

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger and Commissioner David H. Cannon were present. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, then offered prayer. President Eglinger called the meeting to order and stated that Commissioner Hott was under the weather and did not expect to attend the meeting, but a quorum was present.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on November 28, 2023 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the minutes as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and Commissioner Cannon reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

While waiting for the first agenda appointment, the Clerk presented Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requests for payments (RFP) numbered 225531-08 for the Public Health Facility Project and number 22778-5 for the Southwestern Water Extension Project. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the President to sign the RFPs as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Clerk also presented the Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant Award (EMPG) document confirming the total grant award of \$36,403. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the President to sign the EMPG award document and President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

At 9:15 am, President Eglinger announced that the Commission had scheduled a Public Hearing regarding the extension of water service by the Central Hampshire Public Service District (CHPSD) into Mineral County as established in the Order which was adopted in the Commission meeting of November 14, 2023. Notices of the Public Hearing were accomplished as required in the Order. President Eglinger noted that Jim Hoffman and Dave Coyle were present representing CHPSD. President Eglinger opened the Public Hearing comment period during which no one made any comment. After five (5) minutes with no public comment the President closed the Public Hearing.

Tax Assessor Norma Wagoner sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) requests for exemptions and waivers in regard to the ambulance fee, were presented after review and recommendation for action by HCESA personnel. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the exemptions as recommended, for either exemption or denial, by the HCESA Board and President Eglinger seconded the motion which was then passed.

Dr. Megan Webb, Dean of Advancement & Innovation at Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College came with Jennifer Rexroad to discuss the training and educational programs that Eastern offers to Hampshire citizens.

Assessor Norma Wagoner asked to speak to the Commission regarding a personnel matter. Commissioner Cannon moved that the Commission go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters as allowed in WV Code §6-9A-4. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed. President Eglinger declared the meeting in executive session at 9:50 am.

President Eglinger declared the meeting back in open session at 10:04 and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken.

The Commission had received several calls regarding a landowner's need for an easement over unclaimed property in Springfield. The Assessor was able to offer some insight into a process for a solution and the Commission stated that there may be prior court cases that may pertain to this situation. The Commission did not attempt resolution.

President Eglinger offered a public comment period but no one participated.

Rolf Ronken presented information on the West Virginia State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The grant program was announced with a very narrow window of opportunity to apply, but the County's IT contractor is assisting with the process and stated that this is a good opportunity. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve up to a \$5,000 grant match for the first year and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Ronken continued that the recycling grant has been approved by West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDRP) Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) in the full amount of the request. The grant contract and award documentation will be sent on Friday the 15th and he requested approval for the President to sign the grant acceptance documents on receipt. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the REAP grant documents when received and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon nominated Hunter Thorn to serve on the Planning Commission for a new term which will expire June 30, 2026. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon moved that Brian Hott should be reappointed to the Development Authority for his term to expire June 30, 2025. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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

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

The Commissioners agreed to call a special meeting for January 2, 2024 at 9:00 am for the purpose of selecting a President for the Commission for 2024 and to organize the meeting calendar for the new year. Additional business items may be added to the posted agenda in the normal manner.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48a AM.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.