

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2001

PRESENT: ROBERT K. TEBAY, PRESIDENT
RICK MODESITT, COMMISSIONER
K.D. MERRITT, COMMISSIONER

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

At 10:30 A.M., the County Commission held a hearing in regard to the Sandra Mayle estate. Mary Workman, Stacey Bartlett and Sheri Combs were present. After testimony, the County Commission appointed the Sheriff as administratrix of the estate.

The County Commission met with Joan Arnold from the ARC foundation. The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Robert K. Tebay and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE a contribution in the amount of five hundred dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$500.00) to The ARC, 521 Market Street, Dils Center, Box 17, Parkersburg, WV. The aforementioned contribution would be utilized to promote alcohol and substance free activities among people with disabilities. Commissioner Rick Modesitt abstained from voting on the motion due to the fact he sits on the Board for the ARC. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

At 11:00 A.M., the County Commission held a hearing in regard to the William E. Cross estate. William E. Cross, Jr. and Betty E. Cross were present at this hearing. They discussed property that was deeded to William Cross, Jr. that was listed in the probate assets. The County Commission informed William Cross that he needs to get an attorney. Further discussion took

place. Betty Cross filed a claim against the estate. Information in regard to this hearing is on file in the Probate Office.

At 11:30 A.M., the County Commission met with John Carr, Delmas Carr and Robert Grant to discuss Briscoe Run, the WV Interstate Fair project and the Seventh Street storm sewer project. Kathryn Drost, WV Interstate Fair and Exposition and Ron Stewart were also present.

At 2:00 P.M., the County Commission watched a presentation in regard to DeSales Heights given by Kelsey and Kyle Dugas. A copy of information that was read and handed out is attached to these minutes and shall be made a part thereof.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to sign the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program Grant Number 00-VA-042. Wood County incurred expenditures in the amount of five thousand nine hundred forty-seven dollars and twenty-six cents (\$5,947.26) during the month of July, 2001. However, the Request for Reimbursement is in the amount of one thousand eight hundred ninety-two dollars and eighty-two cents (\$1,892.82) which represents payment of contractual services provided by Diana W. Walker, Victims Advocate for Wood County. The amount of five hundred seventy-four dollars and forty-four cents (\$574.44) was utilized as a cash match, as set forth in the aforementioned Grant, and represents payment of office supplies, copies, and salary benefits (FICA, Retirement and Workers' Compensation) of the Victims Advocate. The amount of three thousand four hundred eighty dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$3,480.00) was utilized as in-kind match, as set forth in the aforementioned Grant, and represents volunteer time and office space. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the Monthly Progress Report, the Monthly

Statistics Report, the Daily Time Records of both the Victims Advocate and the volunteers, the Financial Recap and the Project Financial Report are being submitted to the Criminal Justice Services, Charleston, West Virginia. Documentation pertaining to the aforementioned Victims of Crime Act Assistance (VOCA) Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to EXECUTE the letter addressed to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Charleston, WV, requesting a budget revision in regard to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Number 99-A-D-008. The aforementioned letter requests that the amount of three hundred four dollars and eighteen cents (\$304.18) be transferred from the Personnel/Contractual Category to the "Other" Category, and requests that the amount of five hundred thirty-five dollars and fifty-five cents (\$535.55) be transferred from the Travel/Training Category to the "Other" Category. The aforementioned revisions are necessary to correct expenditures in regard to the aforementioned categories. Documentation pertaining to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County was in receipt of the fully EXECUTED GRANT CONTRACT between the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Wood County Commission, and the Grant Award in regard to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Grant Number 00-A-D-059. Receipt of the fully EXECUTED GRANT CONTRACT is pursuant to an ORDER appearing in Order Book 64, at Page 546 and bearing the date of July 19, 2001, at which time Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County

