

No "Bailout" for the Town of Pratt



By Jeremy Edwards | Posted: Fri 11:31 AM, Aug 07, 2009

KANAWHA COUNTY, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- Kanawha County Commissioners met Thursday night in [Charleston](#) to discuss a host of topics.

Pratt Loses Loan

The county's Regional Development Authority told commissioners that they would not give the town of Pratt a \$100,000 loan to help fix the town's water and sewer systems.

The RDA announced earlier this year the authority would give the loan to Pratt if the town would merge its water and sewer plants with Chelyan's.

Town leaders in Pratt have not made any progress in making that merger happen.

Also in July, the Public Service Commission rejected a request from the town of Pratt to raise rates on the water and sewer system. The Internal Revenue Service also has levied \$59,000 worth of tax liens against the town. Investigators say the town has been improperly withholding employee taxes.

County Commissioner Kent Carper told WSAZ.com that he is glad no more taxpayer's dollars will go to "bailout" the town.

"I just don't currently favor bailing out the town of Pratt, we have done that at least twice." Carper said. "I don't think taxpayers want us to bailout anyone right now, having said that we also don't want to cost more later even if it is someone else's mess."

Carper and the RDA are hoping this move will force Pratt to merge its water and sewer systems with Chelyan's or go into receivership.

Early Voting Locations

Creating more early voting locations was also on the agenda Thursday night.

Kanawha County Clerk, Vera McCormick said they are looking at sites big enough to hold early voting.

So far only the Rand Community Center has fit the bill.

County Commissioners are also floating around the idea of having mobile voting sites that would stop in different parts of the county for a few days during the early voting period.

No definite plans have been made yet.

The County Clerk, County Commission and the Heads of the Democratic and Republican Parties have to agree on a plan within 120 days of an election.

Kanawha Fire Coordinator

Kanawha County will soon have a new Fire Coordinator.

County leaders said Thursday night that all of the county's fire chiefs are on board with the plan and the hiring process.

An interview panel has been formed and members will start interviewing candidates for the position on August 13th, 14th and 15th.

More than 30 people have applied for the position.

County leaders hope to have a candidate chosen and hired by August 20th.

Kanawha Evacuation Plan

There will soon be an evacuation plan for Kanawha County and the city of Charleston.

Thursday night, the County Commission awarded a contract to JH Consulting to craft the plan.

The project is being paid for by a grant from the Homeland Security Department.

There is no word on when the evacuation plan will be presented to the county.

New Employees

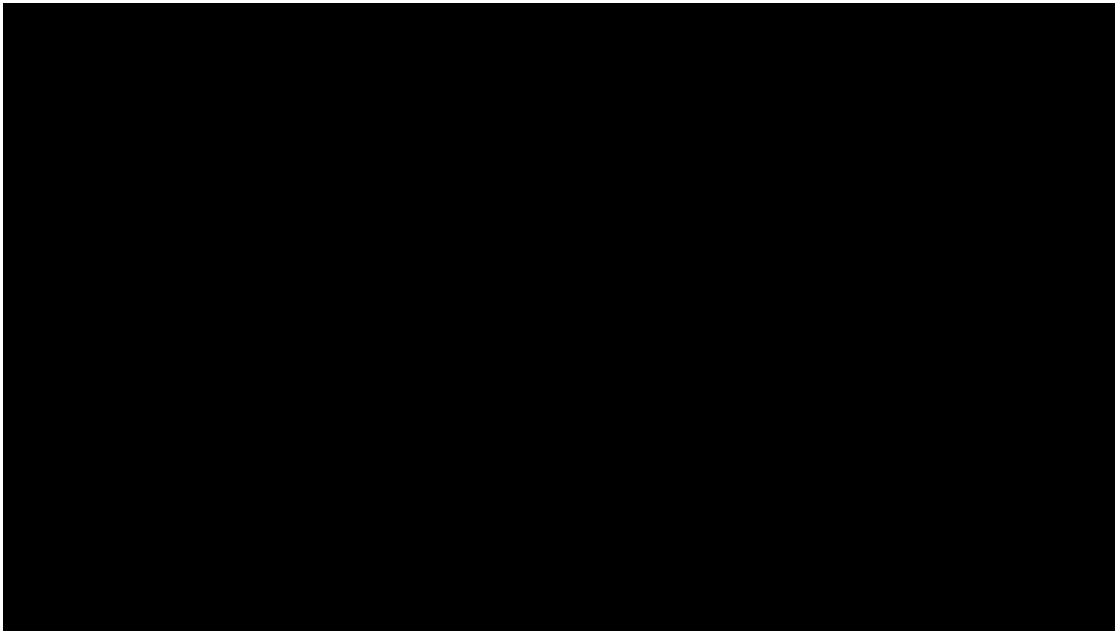
There will soon be some new faces around the county courthouse in Charleston.

The County Commission approved three new hires Thursday night.

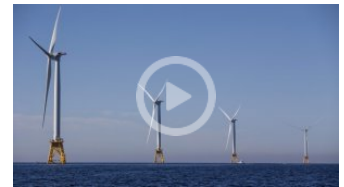
James Coyner who is a former Charleston police officer was hired on as a new family court bailiff. Coyner had been an officer in Charleston for 23 years. He begins work on September 1st.

Bruce White was also hired Thursday night as a maintenance clerk. He'll focus on keeping up the Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's Office in the former AEP building once they move in. He comes to work for the county from the Department of Highways. He begins work on Friday.

Franklin Sandoro will become the new purchasing clerk for the County Commission. He was a former intern in the office several years ago. He'll begin working on August 10th.



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