

BARBOUR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

February 21, 2020

8:30am

SUSIE CVECHKO COMMISSION PRESIDENT, TIM MCDANIEL COMMISSIONER, JAMIE CARPENTER COMMISSIONER, SHANA FREY ADMINISTRATOR

Derick Spencer, Judy Beckner Larry, Carol Delcol, Jim Kines, Kelly Stadelman, Paul Baker, Leroy Stanley, Tammy Narog, Cory Cox, Michael Fink, Ron Skidmore, Corey Brandon

Susie Cvechko called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting was approved on a motion by Tim McDaniel and seconded by Jamie Carpenter.

Eight (8) final settlements were presented. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Tim McDaniel, the following final settlements were approved.

DOROTHEA ANN OREF, JACKIE DAVID RAINES, SR., JOSPEH LaROSA, LUCY ZELK, MARGARET ETHEL GALL GREDLER, WILLIAM KENNEDY, AGNES VIRGINIA SAFFLE, VIRGINIA LEE EDGE

Derick Spencer provided an update on the election and a list of poll workers will be provided for approval at one of the March meetings. He reported that six poll workers will be at each precinct.

A resolution was passed on a motion by Tim McDaniel and seconded by Susie Cvechko that the Barbour County Commission hereby memorializes its declaration of a public nuisance made on February 6, 2017 that the wrongful manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of prescription pain pills, including hydrocodone and oxycodone, has created a public nuisance to the people of Barbour County. Susie Cvechko also referenced that between 2006 and 2014, approximately 7.5 million prescription pain pills were sold in Barbour County, which has a census population of 16,589.

Prosecutor Thomas Hoxie provided statistical information for Barbour County in regards to child abuse and neglect cases and prison incarcerations. In 2019, Barbour County had a record-high 152 child abuse and neglect cases filed compared to just 29 in 2008. This increase generally stemmed from parents being addicted to methamphetamine. In the last three years Barbour County has averaged 72 felons incarcerated in prison each year compared to approximately 47 felons in prison in the preceding years. Hoxie explained that the incarceration number only includes those who were convicted of a felony and sent to the state penitentiary, while criminals convicted of misdemeanors are sentenced to the regional jail. Hoxie thanked the Commission for allowing for a full-time assistant in 2015 and recently, a part-time assistant because it allows him to focus on prosecuting felonies, which he believes has resulted in increased convictions and prison incarceration.

Tim McDaniel questioned if the State Police Forensic laboratory delays prosecuting drug cases. Hoxie responded that while the lab is making improvements and additional funding has been allocated, delayed lab drug results hinders the ability to prosecute cases timely. Hoxie stated that for all criminal drug cases, the drugs must be sent to the state laboratory and tested to confirm that the drug is what the State is alleging. The drug test results from all of the October Grand Jury indictments have not been received. Hoxie will be unable to have a trial for those cases until the results are received, which increases the county's jail bill while the Defendant is in jail

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awaiting trial prior to a conviction and being sent to the State Penitentiary. Increased state funding for the State Police laboratory should then help county prosecutors prosecute drug cases without a lengthy delay.

Jamie Carpenter asked for an explanation of who determines how a defendant is sentenced. Hoxie explained that the Circuit Judge or Magistrate makes the ultimate decision on how an offender is sentenced, whether it be to prison, jail, probation, home confinement, community corrections, etc. The Commission controls the budgets for the home confinement and community corrections programs and without the Commission's support, these programs would not exist. There are many factors and laws that the Judge or Magistrate has to take into consideration in determining a proper sentence.

The Commission thanked him for his work.

Susie Cvechko asked Tammy Narog to describe how the Community Corrections program functions. She explained that drug test violators are given multiple chances and the Judges are supportive and willing to help if they want to help themselves. Often times a participant is scheduled for treatment and they don't show, leave early or violate when they get home; resulting in them going to jail. Tammy explained that when the Judge orders someone to go to a treatment facility, generally the person has a medical card and treatment is essentially paid for by the State or through grant funding. When private insurance is involved, it is more difficult to find a treatment facility and limits the services covered. She plans to apply for a Treatment Service Grant and dedicate one person to focus on treatment arrangements.

Tammy discussed that the Community Corrections grant is due March 20, however she expects to have Taylor/Barbour's application submitted in early March. She requested the Commission to support the grant with a match commitment of \$50,000, same as Taylor County again this year. On a motion by Tim McDaniel, seconded by Jamie Carpenter and passed unanimously, the match commitment was approved.

The County Commission appreciates her efforts and that its positive to see that several participants have gained employment.

John Cutright submitted a letter to the Commission asking for consent to hire Dawn Carey and Heather Plum as employees to the Assessor's office. The Commission had no objections.

Judy Larry invited the Commission and the public to Philippi Public Library's reception on Thursday February 27, 2020 from 3:00-6:00. Ms. Larry described the extensive list of services and programs that the library provides including books, movies and magazines; technology skills; search and apply for employment; online classes; tutorials; financial aid and college applications; printing services; genealogy; Workforce computer stations; meeting location; and many more. She went on to say that 23% of Barbour County residents read on a fourth-grade level or below, as a result, the library offers adult tutoring sessions.

She explained that they are required to have tax-based matches from the Board of Education, City of Philippi and the County Commission in order to receive their state funding. She also stressed that they are pushing Census participation because state aid funding is based on per capita.

She submitted a request of \$15,000 to be allocated the 2020-2021 budget. The Commission will take the information presented into consideration during budget preparations.

Linda Proudfoot represented the Blue and Gray Reunion and presented their \$2,800 contribution request. Their request is asking for help with portable toilet rentals and the hand washing station.

Gloria Tusing represented the Teter Creek Lake Neighborhood Watch and presented their \$1,000 contribution request. Ms. Tusing discussed the improvements that the organization has provided to the Teter Creek Lake area, including bench installations. The organization meets every third Sunday at 1:00.

The County Commission will take both of these requests into consideration during budget preparations.

Kelley Stadelman provided a report on the Run For It program. The County Commission started contributing to the program in 2013 with a total of \$23,500. The return on investment of these funds is \$264,500.00 to date. She asked that the Commission considers to continue their support of \$3,500 for the 2020-2021 budget year.

OEM/911 presented a resolution to the Commission to consider proclaiming telecommunicators as true first responders. This resolution was accepted on a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Susie Cvechko.

Representatives from Save the Tygart provided an update on progress to Beaver Creek. The pH levels are consistently improving and they are requesting the Commission's continued support. Support will be discussed during budget preparations.

On a motion by Tim McDaniel and seconded by Jamie Carpenter, the quote submitted by the county's payroll software vendor, Compete System Support (CSSI), for \$1,600.00 was approved for the preparation of forms 1094 and 1095, as required per the Affordable Care Act.

The Commission thanked OEM/911 for their work and long hours during the victim recovery operations at Audra. OEM reported there were 25 agencies involved.

The next regular meeting will be on March 2 at 5:00 pm.

Tim McDaniel discussed that Philip Barbour Tennis will begin using the tennis courts at the fairgrounds. He mentioned that tennis nets are replaced each year and it is their turn to purchase

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the nets this year. Notification regarding the restroom facility grant has not been received so they will need to also rent a portable toilet.

Civil Environmental Consultants (CEC) reported they are committing \$2,000 toward the Swim Team's swim blocks and a business partner matched with \$2,000.00.

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Tim McDaniel, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Susie Cvechko, President