylor moves that regarding the EnAct reappointment, the County Commission will be open to accepting applications in the future Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

10:45 Budget Presentation: Eddie Young, Assessor: Commissioner Brenemen says that the dilapidated building bill may pass. There will be training with assessor staff on what properties look like.

Mr. Young begins by saying that the assessor's office budget consists of salaries and benefits with a little bit of travel, a little bit of education and training. Commissioner Taylor asks if there are any other funds not coming from county. Mr. Young says that the PVC fund is submitted to County Administrator, Ruth Lanier, every year. The PVC budget is approved differently. Mr. Young explains the procedure. Half of office is staffed through the PVC, half through the county. The assessor's office buys any vehicles or computers with PVC funds. The flyover they do comes out of PVC funds. The County just pays salaries. Commissioner Louisos asks when flyover will be on the website. Mr. Young says the information is done; they just have to get with them. Mr. Young will have to talk to Jamie Smith, Mapper. Commissioner Louisos and Mr. Young discuss when the flyover will be available. Topography is done with state funds.

10:45 Budget Presentation: Teresa Gregory, Community Corrections- Postponed.

11:00 Budget Presentation: Allen Ballard, Building & Angela Gerard, Zoning: Allen Ballard states that the budget for Building Safety is

the same as last year. He states that contracted services went up \$5,000. Commissioner Taylor wants to know if we are doing inspections on behalf of municipalities and not getting paid. Mr. Ballard explains the procedure. They are paying for half on electrical inspections for Oak Hill and Fayetteville only. Not to other municipalities. Commissioner Brenemen says Valley has their own person. Commissioner Louisos goes over how the costs are paid. Commissioner Taylor says that the County Commission pays for half. She wants copies of the agreements.

Angela Gerald, Zoning Officer, states that a salary increase was done in December; otherwise, it is the same budget as last time.

11:15 Budget Presentation: Anthony Ciliberti, Prosecuting Attorney:

Mr. Ciliberti talks about what he believes his office has achieved during their first year. He had ideas about reducing the jail bill and immediately took steps to reduce it. The simplest step was to review the bill. It was discovered that it is not uncommon for the correctional authority to bill the county after the person is convicted. The State picks up the tab after incarceration. The jail is not getting it right. He explains the procedure and states that the jail is still making significant mistakes up to five figures. His office is expediting the handling of felony cases. Mr. Ciliberti explains the time line and cost as a result. He says that cases are assigned immediately and are being reviewed earlier. His office works with defense council to get those persons out that cannot post bond. His office is using the Day Report Center and GPS for release of persons. Another thing his office does is to work with defense attorneys regarding speaking with the Public Defender's Office about getting people out earlier. He focuses on the calendar year rather than the fiscal year. Mr. Ciliberti goes over the numbers on his presentation. The jail bill since Mr. Ciliberti took office was \$970,308, which is a half million dollars under budget. There is no reason for Mr. Ciliberti to believe that this is not going to continue. He states that the jail bill will never be zero. He cites case about tanning bed illegal video. The person pled to 10 misdemeanors. The county will have to pay for this, but it is worth the money to have this person in jail. Mr. Ciliberti says that salaries for Class I Prosecuting Attorneys are set by the legislature. Mr. Ciliberti goes over staff raises. Jennifer Crane especially, is deserving of a raise. Her skill set is gained by spending time trying cases. She had the double homicide case prosecution of Hayden Dixon. He was sentenced to life. Henry Joe Ward, who tried to shoot a deputy was tried by Ms. Crane. He was convicted on all counts and sentence to 9.5 years. Ms. Crane's salary is at \$79,000 per year. A comparable person would be hard to find. Mr. Ciliberti is requesting a raise to \$90,000 for Jennifer Crane. Mr. Ciliberti says that Sarah Smith is

