

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, THURSDAY,
MAY 15, 1986.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER, DEXTER L. BUCKLEY, JR.
COMMISSIONER, LEWIS E. GUINN

The Commission met with the Fire Fighters Association first thing this morning, to discuss their funding situation since the Fire Protection Fee did not pass in the Primary Election. William Ferguson read from a letter that stated that the nine Volunteer Fire Departments of Wood County felt that they had educated the people fairly well concerning the Fire Protection Fee. He further stated that they believed that the people felt that their neighbors would vote so it didn't matter if they voted or not. A copy of the letter is attached. Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr. stated that the Commission was behind the fire departments and they would find some way of funding them. He further mentioned Revenue Sharing Allocation but stated that they were not sure of the amount. Commissioner Lewis E. Guinn stated that he felt in his opinion that the Commission should put the Fire Fee on, without putting it on the ballot again. He further stated that the Commission would discuss this further on Monday. Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr. asked how much the Fire Departments needed. Kim Marshall stated that Deerwalk needed between \$8,000 to \$10,000. Bill Ferguson stated that Blennerhassett needed \$16,000 to \$20,000 by October. Eastwood would need \$20,000 - \$25,000. Waverly, Williamstown and Pond Creek did not need any funding at this time because they still had Revenue Sharing. Lubeck Fire Department would need about \$10,000. Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr.

stated that he did not agree with Commissioner Guinn, he felt that the public had spoken and the Commission should go along with that. He stated that he was in favor of putting it on the ballot again in November, and the Commission would work with them to educate the public. The meeting ended at 10:00.

At 10:00 the Commission held an Appointment of a Guardian Hearing, for Donald Thomson. The Attorney Robert Waters submitted to the Commission the return on service and return of notice to the next of kin, from Donald Thomson's brother, Mr. Harry Ownen Thomson, his sister is the petitioner Cloris Cathy Hickle. The witnesses were sworn in by Deputy Clerk Polly Eaton. Mrs. Cloris Cathy Hickel was the first witness. She stated that Donald was 59 years of age. Their parents were deceased. Mr. Thompson is not married. The Attorney stated that Donald's condition is mentally retarded and he has secured two sworn statements from Doctor Sams, M.D., Psychiatrist and Doctor Atkinson Psychologist these statements have been put in the file. Mr. Thomson owns no property, his income si Social Security and a check from SSI, the amount are not known. She stated that Donald has been residing with the Lynches, in Palestine in Wirt County. She stated that the conditions were not what what she would like. He wasn't allowed to visit her and she felt that she wasn't welcome at Mr. Lynches home. Mr. Thomson has lived with the Lynches for about 10 years. Helen Louise Hill Route 1, Leroy Wirt County, she is the niece of Mr. Thomson and is the Co-petitioner and stand by Guardian for Donald Thomson. She stated that Donald lived with Cloris Hickel since he was about 16 until about 10 years ago. He was taken for a visit after her grandfather died and then her uncles death.

Ms. Hill stated that the Lynches were no relation to Donald as far as she knew. Donald is now living with Cloris Hickle since April. He is scheduled to be called by the Sheltered Workshop and he has a meeting there today. During his stay with the Lynches the family only visited two or three times a year. Thelma Jean Cotrell, Donald Thomson's niece, stated that Donald has his own room at Mrs. Hickle's home and he now has the chance to visit with his family. She stated that she believed that he would be better off with his sister. Flora Corrine Dennewitz, Rt. 2, Mineral Wells also a niece to Donald Thomas, stated that Donald has lived with her mother since he was a boy. Her mother was responsible for the care of Donald and his father. She stated that Mrs. Hickle's father had wrote a letter to the Social Security Office saying that Mrs. Lynch should have custody of Donald. Attorney Louie Davitian called Mr. Carl Lynch to testify. Mr. Lynch resides at Route 1, Palestine, Wirt County. He is retired and his income is Social Security and he grows food for himself. Donald Thompson has lived with them for 10 to 11 years. He stated that Donald had his own room. Donald's family only visited with him about twice a year. He stated that Donald's condition seemed childlike. Donald has a chance to visit with the neighbors and the Lynches family everyday. Mr. Lynch stated that Donald visited them when he was young. Mr. Lynch is not under bond to handle Donald's money. Donald has no savings. Mrs. Flora Corrina Lynch stated that Donald had lived with them off and on for the past 25 years. Donald recieved Social Security in the amount of \$327, SSI was \$50 a month. The Lynches bought a life insurance policy for \$4,000. They also receive \$110 from the Department of

Human Services. Elizabeth Ann Pyles the Guardian Ad Litem stated that she had no recommendation. She further stated that Donald has lived with the Lynches since 1976, prior to that she could not determine. She stated that Mr. Eaton, from the Department of Human Services felt that the conditions were adequate to meet Donald's needs. Ms. Pyles stated that she has asked Donald where he would like to live and on two occasions he has stated that he wants to live with his sister. Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr. asked Donald how long he has lived with the Lynches. Donald stated that he has lived with them for 10 to 11 years. Commissioner Buckley also asked if they took care of his money. Donald stated yes. He also stated that he did not know why his family did not visit more often. He stated that he would like to live with his sister because she was family. Donald was asked these questions without the Lynches or his family present. Commissioner Lewis E. Guinn made the motion and Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr. made it unanimous that Donald Thomas be declared mentally retarded due to the testimony given and the two affidavits from the Doctors. Commissioner Lewis E. Guinn made the motion and Commissioner Dexter L. Buckley, Jr. made it unanimous that Cloris Hickel be declared Donald Thompson's guardian. Helen Hill will put the bond in the amount of \$5,000. Helen Hill and Fay Marlow will be appointed as co-committee for Donald Thompson. An Order will be filed today. This hearing was taped and is on file in the Administrator's Office. The hearing ended at 11:03.

Having no further business or appointments the Commission adjourned at noon.

Approved:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY


COMMISSIONER, DEXTER L. BUCKLEY, JR.


COMMISSIONER, LEWIS E. GUINN

Wood Co. Commission

May 15, 1986

The nine Vol Fire Depts. of Wood Co. felt we had educated the people of our Fire Dist. fairly well concerning the Fire Protection fees.

We feel the issue didn't pass because most of the people felt there might not be going to vote and it didn't matter if he did or not. They were sure it would pass and didn't concern themselves with it. Due to poor voter turnout the issue failed.

It is evident to us that we may have failed to do our job well enough, concerning the people of Wood Co. how important this issue really was.

The Fire Depts. are now going to start going through their Fire Dist. talking to each individual, explaining again what is about to take place in the next few months.

A serious situation now faces the Wood Co. Commission and the people of the County.

The Fire Depts. will try to maintain as much service as long as possible.

We can no longer make it on Donations, with the cut of \$10,000.00 from Shary and \$4,000.00 cut from the Ho. office.

Eastwood U. F. D. will be forced to close its sub-station on May 31st. This will severely affect the Seneca to Dutch Ridge Murphy Town, Red Hill, Wending Road, Montgomery Hill and the Stillwell area. Also if they do not receive some funding from some source by July 1st they will have depleted what funds they now have. As of right now they have \$2700.00 in their checking acct.

Fulch and Deerwalk U. F. D. will also deplete what funds they have during the month of July.

Williamston U. F. D. will have just enough money to get by on till fall. Pond Creek, Wash. Bottom and Blensworth will be out of money around Sept 1st.

You must realize that Depts are just spending what it takes to pay the money on October, April for the and Jan.

If anybody has any major repair come up it will surely be serious.

We are here today to ask you to work with us to find some funding until we arrive at a solution to this serious problem facing all of us.