The County Commission of Upshur County, West Virginia, held their regular meeting at the Courthouse Annex on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Terry Cutright called the meeting to order. Present were Terry Cutright, Commissioner; JC Raffety, Commissioner; Troy A. Brady, Commissioner; Carrie Wallace, County Administrator; Jeanne Zickefoose, Commission Assistant; and Jacqueline Dinklocker, Secretary. The meeting began with a moment of silent meditation and prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. All motions passed unanimously, unless otherwise stated.

After discussion, on motion by Troy A. Brady, seconded by JC Raffety, the Commission approved the regular meeting minutes of March 03, 2016 as submitted.

After discussion, on motion by JC Raffety, seconded by Troy A. Brady, the Commission approved and authorized the President to sign the Aerial Photography and Orthophotography Services and License Agreement between the Upshur County Commission and Blue Mountain, Inc. in the amount of $15,975 per contract year. Per WV Code §11-8-26, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the agreement within thirty days of the laying the levy for the aforementioned fiscal years if funds are not appropriated for the project (copy included). The Commission discussed adding change detection services which would benefit Addressing and Mapping, Building Permit and Flood Plain Management as well as the Assessor. Change detection services may be added at a later date under a separate agreement pending budgetary review.

Robert Hinton, Upshur County Development Authority Executive Director, appeared before the Commission and provided information and data concerning the accessibility of broadband services throughout Upshur County and discussed a collaborative proposal for the purpose of expanding Broadband infrastructure in the unserved areas of five counties which include Barbour, Lewis, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur. Mr. Hinton reported that West Virginia ranks 50th in the nation and the US ranks 12th in the world for Broadband access. Mr. Hinton requested the Commission to sign a “Resolution of Support” which will be included with a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Service (USDA RUS) Community Connect. After discussion, on motion by JC Raffety, seconded by Troy A. Brady, the Commission approved and authorized the signing of the Resolution of Support (copy included). Mr. Hinton estimated that the grant would benefit 15,000 or more homes throughout the area if approved.

Dr. Joseph Reed, Upshur County Health Official and member of the Upshur County Tobacco Prevention Coalition, appeared before the Commission and provided information and data concerning the effects of tobacco usage and smoking on Upshur County and West Virginia citizens. Ginny Dixon, TPC member, read the “Kick Butts Day” Proclamation, which designates March 16, 2016 as “Kick Butts Day” in Upshur County and “…encourage(s) the residents of Upshur County to assist in creating a smoke free environment.” After discussion, on motion by Troy A. Brady, seconded by JC Raffety, the Commission approved and authorized the signing of the proclamation (copy included).

Carrie Wallace provided a review of the Emergitech Upgrade Quote in the amount of $88,850 for the E911 Communications Center. The upgrade of hardware and software is necessary for the implementation of a new phone system and Next Generation equipment. The quote includes installation and one year tech support. Future year expenditures are expected to be $12,000 annually for tech support in addition to the current amount. After discussion, on motion by JC Raffety, seconded by Troy A. Brady, the Commission approved the expenditure. Carrie Wallace advised that the upgrade will come from 911 funds which are sufficient to pay for the upgrade.

After discussion, on motion by JC Raffety, seconded by Troy A. Brady, the Commission approved Berlin Hunter Sheets, III as volunteer for the Lewis-Upshur Animal Control Facility.

After discussion, on motion by Troy A. Brady, seconded by JC Raffety, the Commission approved the employment of Michael Edwin Dean as part time Temporary (Seasonal) Grounds Keeper effective March 20, 2016 through September or October (depending on weather) at the rate of $9.00 per hour for up to 29.5 hours per week (copy included).

Robert Grandusky, Ellamore resident (Randolph County), appeared before the Commission to discuss Ellamore area first responder dispatch procedures and request the Upshur County Commission to work with the Randolph County Commission to implement a Mutual Aid Agreement to provide emergency medical services to Ellamore residents. Mr. Grandusky appeared before the
Upshur County Commission on October 8, 2015 and has also appeared before the Randolph County Commission with his request. A 2014 Mutual Aid Agreement between the Upshur County (Ellamore) and Randolph County (Coalton) Fire Departments addresses only structure and/or brush fires and motor vehicle accidents, and not residential health or accident circumstances. The Ellamore Community’s closest emergency service is the Ellamore FD, which is only 1 mile away vs. Coalton FD which is 9 or 10 miles. However, approximately 63 households are in Randolph County, so they have to wait for critical services when minutes are crucial. In spite of his efforts, Mr. Grandusky has not been able to secure satisfactory results for his request and is once again, requesting the Commission to take action. Terry Cutright asked Mr. Grandusky if he would be able to stay and continue with his presentation after the scheduled 10:00 a.m. bid openings for Lawn Care Services.

At 10:00 a.m., Carrie Wallace opened and reviewed bids for Grounds Keeper Contract for various Commission owned properties located within Upshur County. Ms. Wallace advised that 5 parties attended the pre-bid meeting and 4 bids have been received as follows:

- Phillip Stanton dba Stanton Mowing Services $14,235.00
- Daniel Hanifan $28,320.00
- Happy Grass Lawn Care $23,025.00
- (one area was incorrectly calculated for 21 mows-not the requested 27 mows)
- Sam’s Lawn and Garden $18,540.00

After discussion, on motion by Terry Cutright, seconded by JC Raffety, the Commission approved the bid from Stanton Mowing Services in the amount of $14,235.00. Carrie Wallace will follow up with notification and document preparation.

