

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
MONDAY, JULY 26, 1993

PRESENT: HOLMES R. SHAVER, PRESIDENT
JEAN GRAPES, COMMISSIONER
STEVEN A. GRIMM, COMMISSIONER

On this date, the County Commission met in regular session. They signed purchase orders, invoices and other correspondence.

On this date, the County Commission approved Exonerations for Robert E. & Donna S. Galland, Dora D. & Julius D. Ogden, Robert K. Tebay Jr., and Thelma M. Thorne. The County Commission also approved Personal Property Improvers for Susan A. Dougherty, Robert O. Brode, Cornell Lafayette and Kathryn M. Annegan.

At 9:30 A.M., David G. Ashley was sworn in to the Visitors and Convention Bureau.

At 9:35 A.M., the County Commission met with Steve Nicely for a Visitors and Convention Bureau update. Mr. Nicely presented a Tourism Development Strategy for Parkersburg/Wood County plan, which is attached to these minutes. This plan was discussed. Mr. Nicely also discussed the seasonal banners which may be purchased through the Bureau. There is a one time fee of \$425.00 and the City crew has offered to hang the banners. Mr. Nicely then stated that the Riverfront Park and the relocation of the I-77 Welcome Center are progressing. They then discussed the hotel occupancy tax. Mr. Nicely stated that there is a 14.3% increase since last year. Mr. Nicely also discussed a West Virginia One Day Trip Book which has Parkersburg listed as a good place to visit.

At 10:00 A.M., the County Commission opened sealed bids for fourteen In-Car Mobile Video VHS Recorder Systems which is pursuant to a Legal Notice that appeared in both The Parkersburg News and The Parkersburg Sentinel on July 7, 1993 and on July 14, 1993. Bids were received from the following: Kustom

Signals, Inc., 9325 Pflumm, Lenexa, Kansas 66215-3347 - Bid Price \$67,732.00, Installation \$1,750.00; Crim Tec Systems, Inc., 30777 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Michigan 48150 - Bid Price \$60,130.00, Installation No Charge; CMI, Inc., 316 East Ninth Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303 - Bid Price \$63,630.00, Installation No Charge. Upon a motion made by Steven A. Grimm, seconded by Jean Grapes and made unanimous by Holmes R. Shaver, the County Commission took the bids under advisement. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

At 10:30 A.M., the County Commission opened sealed bids for the replacement of a Fire Alarm System located at the Wood County Correctional Center which was pursuant to the Legal Notice appearing in both The Parkersburg News and The Parkersburg Sentinel on July 8, 1993 and on July 15, 1993. Bids were received from the following: Pioneer Pipe, Inc., Route 4, Box 106A, Marietta, OH 45750 - Bid Price - Option 1, \$24,850.02, Option 2, \$28,409.70 and McHenry Electric Company, Inc., P.O. Box 246, Parkersburg, WV 26102 - Bid Price - Option 1, \$16,485.00, Option 2, \$20,865.00. Upon a motion made by Jean Grapes, seconded by Steven A. Grimm and made unanimous by Holmes R. Shaver, the County Commission took the bids under advisement. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

At 1:30 P.M., the County Commission held a Public Auction on used County owned vehicles which is pursuant to an Order bearing the date of June 28, 1993 at which time the County Commission Ordered that a Public Auction be held on Monday, July 26, 1993. A Legal Notice advising the public of such Auction appeared in both The Parkersburg News and The Parkersburg Sentinel on July 2, 1993 and on July 9, 1993. Seventeen vehicles were auctioned and the County received the amount of \$16,460.00 from the Auction. A copy of the vehicles auctioned is attached to these minutes. All other documentation pertaining to said Auction is on file in the County Administrator's Office. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

On this date, the County Commission was in receipt of the Notice of Grant Award Change from the WV Development Office in regard to the Small Cities Block Grant No. B90-DC-54-0001 for the Walker/Kites Run Water Project. Receipt of said Notice grants an extension of the Contract Completion Date from June 30, 1993 to June 30, 1994. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

On this date, the County Commission was in receipt of the Notice of Grant Award Change from the WV Development Office in regard to the Community Partnership Grant for the Waverly Library Project. Receipt of said Notice extends the contract completion date from June 30, 1993 to June 30, 1994. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

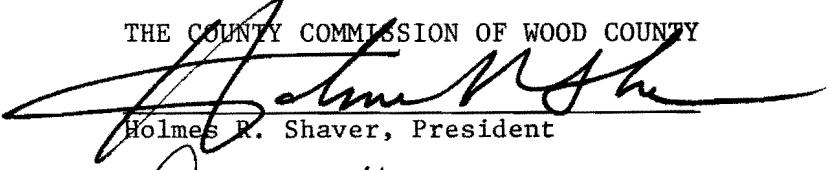
On this date, the County Commission was in receipt of a check in the amount of \$133,862.81 from the State of WV in regard to State prisoners held at the Wood County Correctional Center. Receipt of said check is for the period beginning July 1, 1991 through June 30, 1992. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