Commission, was AUTHORIZED to EXECUTE the aforementioned GRANT CONTRACT. Documentation pertaining to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to sign the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Number 00-A-D-059. Expenditures in the amount of five thousand seventy-two dollars and fifteen cents (\$5,072.15) were incurred by Wood County during the month of July, 2001. However, the Request for Reimbursement is in the amount of four thousand one hundred eighty-four dollars and forty-one cents (\$4,184.41) which represents payment of contractual services provided by Rozann Wilcox, Juvenile Justice Liaison, and Jason Hayner, Project R.E.P.A.Y. (Responsibility Enhancement Projects for Adolescent Youth) Program Coordinator, and for travel expenses of the aforementioned Project R.E.P.A.Y. Program Coordinator. The amount of eight hundred eighty-seven dollars and seventy-four cents (\$887.74) represents the cash match as set forth in the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Grant and is the full amount of benefits; FICA, Retirement, Workers' Compensation and health, vision, dental, life insurance, for the Juvenile Justice Liaison employed in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the Monthly Reports, the Financial Recap, the Daily Time Records for both the Project R.E.P.A.Y. Program Coordinator and the Juvenile Justice Liaison, the Project Director's Monthly Reports from both the Project R.E.P.A.Y. Program Coordinator and the Juvenile Justice Liaison, the Demographic Reports, the Travel Vouchers and the Project Financial Report are being submitted to the Criminal Justice Services Office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Documentation pertaining to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to sign the Request For Reimbursement in regard to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Number 99-A-D-008. No expenditures were incurred by Wood County during the month of July, 2001. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the Monthly Reports, the Financial Recap, the Monthly Supervisor's Report and the Project Financial Report are being submitted to the Criminal Justice Services Office in Charleston, West Virginia. Documentation pertaining to the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

Terry L. Brown, Interim Director of Wood County Emergency Services/9-1-1, presented to the County Commission of Wood County a New Road Name Request Form from William and Kaye Sayre to name the road to their residence, which does not interfere with the scheduled readdressing and mapping for the 9-1-1 Master Street Addressing Guide. The Sayres have requested the road be named LEANDER LANE. The road to be known as LEANDER LANE provides access to the aforementioned residence from Johnson Run Road off Ashby Ridge Road, Tax Map 350, Parcel D3. The road to be known as LEANDER LANE is located in Union Taxing District, and the request by the Sayres is in accordance with Chapter 7, Article 1, Section 3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, which deals, in part, with the County Commission naming and renaming thereof of roads, ways, streets, avenues, drives and the like to assure uniform, nonduplicative conversion of all rural routes to city-type addressing on a

permanent basis. The County Commission does hereby find that the said request, made in writing, by William and Kaye Sayre, and the New Road Name Request Form from the Wood County Emergency Services/9-1-1 is in proper form and is hereby ORDERED to be filed. NOW, THEREFORE, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K. D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, does hereby ORDER that the aforementioned road be named LEANDER LANE. The County Commission does further ORDER that a copy of this ORDER, along with the New Road Name Request Form be certified by the Clerk of the County Commission for entry in the Office of the Clerk of the County Commission of Wood County. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, did hereby CERTIFY, by signatures, the Financial Statement for Wood County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, announced to all concerned that two (2) vacancies exist of the Civil Service Commission for Deputy Sheriff's. Said vacancies are due to the expiration of the terms of Jeff Elder, Democrat, Bar Association, and Clarabelle Pierce, Republican, County Commission Representative; their terms expired June 30, 2001. Upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, Clarabelle Pierce was placed in nomination to be reappointed to the Civil Service Commission for Deputy Sheriff's. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

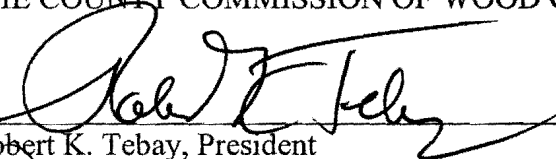
The County Commission of Wood County, announced to all concerned that a vacancy exists on the West Virginia Little Kanawha Parkway Authority. Said vacancy is due to the

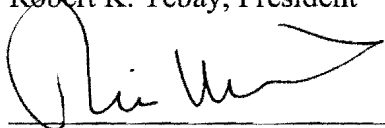
expiration of the term of Dave DeBarr on June 30, 2001. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.