Mr. Grandusky continued with his presentation. Commissioners agreed that the solution may not be complicated but lies in the hands of the Randolph County Commission and Coalton Fire Department. After discussion, on motion by JC Raffety, seconded by Troy A. Brady, the Commission agreed to send correspondence to the Randolph County Commission, the Coalton Fire Department and the Ellamore Fire Department expressing their support for an amendment to the current MAA between Ellamore FD and Coalton FD, allowing both Departments to respond concurrently during a life threatening emergency.

Jim Farrell, Office of Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Commission to inform them of a request for his approval to Upshur Properties, Inc.’s Emergency Operations Plan. Mr. Farrell expressed his concerns with the proposal as written. After discussion, Carrie Wallace suggested that a meeting with Upshur Properties, Inc., OEM, City of Buckhannon and County Administration be held prior to his approval of the plan.

Terry Cutright reviewed the following “For Your Information” items (copies included):
1. West Virginia State Tax Department, Notice of Determination of Average Wholesale Price of Motor Fuel and Determination of the Gasoline Gallon Equivalent for Alternative Fuel
2. Upshur County Building Permits-February 2016
4. Upshur County Health Department Newsletter-March 2016
5. Announcement of Round Table Discussion on Major Health challenges Facing Upshur County to be held at WVWC on March 14, 2016
6. Announcement of Bingo to benefit Relay for Life Team Wendling’s Warriors—March 13, 2016
7. Agendas and/or Notice of Meetings:
   - Upshur county Solid Waste Authority—March 14, 2016
   - Upshur County Fire Board—March 15, 2016
8. Meeting Minutes:
   - Elkins Road Public Service District—February 2, 2016
9. Meetings:
   - 03/01/16-5:30 p.m.-Elkins Road PSD
   - 03/01/16-6:00 p.m.-Hodgesville PSD
03/03/16-7:00 p.m.- Banks District VFD
03/03/16-7:00 p.m.- Selbyville VFD
03/08/16-6:00 p.m.- Buckhannon River Watershed Association
03/08/16-1:00 p.m.- Adrian PSD
03/09/16-7:00 a.m.- Upshur County Development Authority-Executive Board
03/09/16-6:00 p.m.- Buckhannon Upshur Board of Health
03/09/16-12:00 p.m.- Upshur County Senior Center Board
03/09/16-1:30 p.m.- Upshur County Conventions & Visitors Bureau-UCDA Office
03/09/16-6:00 p.m.- Upshur County Citizens Corp-CERT
03/09/16-7:00 p.m.- Warren District VFD
03/10/16-7:30 p.m.- Adrian VFD
03/10/16-3:00 p.m.- Tennerton PSD
03/10/16-4:00 p.m.- Upshur County Safe Sites & Structures Ordinance Board
03/10/16-7:30 p.m.- Buckhannon VFD
03/10/16-6:00 p.m.- B-U Airport Authority—meeting held at Airport
03/14/16-12:00 p.m.- Upshur County Family Resource Network
03/14/16-4:30 p.m.- Upshur County Solid Waste Authority
03/14/16-6:00 p.m.- B-U Recreational Park Advisory Board
03/14/16-6:00 p.m.- Lewis-Upshur Community Corrections Board-Lewis County
03/15/16-10:00 a.m.- Wes-Mon-Ty Resource Conservation & Development
03/15/16-6:30 p.m.- Upshur County Fire Board
03/15/16-5:00 p.m.- Upshur County EETAB
03/15/16-4:00 p.m.- Upshur County Public Library Board
03/16/16-7:00 p.m.- Ellamore VFD
03/16/16-12:00 p.m.- Lewis Upshur LEPC—Lewis location
03/20/16-6:30 p.m.- Upshur County Youth Camp Board
03/20/16-6:00 p.m.- Washington District VFD
03/21/16-12:00 p.m.- Buckhannon-Upshur Chamber of Commerce
03/23/16-7:00 a.m.- Upshur County Development Authority
03/23/16-10:00 a.m.- James W. Curry Advisory Board
03/24/16-3:30 p.m.- Upshur County Farmland Protection Board
03/28/16-10:00 a.m.- Mountain CAP of West Virginia, CDC
TBA-6:00 p.m.- Upshur County Fire Fighters Association

10. Budget Hearing Schedule
The Commission will hold budget hearings on the following dates. For a detailed list of meetings, please contact Carrie Wallace at clwallace@upshurcounty.org

- March 14, 2016—1:00 p.m.
- March 15, 2016—9:00 a.m.
- March 16, 2016—9:00 a.m.
- March 17, 2016—1:00 p.m.
- March 18, 2016—9:00 a.m.

11. Appointments Needed or Upcoming:
- Upshur Fire Board (Vacant Position-6-30-16)-1st District Community Representative
- Upshur County Farmland Preservation Board (Vacant Position-06-30-15)—At Large-Non Farming

The Commission approved all invoices for payment (copies included)
The Commission approved all Vacation Orders
The Commission approved the following Settlements (copies included):
- Ester D. Adams-Final
- Frank Wilbur Harper-Final
- Erma Louise Berry Jordan-Final
- Terry Dee McClung-Final
- Angela Doris Shaffer-Final

The Commission approved the following “Exonerations and/or Refunds” (copies included):
- Barbara K. Rexroad—#3791—$873.81
- George Jr. or Lois N. Tenney--#3792--$22.86
The Commission approved the following “Request to Attend Meeting” (copies included):
  • Terri Jo Bennett—June 13 thru 15, 2016

With no further business, on motion by Troy A. Brady, seconded by JC Raffety, the Commission adjourned at 12:30 p.m.