

Barbour County Commission Meeting
October 3, 2022
5:00pm

SUSIE CVECHKO COMMISSION PRESIDENT, JAMIE CARPENTER COMMISSIONER, DAVID STRAIT COMMISSIONER, CONNIE KAUFMAN COUNTY CLERK, SHANA FREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Kim Lewis, Mike Rexroad, Doug Schiefelbein, Anna Stemple, Dana Stemple, Brett White, Jedd Schola, Dylan Harper, Laurie L. Austin

Susie Cvechko called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two public hearings were scheduled in conjunction with the Regular Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cvechko called the first public hearing to order. USDA has received an application for Federal Assistance from the Belington Volunteer Fire Department. The proposed project consists of the purchase of a side by side that will be used for firefighting and rescue operations. The purpose of this hearing is to provide information to the public regarding this project and to comment on the economic and environmental impacts, service area or alternatives to the project.

No representation from Belington Fire Department was in attendance.

Based on information from the application, the proposed funding amount requested is \$50,000. The USDA grant, if approved, would fund approximately 35%- \$17,500. The remaining \$32,500.00 would be local match.

The meeting was opened for questions and comments.

A question was asked regarding what was included in the side-by-side package. The application indicated that the Belington Volunteer Fire Department intends to purchase a new 6x6 Polaris Side by Side Utility Task vehicle that will be prepared for firefighting and rescue operations in all climates. The vehicle will have a firefighting and rescue combo kit, emergency light kit, emergency light bar and PA system. The rescue combo consists of a water tank equipped with a pump and fire hose for fire suppression and a stokes basket with a carrier that will allow for one provider to ride and treat the patient.

The Commission indicated that during previous discussions with the Belington Volunteer Fire Department they requested them to consider revising their quote to remove unnecessary items; reducing the overall cost of the vehicle. A revised, current quote was not available for review.

It was also questioned if the Belington Volunteer Fire Department could contribute any amount of funds to the project. A response was not available.

No further questions or comments were presented. Commissioner Cvechko closed the public hearing.

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Commissioner Cvechko called the seconded public hearing to order. USDA has received an application for Federal Assistance from the Barbour County Commission. The proposed project consists of the purchase of body cameras for the Barbour County Sheriff's Department. The purpose of this hearing is to provide information to the public regarding this project and to comment on the economic and environmental impacts, service area or alternatives to the project.

The project would purchase thirteen body worn cameras with a cost of \$40,161.00. Several grant programs have been/being pursued. The WV Homeland Security program and the Barbour Community Foundation did not award funding for the project. Additional grant programs have been applied to and awaiting a determination. Any grant funds received for the project would reduce the local match requirement.

Commissioner Strait commented that the condition of current body cameras are poor and offer little to no audio and granular video which could be detrimental to a court case or officer safety.

No further questions or comments were presented. Commissioner Cvechko closed the public hearing.

The regular commission meeting began at 5:13pm.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jamie Carpenter, meeting minutes from September 16, 2022 was approved. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

Connie Kaufman provided an update on the Geraldine Wright estate. According to the assigned Fiduciary Commissioner, the final settlement is stayed pending outcome of litigation.

Commissioner Strait asked if this process was typical. Kaufman referred to this estate as being the first in her tenure to require an out of county fiduciary and that the real estate property has to be litigated to move forward.

On a motion by Susie Cvechko, seconded by Jamie Carpenter, eleven (11) final settlements were approved. 3/0

DARL HAMILTON MCDANIEL, RICHARD STEVE WHITE, FAX L. HILLYARD, JR., ELSIE LILIAN FRYE, WILLIAM ROBERT SMITH, II, ELWIN ASHBY, VIRGINIA RYDZAK, EDWARD RYDZAK, SCOTT D. DUNLOP, REBECCA JEAN PUCKETT, CONNIE SUE WILSON

City of Philippi Mayor, Phil Bowers presented a funds request for the Philippi Christmas Committee in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help support their efforts. Events planned include Christmas trees on the Courthouse lawn and throughout Philippi, Christmas Parade, Play, Stroll and various other activities. All events that were cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic are being restored this year. Mayor Bowers explained that all donations collected through their

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efforts are donated back to non-profits in the county. On a motion by Susie Cvechko, seconded by David Strait, this request was approved. 3/0

Mayor Bowers thanked the commission for their continued support and partnerships. Commissioner Cvechko also commented on the positivity from the Summer Concert Series. Mayor Bowers indicated that the City is working on grants for next year's music events.

