

**Board of Directors  
Bluefield, West Virginia  
August 26, 2014  
6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the City of Bluefield, West Virginia met in a regularly scheduled meeting August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Boardroom. Present were Mayor Thomas Cole, Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith, Directors Ellen Light, Chuck McGonagle, Michael Gibson, City Manager Dane Rideout, Assistant City Manager Josh Cline, Attorney Brian Cochran and City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

Mayor Thomas Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our new City Manager Dane Rideout.

**Invocation and Pledge**

Vice Mayor Barbara Thompson Smith gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the August 12, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved and so ordered.

A ceremonial Oath of Office swearing in for City Manager Dane Rideout was given by City Clerk Bobbi Kersey.

**Discussion Items**

- City Manager Dane Rideout discussed paving in Bluefield. The City of Bluefield has a total of 109 miles of paved roads. The City had a plan to pave approximately a mile of road a year, which means it would take approximately one hundred nine years to have all city roads replaced. The standard is approximately every twenty-five years. Of the 109 miles, 27 miles are maintained by the state. The current twenty-five year paving plan leaves the city with a deficit of 57 miles. In order to catch up it would cost the City \$11.6 million, which the City does not have in its budget. City Manager Rideout will be redeveloping a twenty-five year comprehensive paving plan.
- The City of Bluefield received two sealed bids for paving that were opened by City Engineer Tony Wagner. Present to witness were City Manager Dane Rideout, City Clerk Bobbi Kersey, Code Inspector Officers Lori Mills and Kevin Fleming, and representing Southern WV paving, Inc. was Chris Hollified. The two bids:  
Southern WV Paving, Inc. – Bid received 8/18 - \$190,567.93  
AAA Paving – Bid received 8/18 - \$211,968.00

Roads included in the 2014 paving bid: portions of Mountain View, portions of Commerce Street, portions of Hill Ave, portions of Ohio Street, additional paving on Dearborn, Maple and Edgegrove. City Manger Rideout said that he is in close contact with AEP and Bluefield Gas, as he does not want a road paved only to be torn up in a couple of years. A map of the City of Bluefield is located in the back of the Board Room showing roads to be paved, what roads were paved last year, and why these particular roads were selected.

- Lemonade night at the ballpark has been rescheduled for August 27, due to rain.

- The City of Bluefield is currently seeking a financial director. City Manager Rideout is recommending quarterly audits and would like a CPA from an outside firm that will allow a check and balance system.
- An emergency notification system to alert citizens using mass media was discussed. This app is already in place for iPad and iPhone and is being utilized in Huntington, West Virginia. Chief Dillow has contacted Huntington and hopefully by mid fall a "heads up Bluefield" will be available. A grant is available for the emergency notification system.
- An intern program working with area colleges will be utilized at City Hall. Areas that will receive a college intern: engineering, GIS, community development, marketing, public affairs, web management, and business. The city needs to utilize the youth of the community and their knowledge.

### **Public Comments**

Skip Crane, representing Bluewell Improvement Association, suggested ideas and needs of Bluewell:

1. Cut above Bluefield State needs repaired
2. Big Box Grocery Store
3. Adopt a Highway – along Bluefield State
4. Drainage
5. Build a new Bluefield High School
6. General appearance of the Cities/Towns

Mr. Crane would like to see Bluewell and Bluefield work together.

Art Riley, representing the Downtown Merchant's Association, gave the following reports/questions:

1. Is the Old Lin Electric going to be leveled off and planted with grass? Also, what is the status of the tank farms or Old Texaco? The oil company (Chevron) ran an ad for demolition but never acted. City Manager Dane Rideout said he would look into these properties and would get back with results at the next board meeting.
2. The Lemonade Days Festival is this weekend and the public is invited. Mr. Riley listed events for the weekend. A full schedule is listed in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Bonnie Patterson, representing CASE, reminded the public of the First Responders/Military & 9/11 Tribute on September 7, 2014. The event will be at the Elks Lodge 269 – Grand Ballroom. An "Excellence of Duty Award" will be presented. For a donation, contact Randy Stevens. The Westbridge Gardens is now open. Citizens need to be reminded this is affordable housing not low-income housing. Westbridge is a development not a project. Homes are income based, however owners must complete an application and pass the criteria. There is also a handbook of rules and regulations. Finally, the housing quota grant monies for veterans have been refunded for another year.

Al Hancock, representing veterans, thanked the City of Bluefield for being veteran friendly. Mr. Hancock stated he appreciates everything that the city is doing for the veterans.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Mayor Thomas Cole read a **PROCLAMATION FOR 2014 MERCER COUNTY OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK** to raise awareness about suicide prevention. The 2014 Out of Darkness Community walk will be September 6.

### **PROCLAMATION OBSERVING SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bluefield recognizes suicide as a statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a statewide responsibility, and designates September 6 through September 13 as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Bluefield, West Virginia. This week overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day that is recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization. The 2014 National Suicide Prevention Week is September 7 through September 13, and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is now the 15th leading cause of all deaths in the state of West Virginia, and the leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24, and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 13.7 minutes, and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 5.4 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide), and

**WHEREAS**, 50.8% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection, and

**WHEREAS**, an increase in the overall suicide rate in our country was seen in 2009, representing a change in the recent pattern of stability or slight declines, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older, and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide, and

**WHEREAS**, statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible, and

**WHEREAS**, an organization such as the American Association of Suicidology which is dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and bereavement services urge that we:

- a. Recognize suicide as a national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a statewide priority;
- b. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;
- c. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention
- d. Promote awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.