someone who is aggressive in prosecuting her cases. He cites case where in a felony conviction of Brian Willis, and Henry Joe Ward, Ms. Smith was co-counsel. Mr. Ciliberti commends Ms. Smith's impressive work ethic. He asks for a \$4,000 per year increase for Ms. Smith. Mr. Ciliberti speaks about Chris Burdick, who handles all the abuse and neglect cases which are very trying and stressful. Mr. Ciliberti states the judges provide him with feedback on the prosecuting attorneys and he has had good reports on Mr. Burdick. Mr. Ciliberti asks for a \$4,000 increase for Mr. Burdick. Mr. Ciliberti states that Tyler Rohrbaugh is in the army reserves with JAG Corp. at the moment, but says that Mr. Rohrbaugh's first trial on his own, he saw that Thomas Banks was prosecuted and sent to prison for five years. Mr. Ciliberti would like to raise Mr. Rohrbaugh's salary by \$3,000 per year. Chelsea Walker is currently paid \$66,000 per year. She has only been with them for a year. She helps the sheriff with conservator and habeas cases. Mr. Ciliberti asks for a raise for Ms. Walker of \$1,200 per year. Mr. Ciliberti says that the average rate for lawyers in West Virginia is \$109,000. Regarding the salaries for support staff, Mr. Ciliberti says that the average salary for paralegals statewide is \$48,000. He says that it is rare for Marilyn Pridemore not to be at the office after 4 pm and prior to 8 am. She is the office manager and Mr. Ciliberti is asking for a \$3,000 per year increase for Ms. Pridemore. Mr. Ciliberti states that Jessica Shockey is a legal assistant who organized the office regarding grand juries where there can be 80 different cases in two days. He explains the difficulty in scheduling duties for Ms. Shockey and asks for a \$3,000 in pay for Ms. Shockey. Mr. Ciliberti says that Tracy Boyd is the legal assistant for Mr. Burdick, and prepares all documents relating to abuse and neglect case. He asks for a \$3,000 increase for Ms. Boyd. Mr. Ciliberti asks for a \$1,999 per year raise for Haley Hopkins, legal assistant to Ms. Smith and Ms. Walker and a \$1,004.04 annual raise for Katlyn Dorsey, legal assistant for magistrate court cases and receptionist. Mr. Ciliberti states that the balance of the budget has not increased, except dues and subscriptions. The County has been paying for LexisNexis outside of his budget. The other line item is for bar dues of \$1,500. Mr. Ciliberti is asking that The LexisNexis subscription be made part of his budget. The subscription to Circuit Express was cancelled toward the end of 2021. Mr. Ciliberti has started sharing the cost of parking with the sheriff at \$1,200 per year. Mr. Ciliberti explains that parking fee are paid out of the asset forfeiture fund. He says the County Commission has asked for information regarding additional funding sources. The asset forfeiture account is explained. Ten percent goes to his office and 90 percent goes to the investigative branch. Currently, there is \$20,450 in this account. The issue in 2021 was getting petitions addressed. Mr. Ciliberti says that no deposits had been made to this account, but estimates that annual deposit in the future will be \$6,000. Some years will be higher than others. Mr. Ciliberti speaks about pending cases. He says that he is

not averse to filling in some of the budget. It has been difficult to look at last year's numbers. He can't really tell what expenditures were prior to him taking over the office. Mr. Ciliberti states that the County Commission must be mindful that it's not going to be a huge budget increase, only 3.94 percent and that his employees have earned it. Commissioner Taylor asks if the animal shelter has asked for funds from asset forfeiture? Mr. Ciliberti says no. He explains the line item for professional services. Veterinarians and other professionals are often called in to testify in animal cruelty cases. He does not mind giving some of the asset forfeiture funds to the animal shelter. He thinks it is appropriate to help. His office tries to get restitution, but it is difficult to actually get the money. Most of the time it never happens. Commissioner Breneman thanks Mr. Ciliberti for his efforts in reducing the jail bill.

The budget presentation for 911 will not be done today, due to a pending order. County Administrator, Ruth Lanier, points out that the Park was not aware of the order either.

11:45 Discussion and Decision: Meadow River Rail Trail-Consider signing contract with Goal Technical, LLC, for FEMA Repair. Consider scope of work and fee proposal for bidding and construction services for Russellville Bridge. Consider Engineering and Construction Services Contract Signing (Master A&E Services Agreement) Prosecuting Attorney, Anthony Ciliberti, and the County Commission discuss not liking the arbitration clause in the agreement. Mr. Ciliberti says the contract amount is not the actual contract amount. The County Commission will have to make a judgment call on accepting the risk of price tag increases. Mr. Ciliberti and Commissioner Taylor discuss costs going up. Mr. Ciliberti suggest that the contractor would not want to take that language out. Commissioner Taylor wants the arbitration clause removed.

Commissioner Taylor moves to postpone the 911 budget presentation to February 17, 2022. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

Commissioner Taylor comments that prior to final decisions of the County Commission on budgets, if there is cost of living increase it should be across the board. She needs to know from all offices how to prioritize who gets raises. Mr. Ciliberti suggests that department heads need to be the bad guys instead of the County Commission. Commissioner Taylor and Mr. Ciliberti discuss Jennifer Crane's raise.