Doug Schiefelbein read the proclamation declaring October 3-7, 2022 as 2022 West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees (WVARSE) / Barbour County Association of Retired School Employees (BCARSE) Week. He described the community service projects and volunteerism that the Barbour County Association of Retired School Employees participate in.

Susie Cvechko read the Breast Cancer Awareness Proclamation, declaring October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Brett White was in attendance and read the proclamation declaring October 27th as United Way Day. United Way services is a 100% local give back organization and locally governed. Mr. White described United Way services. Barbour County is in the Tygart Valley United Way region.

Dylan Harper, 911 Director, provided a 'Calls for Service' report that reflects the increase in calls since the Sheriff's Department began 24-hour coverage.

Harper reported that he completed radio programming training and will soon be self-sufficient for radio programming needs.

A Cyber Security Committee is being created to meet requirements of a Cyber Security grant that he intends to apply for. The Committee will help identify cyber security needs throughout county operations. He intends to submit an application for equipment and needs as identified by the committee.

Harper requested consent to hire Mykaila Shreve to fill a vacant position. She will begin mid-October.

Several maintenance / appliance replacements were discussed. He is seeking additional quotes and will present for approval consideration at a future meeting.

Mike Rexroad, American Legion Post #44, is requesting permission to place a memorial plaque on the World War I monument, Dough Boy in honor of Iraq War Veteran Romulo J. Jimenez II. They would also like to place memorial bricks around the base of the monument with names of all fallen military personnel to make a walkway inside the fence of the monument. There are currently 112 Barbour Countians who have lost their lives in war. The commission gave permission to proceed with the projects.

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On a motion by Susie Cvechko; seconded by Jamie Carpenter, the State of WV supplement funding for the VOCA grant was accepted. The total VOCA grant award is \$41,159.00. The state supplement funding totals \$16,183.00. The federal award documents will be provided later in October. 3/0

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, the Court Security grant award was accepted in the amount of \$49,306.00. This grant will enhance Courthouse security by increasing access control to Law Enforcement offices, replace the back door entrance, install additional cameras to eliminate blind spots in surveillance coverage and install window security at Barbour County Family Court. 3/0

The Commission unanimously passed a resolution opposing Amendment Two- Property Tax Modernization. 3/0 During the 2022 General Election, West Virginians will be asked to vote on Amendment 2, one of the most substantial changes in West Virginia's Constitution in nearly 100 years. The resolution goes on to say that its not the County Commission's place to tell registered voters how to vote, however they do have a duty to inform the public of the potentially devastating and far-reaching impacts that Amendment Two has on public safety and local government services of Barbour County. Passage of Amendment Two will remove constitutional protection that provides critical funding for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services and public education. There is no consensus among the legislative bodies regarding Amendment Two to inform voters of what they are voting against or for during the General Election.

Commissioner Cvechko talked about discussions held at the WV Association of Counties board meeting earlier in the day. Further discussion was held and a great concern is that counties could be forced to increase real estate tax and land owners will make up the funding gap. Several counties are holding town hall meetings where the WV Center on Budget and Policy is presenting impacts of Amendment Two and answering questions. Dates were discussed and a Town Hall meeting will be scheduled at the Philip Barbour High School Auditorium.

ARP Round 2 funding level was discussed. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, \$400,000.00 will be allocated toward applications received during Round 2 of the ARP application phase, which closes on October 12, 2022. The balance of \$1,196,736 will remain unallocated for future project use. 3/0

The October Board of Assessment Appeals hearing will be held on October 19 at 5:00pm. This date has been confirmed with the WV State Tax Department.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 21, 2022 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm on a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jamie Carpenter. 3/0

Susie Cvechko, President

Barbour County
Connie L. Kaufman, Clerk
Instrument 271361
10/21/2022 @ 10:59:11 AM
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
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