On this date, the County Commission, upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, executed a Memorandum of Understanding between the WV Regional Jail and Correctional Facility and the County Commission to house prisoners at the Central Regional Jail. The per diem rate for each prisoner is \$41.71 set by the Authority for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

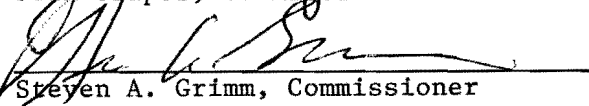
Having no scheduled appointments or further business to attend to, the County Commission adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Approved:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY


Holmes R. Shaver, President


Jean Grapes, Commissioner


Steven A. Grimm, Commissioner

VEHICLES TO BE AUCTIONED

JULY 26, 1993

1:30 P.M.

CAR#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	TYPE	VEHICLE ID NUMBER
4	1985	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S4FX625544
6	1991	Ford	Crown Vic.	4S	2FACP72F2MX136730
8	1989	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3XM26S8KW302418
9	1986	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S3GX609188
10	1988	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S4JW164814
11	1988	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S9JW165246
15	1991	Ford	Crown Vic.	4S	2FACP72F6MX136732
20	1987	Chev.	Cavalier	2S	1G1JC1114H7121313
21	1987	Chev.	Cavalier	2S	1G1JC1118H7121332
22	1989	Ford	Crown Vic.	4S	2FABP72G8KX218933
24	1989	Ford	Mustang	2S	1FABP40EOKF209588
26	1991	Ford	Crown Vic.	4S	2FACP72F4MX136731
27	1985	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S9FX625149
28	1987	Dodge	Diplomat	4S	1B3BG26S8HX732986
30	1982	Plymouth	Reliant	4S	1P3BP21B3CC193554
40	1980	Plymouth	Volare	4S	HL41CAF172907
41	1987	Dodge		4S	1B3BG26S7HX732994

PURCHASE ORDERS SIGNED ON JULY 26, 1993

No. 17554	Steers Heating & Cooling	\$ 508.70
17557	Stuart Oil	3817.20
17572	Printing Services	199.00
17613	Best Impressions	3134.00
17623	Radio Shack	1.99
17624	NTIS	20.50

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
for
PARKERSBURG/WOOD COUNTY**

DURING THE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY EVALUATION, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS WERE IDENTIFIED AND EVALUATED.

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS WERE SELECTED TO BE STUDIED IN GREATER DETAIL:

1. Parkersburg cultural/entertainment district
2. Convention center
3. Civic center
4. Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park Master Plan implementation
5. Relocation of the I-77 Welcome Center

CULTURAL/ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

"A designated area in downtown Parkersburg established to capitalize on the existing and proposed cultural and historic resources and coordinate them so they no longer compete with one another but work together to attract and entertain visitors and local residents."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue support to existing facilities through marketing and management assistance.
2. Expand selected existing facilities as needed or appropriate.
Existing tourism attractions include:

Blennerhassett Museum	Parkersburg Actors Guild
George Avery Historical District	Parkersburg Art Center
Historic Walking Tour	Point Park
Julia-Ann Square	Quincy Park
Little Kanawha Craft House	Smoot Theatre
Oil & Gas Museum	
3. Renovate, expand or start-up other facilities as appropriate.
Possible expanded or new facilities include:

Children's Art and Sciences Museum
Ohio River Islands Interpretive Center
Parkersburg Art Center expansion
Farmer's Market
Point Park expansion and linkage to Vienna
Public space for festivals and other events
4. Develop a public improvements program to create a special environment including streetscaping, facade treatment, signage, traffic flow, etc.
5. Create a public identity program including a logo, banners, brochure, etc.
6. Cultivate a critical mass of both daytime and nighttime cultural/entertainment facilities and activities.
7. Develop a critical mass of support facilities including lodging, specialty retail and dining.
8. Generate a critical mass of spin-off development in the form of artist housing, office development, etc.
9. Establish a well-funded and professional organization that is versed not only in marketing and promotion to visitors but also in dealing with the development community.
10. Devise an array of incentives to attract private sector involvement in the development of much needed support and spin-off facilities.
11. Obtain the financial and time commitment of representatives from cultural, historic and entertainment facilities; public sector; local businesses and development community.

CONVENTION CENTER

"A facility that usually provides meeting and banquet space in addition to some amount of flat floor exhibit space."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A preliminary analysis indicates that there is no evidence that a stand-alone convention center is required in Parkersburg to satisfy unmet statewide meeting demand.
2. Pursue with the owners of the Blennerhassett Hotel and the Holiday, the area's two primary meeting sites, the possibility of expansion of their facilities.