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

Approved:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY


Robert K. Tebay, President


Rick Modesitt, Commissioner


K. D. Merritt, Commissioner

PURCHASE ORDERS APPROVED ON AUGUST 27, 2001

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 26941 | Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal | 1102.17 |
| 26977 | Fire Extinguishers Specialists | 391.35 |
| 26993 | Broadwaters Motorcar | 34.36 |
| 26995 | Runyon Lock Service | 28.00 |
| 28198 | CMI, Inc. | 310.00 |
| 28204 | State Electric Supply | 105.38 |
| 28208 | Office Max | 1796.39 |
| 28274 | APCO | 738.30 |

Aug 27, 2001

- 1 Mary F. Workman
- 2 Nancy J. Bartlett
- 3 Shirl K. Conley
- 4 JOAN ARNOLD - ARC
- 5 Kathryn Drost, WUFFLE
- 6 Ron Stewart
7. John P. Carr, Cood - ROTO
8. Delmas Carr NRC
9. ~~Ron Stewart~~ ROTO
10. ~~William G. J.~~
11. Betty E. Cross
12. Robert Lee
John Amis

DeSales Heights is a historic Academy and monastery in Parkersburg. DeSales occupied to different buildings and is a 137 years old this year.

In response to an appeal for teaching sisters from the pastor of St. Xavier's Church, Mother Mary Appolonia Diggs and six Companion Sisters from convents in Frederick and Baltimore, Maryland and Wheeling, arrived in Parkersburg on August 6, 1864. West Virginia was only one year old and the Civil war was ravaging the Country.

The newly built Convent opened its school in September with a large enrollment of students, both Catholic and protestant. It was named The Parkersburg Female Academy and was located on Fifth and Avery Streets.

Despite financial troubles, the sisters were finally able to make a much-needed addition to their building, in May of 1881 and by fall new dormitories and classrooms were ready for use.

The city crept closer and closer round the convent on the corner, and an increase in enrollment made expansion a necessity.

The female academy closed in 1900 and the building was sold to the Sisters of St. Joseph's and it became what was later known as the "old St. Joseph's hospital."

The sisters were anxious to get out of the city. Financial aid came from the most unexpected sources and so abundantly that the sisters were able to purchase 10 acres of land overlooking the Ohio River.

The design for the new monastery was submitted by Dennis Daley of Parkersburg. Building on the new property was begun in March 1899 and their new home, which was modeled after the French monasteries of the turn of the Century, was completed in May of 1900, with a total cost of \$20,000.

An order of 45 sisters could operate the huge 4 story Boarding School for girls grades 1-12.

An opening day was held for the new boarding school during which the public came to see the sisters and learn what they could about their mysterious lives. This red brick monastery was named DeSales Heights by its first Mother Superior Mary Celestia Mulrine.

The school building of red brick with stone trimming comprised classrooms, library, two science laboratories, auditorium, dining hall, recreation hall, dormitories, and music rooms. The school was accredited by the State Board of Education of West Virginia and was affiliated with the Catholic University. The curriculum included courses in college preparatory, commercial, and general academic subjects.

The sisters took in boarders and day students and also commanded a garden of crops and a herd of livestock.

When the young ladies went to function outside the School, they always fit in and behaved well in public. When they left the School they represent DeSales well. The young ladies went out on Saturdays, where they could display their great behavior.

Pupils enjoyed close bonds with the sisters at DeSales. In some cases, the young ladies thought of the sisters as family, much like those they had left behind when they came to DeSales.

DeSales provided transportation at one time for its students. One of the sisters drove a Model T Ford Wagonette.

DeSales Heights was part of the order known as the Sisters of the Visitation of Holy Mary. The order was formed by St. Francis De Sales and St. Jane, Frances de Chantal, in France in 1610.

Because DeSales was cloistered, the monastery hid behind the veil of the religious order. Large iron grates and black drapes shielded from the growing city. The doctor, dentist, and even the undertaker had to come to DeSales up to Hill 8, because the sisters couldn't leave.

Packages from the outside world were slipped through the openings in the grate at the front door and children ^{came} through the front iron gates.

The Sisters opened the first Coeducational Montessori in the Mountain State in 1969, one year after the cloister was lifted.