Five-minute break 11:23

Back in session 11:31

Regarding the Meadow River Rail Trail contracts. Prosecuting Attorney, Anthony Ciliberti says the other attorney pointed out that the agreement would be removing arbitration clause. Mr. Ciliberti does not like arbitration clauses. The Chapman contract regarding deviations in

scope of work will have to have written notice and approval for any changes. He added notice and payment provisions to the draft. Mr. Ciliberti asks if there are any objections to these changes. Commissioner Taylor moves that the contract with changes by Mr. Ciliberti and Michael Taylor be approved. Commissioner Louisos seconds. ALL IN FAVOR.

County Administrator, Ruth Lanier, will sort out the paperwork, which will have to go back to the contractor. If the contractor has any issue, they will get with Ms. Lanier. Commissioner Louisos asks if anyone else has issues. Michael Taylor has an issue with the arbitration clause only. Bill Hines (via Zoom) states that the process needs to be done as soon as possible. They will be under a mid-month reporting timeline. Commissioner Taylor says the changes have been made and Ms. Lanier will get them on the right letterhead. She explains what has been taken out and says that arbitration clause takes the court out of the process.

Commissioner Taylor moves to adjourn. Commissioner Taylor seconds. Meeting adjourned at 11:39.

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

February 23, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: JOHN BRENNEMEN, TOM LOUISOS, ALLISON TAYLOR

9:00 Pledge of Allegiance

Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds - Eddie Young
- none

Approve 2nd Half February Payroll Commissioner Taylor moves to approve: Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Vouchers and Invoices: Commissioner Louisos moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: none to approve

Approve Estate Settlements: Commissioner Taylor Moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

9:05 Ruth Lanier - Exhibit A

1. **Discussion & Decision: 911 Deputy Director Job**

Description: postponed until 3.2.22

2. **Discussion & Decision: Boomer Ballfield:** Asked Diane Callison, Parks Board Chairman, her thoughts on transferring the ballfield to the BOE. She felt the Park Board would agree. Tim Peyton, Board of Education, explained what it would want to be responsible for regarding maintenance and upkeep - it would not want to deal with major issues (underground plumbing; major electrical

work). He also discussed some of the improvements it would be willing to make - new aluminum bleachers; safety netting; fencing. Commissioner Brenemen asked about the school above the field; how long it had been unoccupied. Some discussion on access to the field and roads surrounding, perhaps closing off some of those access points. Commissioner Taylor suggests a nominal lease instead of an MOU. She feels it would give the BOE more freedom to make changes and enforce policy. Mr. Peyton said he didn't want to speak for the board about changing that "terminology" but would be willing to discuss that with the board. Commissioner Taylor clarified that they want to have some agreement just want to have it make the most sense; She and Prosecutor Ciliberti discussed some of the wording - it would need to include the nominal fee phrase. Commissioner Taylor moves to pursue a lease agreement with the BOE regarding the Boomer ballfield; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision. Commissioner Taylor moves to allocate the funds at a maximum of \$5,000 to remove the dangerous bleachers and section of fencing. Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision.

3. **Discussion & Decision: Letter to State Leaders Regarding County Growth** Commissioner Taylor moves to postpone until 3.2.22; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

4. **Discussion & Decision: Letter to Municipalities Re: GigReady Technical Assistance** Commissioner Taylor moved to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

5. **Discussion & Decision: Appointments to URA Commissioner** Taylor moves to postpone until 3.2.22 meeting; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

6. **Discussion & Decision: Request from Fayette County Parks & Recreation Authority Board for Camp and Shelter Fee Increases** Diane Callison; Parks Board, asked for certain fee increases. These increases are due to rising costs, would even out the fee structure. Has not had any increases in these fees since at least 2016. Discussion on why there might be a tiered structure based on desirability. Commissioner Taylor also inquired about half-day rentals, but Mr. Workman, Park Director, didn't feel it was a viable option. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve the increases; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

9:30 Budget Presentation: Deborah Hendrick, Circuit Clerk; needs to postpone due to family emergency; Commissioner Taylor moves to remove from agenda until the Circuit Clerk places back on the agenda; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

9:45 Break

10:00 Budget Presentation: Mike Fridley, Sheriff

Discussed the Concealed Weapons and Asset Forfeiture accounts. There are two different types of asset forfeiture - administrative and civil each with different requirements. Prosecutor Ciliberti and Sheriff Fridley have set a threshold of \$1,000 to "go after" these monies. Some of this money is to go to the Prosecuting Attorney's office (which hasn't been allocated in the past). Prosecutor Ciliberti and Sheriff Fridley have worked out a better procedure so this happens going forward. Commissioner Taylor asked what is purchased from this money.

