

**JOINT MEETING OF THE UPSHUR COUNTY COMMISSION  
AND THE BUCKHANNON CITY COUNCIL**

**July 30, 2015**

The County Commission of Upshur County, West Virginia, and the Buckhannon City Council held a joint meeting at the Upshur County Courthouse Annex on Thursday, July 30, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. There were present Troy A. Brady, Commissioner; Terry Cutright, Commissioner; City Council Members, Mayor Rick Edwards; Pam Cuppari, Mary Albaugh, Robin Riggs-Simons and David Thomas and City Administrator, Mike Doss, County Administrator, Carrie L. Wallace, Assistant County Administrator, Tabatha R. Perry and Jacqueline Dinklocker, Secretary. Mayor Edwards and Terry Cutright called the meeting to order. The meeting began with a moment of silent meditation and prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Edwards provided a review of a proposal for the city and county to jointly hire a full time grant writer with expenses being split evenly between the two entities. The position would be paid by the City of Buckhannon, with reimbursement by the county. Office space would be provided in both, city and county facilities. Commissioners and City Council members all agreed that the collaboration would benefit both city and county and would be a “win, win” situation for all, however, questioned whether using a Grant Writing Company or a Freelance Writer would be the best choice. Other concerns included; how to split time between city and county and job description development. Carrie Wallace advised that after reviewing the draft of the contract with Prosecuting Attorney, David Godwin, that she will coordinate with Michael Doss to make a couple of revisions. Mayor Edwards asked for and was given a consensus to move forward with the project. Mike Doss, City Administrator, advised that the earliest time for implementation of the collaboration would be January as a “best case scenario”. Audience feedback complimented both City Council and County Commission members for their “willingness to work together”.

City of Buckhannon Administrator, Mike Doss provided a review of the Proposal for the Recreational Aquatic Sports Complex (RASC) and stated that most residents recognize the need for such a facility. Previously, Buckhannon-Upshur High School students had introduced the sports complex project at the April 30, 2015 joint meeting of the BCC and UCC. The proposed complex features lighted sports courts/fields for basketball, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, an Olympic size pool, picnic shelters, concessions, indoor and outdoor track, a walking trail, a facility for classrooms for child and adult education, aerobics, fitness training and adequate parking. Mr. Doss estimated that the facility would have a \$12,000,000 construction price tag, the real estate costing \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 and yearly maintenance at around \$454,000. Mr. Doss acknowledged that the funding for the project would probably require a Levy of \$10,000,000 with additional required funding coming from grants, national associations and private funding. Although Commissioners and Council members liked the idea of the sports complex, most were skeptical that the community would pass such a Levy and also thought that finding suitable acreage would be difficult.

Some residents expressed concerns about how a new facility might affect existing facilities and programs such as the Stockert Youth facility and programs, the Wellness Complex and Buckhannon-Upshur Pool facility and expressed that it may be better “to put the money into bettering what we already have”. One council member commented that the project might be “overkill—is this too much for us?” Another commented that “We can pay now, or pay later” and asked “Can we afford not to do this?”

Other residents suggested that it would be a long process and require a need for public education and forums such as Town Hall Meetings. Most commenters recognized the need/desirability for the project and cited the benefits that the Complex would generate for Buckhannon and Upshur County.

Mayor Edwards, City Council members and Commissioners acknowledged the positive attitudes and commended everyone for moving in the right direction, working together and recognized that “it has to start somewhere”.

At 8:40 p.m., with no further business, Mayor Edwards adjourned the meeting of the Buckhannon City Council. With no further business, on motion by Troy A. Brady, seconded by Terry Cutright, the meeting of the Upshur County Commission was adjourned.