Because of the end of the cloister separations, the sisters' families and friends could then visit whenever they pleased, instead of only once a month. The sisters could also go home to their families.

DeSales became a good choice for families from Central and South America to send their daughters. Spiritual Education was a legacy at DeSales.

DeSales also had a wonderful relationship with Wood County Schools. They often borrowed costumes from each other and the Big Red Band performed at the 125th Anniversary of DeSales.

50 or 60 years ago, it was not uncommon for at least 1 member of every family to enter the order. In the 1960s, though, the world turned from beliefs and church, to violence and drugs.

In the mid 1960s the school was consistently losing students to other schools. DeSales did not have enough sports to compete with bigger schools like PHS.

Also, DeSales was an all girls School, and many of the young ladies wanted to be in coeducational Classes. When the School got to six or seven students in a class, the Sisters did not feel it was right to continue because the students were not being challenged like they should.

The boarding School closed in the Spring of 1974. Boys were allowed to enter the elementary and monastery program.

The high School closed in 1977, when the boarding School closed, the high School lost many students and an increase in the enrollment in the lower grades left them with inadequate space.

In 1980, the 7th and 8th grades were closed. Offering only a Montessori preschool and elementary School, DeSales had an enrollment of 238 in 1989 from a mere 11 students in 1864. And 2/3 of the students were not Catholic.

In the Montessori program the children ^{were} encouraged to move at their own pace. ^{The} children began to learn French at the age of 2½.

In 1984, the Sisters voted among themselves, to determine the future of DeSales. The Sisters voted against staying open. The decision to close was not an easy one for the Sisters.

It was reached after 5 years of prayer and study. The sisters wanted to be able to carry out their decision themselves, instead of having it imposed on them. The school closed in part because because the sisters were getting old and no one was there to properly maintain the building.

The sisters of the Visitation at DeSales Heights are members of the Second Federation of its order. Monasteries are located throughout the United States, but mostly in the eastern part of the country. After the school closed, the sisters were broken up and sent to seven different convents. Of the 12 sisters at DeSales during its closing, 1 sister was 100, 1 was 90, 2 were in their 80's, 2 were in their 70's, and the much younger mother superior, Sister Jane Frances Hofbauer, was 47.

The 1st - Sixth grades were closed in 1991, to continue the preparation for the day the doors at DeSales would permanently be closed. They continued their Montessori program until the very end.

On June 6, 1992, the alumnae of DeSales Heights Academy met for their annual banquet (their 90th to be exact) and a few days later the building was vacated.

St. Joseph's Hospital currently owns DeSales Height, which they purchased for \$850,000. They are planning to have the building, which is 101 years old this year, torn down.

Where you once could hear children's laughter and see busy dormitories, there is now only silence.

DeSales Heights: 1900-2001

Memories of DeSales Heights

DESALES-THROUGH THE EYES OF A BOARDER

Connie Eddy Weiss, Class of 1956

A twelve year old farmer's daughter gets out of a car and walks into DeSales Heights. WOW, what a change this was! She had never heard the word catholic and she had never seen a nun before! This little girl cried herself to sleep for three nights. She was so upset on the fourth night, she said, "If there is a God, why am I here?" She felt a hand on her right shoulder and a soft voice that said, "Why do you think you are here?" When she woke up the next morning her life was very different. The little girl grew up never asking that question again! The nuns she was so afraid of became like a mother to her. She went there five years and they were the best five years of her life.

We as boarders had parties on the weekends and this became home to a lot of us, even if the doors of D H S are closed and locked, the memories of the life they taught us are locked in our hearts.

DSH Memories

Where do I begin to describe my years at DSH. It was truly a wonderful experience. I started in first grade and graduated 12 years later. There were three of us who started together and remained there all our school years. At that time it was an all girls school but we never felt that we were missing out by not going to a coed school. We attended all the social functions at PCHS and felt we were getting a great education at DSH. Having the small classes afforded us extra attention when needed. The Sisters were strict but fair. I don't know if girls would feel the same now but for us we enjoyed our association with the Sisters, the students from other countries and a closeness with friends. Since some of the girls were boarders because of living in other states and countries they came to our homes for holidays and days off from school. This gave us an opportunity to learn about other places.