Body Armor - 12 deputies need replacement plus 2 new. This amount is larger than normal - must be replaced at certain intervals by code. Overtime increase - of \$40,000 between the general and levy funds K9 - same as last year

Regional Jail - lowered by a conservative amount. He is also working with municipalities to recoup those jail costs when possible. Commissioner Taylor asked if the same procedure could be used with municipalities and animal control.

Fire Arms Training - finally found practice rounds. Asked for an increase because the costs of ammo have risen significantly.

Vehicles - received 3 new cruisers in a mid-year budget request. Asking for five new vehicles for the upcoming year. These would go out to state bid.

Body Cams - 10 new body cams. Commissioner Taylor asked if Prosecutor Ciliberti had the proper software to use the footage in court.

Weapons - received all ordered last year. Wants to outfit the deputy vehicles with dual mount weapons holders as well.

Commissioner Taylor asked if these items were in priority order - Sheriff Fridley answered they are not really.

Pay Raises - asked for across the board raises for everyone in his office.

Commissioner Brenemen asked about the maintenance costs on vehicles - they have gone down with a newer fleet. Nothing major needed, couple of warranty fixes. He is still using some of the older vehicles.

Commissioner Brenemen asked Chief Deputy Perdue for the maintenance report so they can look through the list together. Commissioner Taylor asked if Sheriff Fridley can send a breakdown of deputy pay raise versus other staff.

Sheriff Fridley discussed the differences in pay across the state with deputies and also with municipal police. He wants to make his pay competitive. The levy pays for several of his positions. Some discussion on Smithers charging a fee for nonresidents to work within city limits and whether that fee should be charged on deputy sheriffs. He also discussed different budget scenarios - he has a minimum increase budget and one that includes the pay increases he wants to implement. Commissioner Taylor asked about a levy increase; how the levy works. The FCC decides how much to ask for and places it on the

ballot. Sheriff Fridley discussed he wants to keep good deputies and people can work for other nearby areas for more money.

10:30 Budget Presentation: Brian Sparks, WVU Extension Office

He is not requesting any additional monies from the FCC for this Fiscal year.

10:45 Discussion & Decision: 911 Pay

Commissioner Taylor moves to go into executive session at 10:39am
Returned from executive session at 11:16am
Discussed raises for dispatchers at 911. Evaluated the current salaries and reviewed the budget. Did discover a miscalculation in how the hourly wages were done (being paid for four hours not worked since the '90s). Starting pay would increase from 10.69/hr to 12.69/hr. After probationary period or completion of training, pay would raise to 13.19/hr. Discussed specific salaries for specific employees. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve raises as stated effective 3.28.22 pay period; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision.

Commissioner Brenemen moves to adjourn; Commissioner Louisos 2nd;
Unanimous Decision

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

MARCH 2, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: JOHN BRENNEMEN, TOM LOUISOS, ALLISON TAYLOR

9:00

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Administrator Lanier

Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds - Eddie Young
- none

Approve Vouchers and Invoices - Commissioner Taylor moves to approve;
Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes Minutes from the following meetings were ready for approval. 1.5.22,1.31.22, 2.4.22, 2.10.22 Commissioner Taylor move to approve; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

Approve Estate Settlements none

9:05

Exhibit A

1. Discussion & Decision: Resolution approving invoices relating to Armstrong PSD Deepwater & Powellton Water Distribution System Rehabilitation Project 18SCBG0004

Commissioner Brenemen moves to approve; Commissioner Taylor 2nd;
Unanimous Decision

2. Discussion & Decision: MOU with AWAY (Women's Resource Center)

Prosecutor Ciliberti has reviewed. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

3. Discussion & Decision: WV Opioid Settlement MOU

Prosecutor Ciliberti has reviewed; Fayette County will receive close to 1.5 million from the settlement though he feels it is hard to quantify an amount that the opioid crisis has caused. Sheriff Fridley asked if he would still need to be deposed - this may be a different case or there are several plaintiffs listed on this case. There are several restrictions on spending the monies. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision

4. Discussion & Decision: Letter to State Leaders Regarding County Growth

Commissioner Taylor asked for feedback; Commissioner Brenemen and Commissioner Louisos both liked the letter. Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

9:10

Sheriff Mike Fridley - Permission to Send Tax Reminder Cards

The last two years they sent approximately 11,000 cards for a cost of 5700 dollars.

Total cost this year would .55 per card (.15 for printing, .40 for mailing) Because the cost would be under 6000, approval could be done by Commissioner Louisos. Commissioner Taylor suggests to add this line to Sheriff Fridley's budget for future years; Administrator Lanier agrees.