CIVIC CENTER

"A large single-floor flexible building that can be configured to seat large audiences for sport or entertainment or to hold exhibits for a consumer or trade show."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. At the present time, it appears that it would be difficult to support such a facility in the Parkersburg market.
2. Pursue the feasibility of developing an outdoor amphitheater to host touring shows, outdoor dramas, etc.

BLANNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

"An important component of the cultural/entertainment district which will have significant economic impact on the entire area"

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete the development of the mansion area.
2. Construct a new arrival zone with an amphitheater, snack bar, rest rooms, gift shop and ticket outlet.
3. Create four new seasonal festivals.
4. Develop a working exhibition farm and garden.
5. Expand the museum's displays and re-do the museum exterior.
6. Encourage city and county officials and residents to strongly support the Master Plan and work closely with state and federal officials to secure the financing and implementation of the plan.

RELOCATION OF THE I-77 WELCOME CENTER

"The relocation of the I-77 Welcome Center from its present site south of Mineral Wells to a place at or near the Williamstown exit is thought to be critical to the success of existing and future area tourism attractions, facilities and other businesses."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pursue with state officials the relocation of the center to a site at or near the Williamstown exit.

PARKERSBURG/WOOD COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Status Report as of July 21, 1993

The consultants who completed the Tourism Development Strategy made a total of 20 recommendations that required some type of ensuing action by the Bureau or some other entity. This is a status report on what endeavors have been taken to implement those recommendations as of the above date.

PARKERSBURG CULTURAL/ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

1. The Bureau is pursuing with most of the cultural facilities in this district a brochure promoting the programs and activities they have planned from September through August. The expected publication date of this brochure is August 15.
2. The Bureau continues to encourage and assist with the development of the Parkersburg/Vienna riverfront which includes the expansion of Point Park and the creation of a new riverfront park in Vienna. Meetings have recently been held to proceed with the final design phase of the project.
3. The recent completion by United National Bank of their mini-park at 5th and Market Streets provides additional space for festivals and other events. The Bureau held a reception at the park for tourism business employees preceding a performance of Eden on the River.
4. The City of Parkersburg continues to develop plans for a major streetscaping project along 7th and 8th Streets. To provide long-term beautification, the "Marigold Gang" is exploring the planting of perennial flowers and shrubs in certain areas.
5. The Bureau, in cooperation with the City of Parkersburg, has recently announced a program to have colorful seasonal street banners placed on the major streets in downtown Parkersburg. The first set of banners will be erected in late August.
6. The Bureau has undertaken a survey of existing daytime and nighttime cultural activities to determine when additional events are needed and what types would be most appropriate. Also, the Bureau and Artsbridge have combined their efforts to coordinate a weekly series of noontime concerts on Wednesday during the summer month. The Bureau has also established a committee to coordinate and advertise a major holiday promotion consisting of new and existing activities planned from Thanksgiving through December.
7. Several developers are proceeding with plans to create additional office space in downtown Parkersburg. The announcement of the Public Debt's new facility at the former Parkersburg Lumber site, the relocation of the West Virginia Special Olympics offices to downtown, the renovation by Charles Ericson of offices in the 400 block of Market Street are just a few of the efforts to create a critical mass of downtown office development.

8. The Bureau is a participant in the process to merge several development groups into one organization and to rejuvenate the downtown development effort by merging Parkersburg Main Street into the Parkersburg Renaissance Corporation. Representatives of the new development organization have been provided with a copy of the Tourism Development Strategy, and following a review of its contents, have pledged to make the implementation of the study's recommendations a top priority.

CONVENTION CENTER

1. Preliminary meetings have been held with the general managers of the Blennerhassett Hotel and Holiday Inn regarding the expansion of meeting space at their hotels. Both have expressed strong interest in pursuing the feasibility of expansion at their respective facilities, but would like financial and technical assistance with that study.

CIVIC CENTER

No action has been taken in this area.

BLANNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

1. The Bureau has requested a copy of the consultant's final report to review what actions would be appropriate for the Bureau to pursue.
2. The Bureau has been working with the Friends of Blennerhassett in the development of four seasonal festivals on the Island with a concentration of effort on the Christmas event.

RELOCATION OF THE I-77 WELCOME CENTER

1. Following a study by the Bureau, a presentation of the study's findings and a proposed site at the Williamstown exit was made to state officials involved with the development and operation of the welcome centers. The Bureau, and other supporting groups, have requested that the state proceed with determining the feasibility, cost and appropriate design of a center at the recommended site. A subsequent meeting was held at the site with officials from the Department of Transportation to review the proposal.

In summary, actual work has commenced on implementing 12 of the 20 recommendations made by the consultants.