I had such a feeling of tradition as my grandmother, mother, aunts and cousins had also gone to DSH that it was just a given that I would go there too. Many of the Sisters had taught my Mother and so they watched over "little ole shy" me. My Dad was a convert and he was so taken by the goodness of the Sisters that he volunteered whenever necessary to help out .

I was in the 101 graduating class and I remember when I walked out of the school on the day of graduation wondering what life had in store for me without the protective walls of DSH. I feel that part of my successes in life can be attributed to my fundamental education and values from my years at DSH.

I definitely know that the way the proms were handled would be hard for girls of this generation to adjust to. Before leaving for the prom, we were required to assemble at the school for the Sisters to inspect our dresses to see that they were not too revealing and if they felt they were, they would give us a black shawl to wear. We also all went in a caravan to the dance with a parent in the front, one in the middle and one at the end. After the dance we would all go to one of the junior's homes for a sleepover. The juniors were responsible for the prom. The boys were allowed to come over to the house for food after the prom but were required to leave at a reasonable time.

Page 2 - DSH Memories

The tradition continued as my son started in Sister Philomena's Class for Montessori. He was only 2 ½ but he felt special and wanted to go everyday to be with his friends and see Sister Philomena. She had such a special way of loving and disciplining the children that she has guided many students and they attribute her with helping them achieve their goals. She showed them that you can be different but still fulfill their dreams. He still talks with her and loves her dearly. She also helped me to realize that working mothers do not deprive their children of all that is necessary for a good and healthy life. I will always be eternally grateful to her and to all his other teachers at DSH. He has also remained very close with Sister Josephine who taught him in 2nd and 3rd grade. I took him out of DSH in the 5th grade not because I did not want him to continue there but in his class there were 24 students and 20 of them were girls and I knew his other male friends would be going to the public junior high school and he would enter PCHS with no male acquaintances so I sent him to PCES for his last 2 years of elementary. He has remained close with several of his DSH friends and in fact one is to be in his wedding next year. I feel that he will also remain close to her.

I know I have rambled on and on but DSH is so near and dear to my heart that I still carry the love and respect for the school and its teachers.

As I look at it now when I go past it I can't help but wish that something could be done to restore it but I know that it would take so much money to redo the plumbing, heating and electrical. It would make such a wonderful assisted living and perhaps retreat center. I only hope that SJH will find some way to preserve it. The thoughts of demolition are so sad. So many historic landmarks have been torn down and then later regretted. The beautiful Chancellor Hotel being one place that should not have been torn down. That is where they had the DSH Alumnae Banquets and it was always such an elegant place to have a dinner.

I hope that I have given you some insight into what it was like at DSH. I have enjoyed reminiscing about mine and my son's days there. If you should want anything else, please give me a call.

Kitty Brown
Class of 1965

March 10, 2001

To Whom It Concerns:

When I was asked to state my feelings about DeSales Heights Academy, I discovered that the strong emotions I felt at its closing are still very real and as intense now as they were then. The Academy was our choice for an educational beginning for all three of our children. It was more than a school and more than a place to send children for day care. It was a safe place with overwhelming love and caring for each and every child. Everyone was special at DeSales. The staff made it that way. Each child was encouraged to progress in the areas of strength and also to develop areas of weakness. Everyone had a part in each and every activity and was made to feel that that part was as important as every other part. The closing of DeSales was a life-changing event for my children and me. We had become very comfortable and confident with the system there and had developed many friendships that continue even today-these many years after the closing. But even though DeSales is closed, it is still very much a part of what my children are because they developed many life-long lessons and values there. They learned to care and share; they learned to work, play, and pray; they learned to read and write; they learned to sing and speak; and more than all of these together, they learned to have a generous heart and empathy for others. It is very sad that that atmosphere is no more for children to experience at De Sales Heights Academy. Many memories are there...thanks to the wonderful staff that made it all happen.

A very appreciative mother,



Marie A. Held