9:15

Michelle L. Holly Co Clerk - Agreement to Continue Using Early Voting Locations: Fayette County Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Building, Montgomery Community Center, & Green Valley United Methodist Church

Commissioner Taylor moves to approve; Commissioner Brenemen 2nd; Unanimous Decision

9:30

Budget Presentation: Joe Crist, Fire Coordinator

Joe and his assistant Becky are paid from this budget. No major changes. Explained the line items and minor changes. Money is allocated to the individual fire departments based on population. Commissioner Taylor questioned the group insurance rates; Administrator Lanier explained those lines always have to be adjusted. Also was asked about the travel expense - the \$10,000 would be for four people to travel to a national conference. Also asked about checking accounts of individual fire depts. They have three - a state account, a fire levy account, and a local account. Commissioner Taylor asked how the allocations to the Fire departments are done. Fayetteville and Oak Hill are allocated quarterly. The other fire departments submit invoices to be approved and paid. This difference was set in 2010 -before Joe Crist was in charge. Those municipalities felt it was too difficult to go through the submission process.

Commissioner Brenemen asked when they are audited - the individual departments are audited yearly per the levy agreement. The fire service coordinator is audited as part of the county. Commissioner Brenemen asked about copies of advertisements for the fire center bids; Administrator Lanier has them. He also asked about the mapping - the departments have until this Friday to turn them in. He will send the list of those who haven't turned them in to Administrator Lanier. Mr. Crist also plans to attend the fire meetings of those departments. Commissioner Brenemen suggests the Commission may have to withhold funds if we don't get this information. Commissioner Louisos discussed that it's sad for the people of Fayette County that they seem unwilling to provide this mapping information. Commissioner Taylor suggests that we offer to go to those departments and offer assistance.

9:45

Budget Presentation: Teresa Gregory, Community Corrections

Discussed how the Day Report Center (DRC) is changing and growing and working towards the community service it was intended to be. Went over an increase in her salary and wages budget. Rents and utilities line was decreased significantly since the program was moved to the courthouse campus. She has also partnered with two counselling organizations so this cost has gone down as well. These changes mean her overall budget "ask" is virtually the same as last year. Ms. Gregory also prepared a report on how their programs save money on the jail bill. Because of incomplete records she was not able to do a fiscal audit for 20-21, but instead had to do a calendar year of 2021. Day report monitoring and GPS monitoring saved \$972,392.25 in jail costs throughout 2021. Commissioner Taylor asked about the county paying for the GPS monitoring. There are two programs - through DRC and sheriff's department. Prosecutor Ciliberti discussed these differences. People monitored by the sheriff's department have that GPS cost paid by the state typically (because they are typically felons). Prosecutor Ciliberti felt it would be within the Commission's purview to pay those costs for those the DRC is monitoring, but he hasn't heard of this being an issue. He feels the best first step would be to have him being informed if someone isn't paying their bill for monitoring. Commissioner Taylor wants to develop a mechanism by which those defendants that can't afford the monitoring can use community service to offset the cost. She asks Prosecutor Ciliberti and Ms. Gregory to work on a written proposal to present the judges. Prosecutor Ciliberti mentioned that there would be situations where the County would not be able to recoup those costs. Ms. Gregory also discussed some program changes that would incentivize paying the \$30 monthly fee to participate in DRC. Discussion on the revenue and expenditures. Discussion on some test results that they receive - Commissioner Taylor suggests that Ms. Gregory share those results with the Prosecuting Attorney's office. She agrees to do that. Prosecutor Ciliberti asks that these screen results be sorted by criminal and abuse and neglect cases. It is helpful that DRC is closer. Ms. Gregory explained that they have

worked on staffing so that whenever the DRC is open, they can drug screen.

Ms. Gregory is asking to reallocate one part-time employee to full time to improve the efficiency of the office and increase services/extend some hours. This would also eliminate paying overtime. Prosecutor Ciliberti asked if that employee has had BIPPS training. Commissioner Taylor suggested the commission could pay for training if there was an agreement that the employee would offer at least one class once training is complete. (The revenue from offering that class would offset the cost of the employee's training). Revenue is slightly up from previous years. The billing was a little behind and she is getting caught up. Commissioner Taylor asked about Warm Hands and Warm Hearts and whether DRC should be participating with them since it isn't a government entity. Ms. Gregory explained she didn't think they have participated with them in the last several months.

Apologized again for not having complete financial numbers and explained they are improving their accounting practices.