- e. Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention.
- f. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services.
- g. Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs.
- h. Develop and implement community-based suicide bereavement support services.
- i. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.
- j. Implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of the effective treatment.
- k. Develop and promote effective clinical and professional practices.
- l. Increase access to, and community linkages with, mental health and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
- m. Improve reporting and portrayals of suicide behavior, mental illness and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
- n. Promote and Support Research on suicide and suicide prevention.
- o. Improve and expand surveillance systems for suicide behavior.

**WHEREAS**, a great many suicides are preventable;

**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, City of Bluefield Board of Directors do hereby designate September 6 through September 13, 2014 as "National Suicide Prevention Week" in the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.

Given under our hands this the 26th day of August 2014.

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

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Barbara Thompson, Vice Mayor

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Michael Gibson, Director

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Ellen Peters Light, Director

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Chuck McGonagle, Director

Attest:

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

A motion and second to approve the **RESOLUTION FOR 2014 MERCER COUNTY OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK**; unanimously approved so ordered.

Mayor Cole presented a copy of the resolution to Marie Blackwell, Alice Ann Sarver, Laura King, Paige Frye and Heather Barnett.

Mayor Thomas J. Cole read a **PROCLAMATION COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS** proclaiming Sunday, September 7, 2014, as "Bluefield Elks Lodge #269 9/11 First Responders Tribute Day."

**PROCLAMATION Commending the Service of 9/11 First Responders**

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America, since before its official inception, has been most nobly served by our first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, those "first responders" include our law enforcement agencies, fire fighters and emergency medical personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, Bluefield Elks Lodge #269 has been serving and supporting the area of the two Bluefield's since 1894, and;

**WHEREAS**, all Elks Lodges are highly patriotic fraternal organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the 21st Century's blatant and vicious acts of terrorism, both foreign and domestic, have placed a more brilliant spotlight on the heroism of these brave individuals whom we call "first responders"; and

**WHEREAS**, The Bluefield Elks Lodge was motivated by the terrorist attacks against our country on September 11, 2001, to honor our local first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, The Lodge, for the 13th consecutive year, will honor our area's law enforcement agencies, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel at a ceremony at the Bluefield Elks Lodge on September 7, 2014,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Bluefield City Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 7, 2014, to be known as "Bluefield Elks Lodge #269 9/11 First Responders Tribute Day."

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor

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Ellen Peters Light, Director

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Barbara Thompson Smith, Vice Mayor

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Charles "Chuck" McGonagle, Director

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Michael Gibson, Director

Attest:

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

A motion and second to approve the **PROCLAMATION COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS** proclaiming Sunday, September 7, 2014, as "Bluefield Elks Lodge #269 9/11 First Responders Tribute Day"; unanimously approved so ordered.

Mayor Cole requested approval for reimbursement for half of the expenses of the two Bluefields 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in the amount of \$12,087.48. **A motion and second**

**to approve reimbursement for half of the expenses of the two Bluefields 90th anniversary celebration in the amount of \$12,087.48 was unanimously approved so ordered.**

Mayor Cole requested approval for a contractual agreement with Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$190,567.93 and any amendment thereto up to the budgetary amount. **A motion for a contractual agreement with Southern West Virginia Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$190,567.93 and any amendment thereto up to the budgetary amount was unanimously approved so ordered.**

City Attorney Brian Cochran stated Abbs Valley Pipeline is interested in purchasing the two additional parcels of land that the City of Bluefield owns on Rt. 52. This is the former site of the proposed Bluefield Transit Facility. The City auctioned off 3.52 acre parcel and it was sold to Abbs Valley Pipeline. They are now interested in purchasing the other two parcels. **A motion and second for a legal advertisement of public auction of two surplus properties of real estate located on Route 52 in Brushfork with a minimum bid of \$75,000 each; was approved so ordered.**

### **Announcements**

- **Labor Day**-City offices will be closed. Regularly scheduled trash pick up for Monday, September 1 will be collected on Tuesday, September 2.
- **The Annual Summer Concert Series** is held in Chicory Square each Friday at noon. The final concert will be August 29. The Bluefield High School band will be performing.
- **The Almost Heaven Farmer's Market** is in full swing on Tuesdays and Saturdays in the K-Mart Parking Lot. The market opens at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call 304.327.7501.
- Join thousands of fans as they watch the annual gridiron challenge between Bluefield High School and Graham High School, August 29.
- The City Board of Directors is interested in hearing from the residents, business owners, employees and visitors to Bluefield. To hear directly from you in a casual setting, "Lunch with the Mayor" was established by Mayor Tom Cole. Mayor Cole or a City Board of Directors member will meet with four individuals at a local establishment on Mondays at noon for lunch and general conversation. Individuals may request to be added to the list by completing the following form. For additional questions, please call Joshua Cline at 304.327.5568.

### **Adjournment**

Director Ellen Light made a motion to adjourn. Unanimously approved and so ordered.

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Bobbi Kersey, City Clerk

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Thomas J. Cole, Mayor