

Commission Reduces Number of Meetings

Keplinger Elected Commission President

By Jean A. Flanagan
 Moorefield Examiner

The Hardy County Commission will henceforth meet monthly instead of semimonthly, as has been the case since the late 1990s.

The commission will post a schedule of regular meetings to

occur on the first Tuesday of every month. The meetings will begin at 9 a.m. "If we need another meeting, we can schedule a special meeting," said Commissioner Harold Michael.

The Hardy County Commission met on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

On the motion of Commissioner J. Michael Teets, Commissioner William "JR" Keplinger was elected president for the 2015 calendar year.

The commission also set a schedule for the Board of Review

and Equalization as required by WV Code 11-3-24. The board will meet as follows:

- Friday, Jan. 30
- Tuesday, Feb. 3
- Friday, Feb. 6
- Thursday, Feb. 12
- Tuesday, Feb. 17

All meetings will begin at 11 a.m. The Board of Review and Equalization is to review the property books submitted by the assessor, correct errors, and equalize the value of property, when necessary.

Board Appointments

The commissioners will sit on the following county and regional boards for the ensuing year:

Keplinger - Farm Preservation Board, Planning Commission Board, County Extension Board, County Park Board and the Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority Board.

Teets - Local Emergency Preparedness Committee, Board of Education for the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan, Region 8 Planning and Development

Council Board, 911 Center Board, Region 8 Solid Waste Authority Board.

Michael - Workforce Investment Board, Hardy County Childcare Board, Rural Development Authority Board, Moorefield/Hardy County Regional Wastewater Authority Board, Day Report Center Board and Eastern WV Community Action Board.

Rose Helmick will continue to represent the commission on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board.

Ambulance Authority

President Greg Greenwalt and Vice President Ted Garrett presented a list of Hardy County Emergency Ambulance Authority Board members and their term expirations. Andrew Funk's, Craig Strawderman's and Julian Hott's terms will expire in February 2015. Greg Greenwalt's and Paul Lewis' terms will expire in March 2015.

Craig Strawderman, Julian Hott and Paul Lewis said they wish to be reappointed, Greenwalt said.

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Moorefield Council Wades Through Water Options

By Jean A. Flanagan
 Moorefield Examiner

As the town of Moorefield continues to struggle with financing a new water plant, the discussion at the Jan. 6 Moorefield Council meeting centered around options.

Currently, the town, local industry and the Hardy County Public Service District rely on two antiquated water processing plants, one built in 1949, the other in 1992. They run between 18 and 24 hours a day, seven days a week to pump 4 million gallons per day. There is barely time to backwash the filters and there is no room for expansion.

The town has proposed a new facility that would produce 8 million gallons per day. The cost is approximately \$25 million. In times past, the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council would provide zero-interest loans and grants to finance the construction.

But, money is tight. Federal grant money, which was available at one time, is nonexistent. The IJDC has proposed a 1 percent interest loan and no grant funding. The cost of the debt

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Candidate Filing For Moorefield Municipal Election Begins

Candidate filing for the June 9, 2015, Town of Moorefield Municipal General Election begins on Monday, January 12, 2015, and will end at the close of business on Fri-

day, Jan. 30, 2015.

A recorder and three councilmen will be elected to serve for a four-year term from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

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Don't Be So Negative



Photo by Mike Mallow

Although no official temperature was recorded this low, it was cold enough for one bank in Moorefield to register at -6° last Thursday morning. More conservative numbers put the temperature closer 0°.

Board of Education Hears WESTEST Results

By Jean A. Flanagan
 Moorefield Examiner

"Regardless of the tests, our students will be successful," Hardy County Schools Superintendent Barbara Whitecotton told the Board of Education. "I believe our students are learning more than the test scores indicate."

The Hardy County Board of Education met on Monday, Jan. 5 and was presented with data from the 2013-14 Westest 2 standardized tests. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Beverly Coppe made the presentation.

Both Moorefield Middle School and East Hardy High School are classified as Success Schools, meaning they meet the academic goals of student achievement as measured by the test.

Moorefield Intermediate, Moorefield High and East Hard Early Middle schools are classified as Support Schools, meaning they do not meet the academic, attendance, graduation or growth goals. According to the WV State Schools website, "Support Schools need support."

Overall school/grade levels of proficiency are as follows:

School	Math	R/LA
MIS-3	51.3	41.8
MIS-4	56.1	47.4
MIS-5	32.4	34.5
EHEMS-3	32.6	34.8
EHEMS-4	27.7	31.9
EHEMS-5	46.7	46.7
EHEMS-6	31.5	50
EHEMS-7	32.8	34.4
EHEMS-8	43.4	50.9
MMS-6	32.7	46.7
MMS-7	43.9	53.3
MMS-8	50	50
EHHS-11	90	51.7
MHS-11	39	36

Numbers indicate percentage of students proficient in the subject. The information regarding individual grade results was published in the Dec. 17, 2014 Moorefield Examiner.

When asked what is being done to improve the test scores, Coppe said there are federal funds available to address some of the issues.

"We are meeting monthly with the leadership team at the support schools," Coppe said. "We are conducting walkthroughs. We are working on hiring staff to get after-school help for students. We are working to build relationships with the students and their families."

"Keep in mind, the reliability of the data is in question," Whitecotton said. "Our purpose is to build a foundation for Hardy County students. We are working to build relationships with the students. There are cultural issues that have been here for years."

Support Services

Assistant Superintendent Bryan Cooley presented an overview of his areas of responsibility.

"My responsibilities include special education, English language learners (formerly ESL), investigations, nurses, homebound instruction, and Mrs. Coppe in Curriculum and Instruction, Jodi Shewbridge in Attendance and Sherry Barb in Nutrition report to me," Cooley said. "My position is designed so that 70 percent of my time is spent on special education and 30 percent on the other responsibilities."

There are 14 areas of exceptionalities in the school system. They include autism, emotional/behavioral disorders, speech/language impairments, deaf/blindness, deafness, hard of hearing, specific learning disability, intellectual disabilities, other health impairments,

orthopedic impairments, developmental delay, traumatic brain injury, blindness and low vision, and gifted. In 2014, Hardy County had 383 students with exceptionalities. There has been a steady increase since 2010, when there were 295 students so classified.

Cooley pointed out there has been a 50 percent increase in students classified with Specific Learn-

ing Disability between 2010 and 2014. The number of students diagnosed with autism has doubled.

In terms of strengths, Cooley said Hardy County Schools has a "top notch" staff that absolutely complies with state and federal policies and laws. The eligibility determination checklist is comprehensive and followed to the letter.

In terms of concerns, Cooley

said the curriculum "lacks commonality." There needs to be an alignment of what is taught, what is learned and how it is assessed.

"I believe Hardy County schools can be at the top," he said. "There is no reason Hardy County students with exceptionalities cannot be in the top 5 percent of all students."

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Photo by Jean Flanagan

Superintendent Barbara Whitecotton and Project Manager Steve Knight hold an American flag donated by Construction Managers Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc. Architects Williamson Shriver donated West Virginia flags. The flags will be flown over the two new high schools.

*On Wednesday, Jan. 7, 12 people were killed in Paris, France during a terrorist attack on their office. The people killed were journalists. Charlie Hebdo is the name of the publication for which they worked.

We, at the Moorefield Examiner mourn their deaths. Je suis Charlie means "I am Charlie." An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.