Ms. Gregory explained further her reasoning for moving one employee from part-time to full time based on her performance and the needs of the program. Commissioner Taylor asked Ms. Gregory about her ideas to expand the program into the Valley. Commissioner Taylor suggested she get in touch with Mayor Ingram in Montgomery and her counterpart in Community Correction in Kanawha County. Ms. Gregory feels this would be a great asset because lack of transportation is their biggest hurdle in expanding the program. Commissioner Taylor asked Administrator Lanier/Executive Assistant Dangerfield to get Ms. Gregory in touch with the regional transit authorities. Ms. Gregory discussed how many functions the DRC provides to their participants. Commissioner Louisos asked for figures from different entities that provide transportation and how we might be able to combine these monies and help fund a singular entity for programs. Commissioner Louisos thanked Ms. Gregory for her hard work; Commissioner Taylor agreed; Ms. Gregory thanked her employees.

10:00

Discussion & Decision: Staffing, Salaries and Restructure

Commissioner Taylor discussed that the Commission has discussed the possibility of granting a pay raise to the County Administrator without discussing numbers. Commissioner Taylor moves to increase the County Administrator's salary by \$10,000 per year effective the next pay period; Commissioner Louisos 2nd; Unanimous Decision.

Motion to adjourn 10:28am

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR SESSION

March 16, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: ALLISON R. TAYLOR, JOHN G. BRENEMEN, THOMAS LOUISOS, II

The Fayette County Commission met in a regular session this 16th day of March 2022 via Zoom. Commissioners Brenemen, Louisos and Taylor all attended in person.

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ami Dangerfield.

There were no Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds to present.

Commissioner Brenemen motioned to approve vouchers and invoices. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

No minutes presented for approval.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve presented estate settlements. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

County Assessor Eddie Young presented proposing to use the old zoning office in the courthouse annex as storage. Currently the stairwells and other spaces are housing many materials that are no longer needed. He proposed cleaning the space out, selling old computers, and moving filing cabinets to other county spaces. Given the current state he believes it may be a fire hazard. The old zoning office presently functions as Litter Control Officer, Tommy Harris' office and Mr. Young would like to use it as record storage for assessor's files as it is underutilized and he is out of space. He will apply for grant funding that could cover record retention organization costs and it is possible that they could still fit a desk, chair, and phone for Mr. Harris in the space as well.

Commissioner Taylor would like to see the old files and materials to be purged first so the County knows exactly what it needs to store. Office space is at a premium and she does not want to see office space taken up as storage as it is needed for staff as the staff grows. Is it possible to scan and store files electronically rather than keep paper copies of everything? Mr. Young will look into the State's record retention requirements to determine if that is possible or not. County Administrator Ruth Lanier recommended using space at the Memorial Building for additional file storage, which is where other county offices store their older files. Commissioner Taylor and Ms. Lanier also discussed the county's recent purchase of efficient scanners that could help with the process.

Mr. Young agreed to purge what he can and will return back to the Commission to discuss further.

Discussion of having the County Fire Coordinator use a 30' building the county already owns but is not in use at the Fire Training Center to store additional supplies, i.e., hazard suits and air cylinders. If this can be coordinated, the supplies that are currently stored in the Fayetteville Mini Storage could be cleared out. Fire Coordinator Joe Crist agreed this would be a good solution and promised to look at the building soon, then make the necessary preparations to move it to the Fire Training Center.

Request from Fire Coordinator, Joe Crist for approval and signature of truck replacements in Ansted and Gauley Bridge for FY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Mr. Crist provided invoices for the commissioners to review. Commissioner Brenemen was curious what the timeline for the trucks arrival were. Mr. Crist estimates approximately one month. Commissioner Louisos inquired what the total equipment costs are and if they are purchased on credit or not. He was assured that the Fire Department does currently not own anything that is financed and any equipment that is retired is put out for public auction. Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the truck replacements. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Brooke Hutcheon presented the New River Humane Society budget request. Since last year 2,777 animals were brought into the shelter. Over 500 were brought in by the County Animal Control Officers, which means over 1,500 were brought in by citizens; that equates to very large vet bills. Some animals are adopted locally but others are transferred out of the county to other fostering agencies which equates to high gas bills taken on by the Humane Society. The total annual cost to the run the shelter is \$350,000. Fundraising has been very difficult, they are short staff, and operating with no director. The Humane Society provides essential services to the County such as: spay and neuter programs, cleaning and caring for the animals, and housing any animals that maybe involved in criminal cases. Commissioner Taylor asked what can be done about the 50% of people that brought their animals in because they cannot afford their pets. Ms. Hutcheon said she believes it due to the pandemic and either deceased or gravely ill family members that could not take care of their pets. The commission commended Ms.

Hutcheson on her report. They asked if there was additional funding from municipalities. Ms. Hutcheson commented that it is a very small contribution, the largest contribution was estimated at \$1,500. Commissioner Louisos wants to know where all the other funding came from, he was informed that \$185,000 came from donations and fundraising. Commissioner Taylor reminded the Humane staff that the Prosecuting Attorney's office is willing to pay fees for any animal criminal cases.

Kevin Walker presented the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and 911 Center budget requests. The OEM is a barebones budget request, primarily personnel costs. Mr. Walker noted that overtime costs are down, they pay \$36,000 for rent, OEM performance grant helps supplement salaries and the total budget request is \$161,515.

The 911 Center budget request does not represent any changes from previous years requests, all contracted and subscription services are the same. Service contracts consist of: two-way radios, HVAC, phone services, mapping software. The 911 Center earns \$100,000-\$200,000 in revenue, which is comprised of landline and wireless fees and are expected to continue to increase. The dispatchers were very appreciative of the raises that they were given. Training has opened back up and will resume next month in Charleston.

Discussion regarding cameras at the 911 Center. Commissioner Louisos would like more cameras so that operations can be better monitored, currently the commissioners and 911 Center management cannot view much. It was explained to Commissioner Louisos that Chief of Staff Tonya McMullen can see the dispatchers but cannot listen to the video feed due to HIPAA, she can however listen to the phone lines. The management staff is required to listen to 10% for quality assurance, Commissioner Louisos would like Ms. McMullen to listen to more, the requirement is not enough as if you cannot hear and see what is going on you are not able to effectively manage in his opinion. Commissioner Louisos believes that the Chief of Staff should be in the room with the dispatchers. Mr. Walker said that is why they have shift supervisors. The Chief of Staff is responsible for other high-level operational items and the shift supervisors are focused on day-to-day activities and will bring any issues to the attention of the Chief of Staff. Commissioner Taylor would like to see a more professional atmosphere in the 911 Center. Mr. Walker and Ms. McMullen have shifted their schedules certain days so that

each one of them comes in late and stays late to watch over and observe the evening shifts, this allows for better monitoring of multiple shifts. Commissioner Louisos further reinforced that as County employees we all have a responsibility to the public and we need to be as efficient as possible for the public. To do that any issue should be recognized as early as possible and taken care of quickly, which is why cameras and better monitoring of staff is needed. KTS installed the current cameras initially and will provide a quote for additional cameras. Commissioner Louisos will go with Sheriff Fridley to give his recommendation of where to place the new cameras and County Administrator Ruth Lanier can approve the expense since the amount will be well within her spending authority.

Discussion & Decision: Montgomery High School Fire Remediation.

The old Montgomery High School fire was not handled smoothly by County emergency services, it was very chaotic. Commissioner Taylor highly recommended that Mr. Walker create a streamlined standard operation procedure with Mr. Crist so that emergency services communication can flow properly and efficiently in emergency situation, as it should. Both Walker and Crist will work on creating such a plan.

To remove some of the fire damage the original estimate was \$5,000 for the excavator to tear down walls and the mayor of Montgomery was present to request an additional \$8,000 to complete the work to keep the public safe. The Commissioners agreed that the County should aid Montgomery in this emergency and the spending is under the County Administrator's purview so as needed this will proceed forward with collaboration from the City of Montgomery.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to adjourn at 11:04am. Commissioner Louisos seconded.

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

MARCH 21, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: ALLISON TAYLOR, TOM LOUISOS, JOHN G. BRENEMEN by Zoom

The Fayette County Commission met in a special session on March 21, 2022.

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor explained the process of choosing election poll workers, the role the Democratic and Republican Executive Committees play in recommending them, as well as an issue with the submission from the Republican Executive Committee because its members were concerned they did not have a chance to vote on the list submitted by the Chairman. Upon the interpretation of WV Code 3-1-30 by Prosecuting Attorney Anthony Ciliberti, that while the party executive committees may submit poll worker lists to the County Commission, it is ultimately the County Commission's decision who will serve, the Commission decided to proceed with a vote. Commissioner Taylor requested the other commissioners review the lists to determine if they had any objections to the poll workers submitted, and having none, Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve and appoint the poll worker lists submitted by the Democratic and Republican Executive Committees (even if the latter had not voted to approve the final list). Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to adjourn at 2:27 p.m.

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

MARCH 21, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: ALLISON TAYLOR, TOM LOUISOS, JOHN G. BRENEMEN by Zoom

The Fayette County Commission met in a special session on March 21, 2022.

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:22 p.m.

Commissioner Taylor explained the process of choosing election poll workers, the role the Democratic and Republican Executive

Committees play in recommending them, as well as an issue with the submission from the Republican Executive Committee because its members were concerned they did not have a chance to vote on the list submitted by the Chairman. Upon the interpretation of WV Code 3-1-30 by Prosecuting Attorney Anthony Ciliberti, that while the party executive committees may submit poll worker lists to the County Commission, it is ultimately the County Commission's decision who will serve, the Commission decided to proceed with a vote. Commissioner Taylor requested the other commissioners review the lists to determine if they had any objections to the poll workers submitted, and having none, Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve and appoint the poll worker lists submitted by the Democratic and Republican Executive Committees (even if the latter had not voted to approve the final list). Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to adjourn at 2:27 p.m.

FAYETTE COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR SESSION

March 23, 2022

FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PRESENT: ALLISON R. TAYLOR, JOHN G. BRENEMEN, THOMAS LOUISOS, II

The Fayette County Commission met in a regular session this 23rd day of March 2022 via Zoom. Commissioners Brenemen, Louisos and Taylor all attended in person.

Commissioner Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Brenemen.

There were no Exonerations, Orders to Combine or Divide Land, Refunds to present.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to approve vouchers and invoices. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

No minutes presented for approval.

Commissioner Brenemen motioned to approve presented estate settlements. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

Discussion & Decision: Tiffany Cottle: EMPG 2019 Grant Award for Signature. The state office is behind in issuing awards due to COVID. Commissioner Brenemen made a motion to accept the reimbursement for the EMPG grant. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Discussion & Decision: Tiffany Cottle, Planner, request for signatures Hazard Mitigation Federally-Assisted Acquisition Project Exhibit As for Kim R. & Kathy M. Eades and The Loup Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., a WV Corporation for signature.

Prosecuting Attorney Ciliberti was present to discuss property deeds as exhibits and confirmed that Tiffany Cottle will distribute the deeds, get all the signatures then return to Jamie Blankenship. Commissioner Louisis made a motion to approve. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Discussion & Decision: Budget Revision

County Administrator Ruth Lanier presented a spreadsheet with FY2022 budget revisions for the commission approval. (See below.)

Discussion & Decision: New Roots Community Farms Personal Property Transfer

Commissioner Louisos made a motion to transfer the property to the Urban Renewal Authority. Commissioner Taylor seconded. Unanimous decision.

Discussion & Decision: Request from Fayette County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for assistance with Lowes Hometown Grant

Diane Callison, Fayette County Park board director and Wayne Workman Fayette County Park director presented the grant opportunity. The park board would like to nominate the Fayette County Park for the Lowe's grant. A nomination form must be completed and there will be a total of 100 grants funded throughout the country. Mr. Workman recommended two projects. The first being updates to the bath houses to make them more efficient with low flow toilets and to update the interiors as

it has been a very long time since that has been done. Commissioner Louisos thought it is a great idea and wanted to make sure there was enough water pressure for the low volume toilets. Mr. Workman believes there is. The second project would be constructing a wedding venue at the old horse arena which would increase the park's rental capacity. Mr. Workman stated that nearly daily the park staff receives calls regarding wedding and other rental needs. He believes the cost of this project to be an estimated \$100,000. Commissioner Brenemen thinks both projects are wonderful but the bathroom project should take priority as they have not been updated in a very long time.

Commissioner Louisos motioned to approve pursuing these projects. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Discussion & Decision: Letter regarding earmarks for dilapidated houses and sewer projects.

There is a letter drafted for dilapidated properties within Fayette County to be submitted as an earmark request to the federal government. Commissioner Taylor would like a chart added where it can easily show where the routes are with photos attached. The area of Route 60 and 612 has the highest concentration in the county.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to approve the letter content with some minor formatting revisions. Commissioner Louisos seconded. Unanimous decision.

Budget approval -the FY2023 budget was submitted to the commissioners for approval. There were three options: first, as each department presented their individual budgets; second, with a 5% cost of living wage increase for all employees; and third, with a 5% cost of living wage increase for all employees and additional increases for entry level sheriff deputies, select prosecuting attorney salaries, and making a community corrections officer full time from part time.

Commissioner Taylor prefers the third option.

Commissioner Louisos made a motion to approve the third budget option presented. Commissioner Brenemen seconded. Unanimous decision.

Commissioner Taylor motioned to adjourn at 9:39am. Commissioner Louisos seconded.

To be approved

April 6

April 19

April 25

May 4
May 16

March 9
