

**West Virginia Board of Public Works
Wednesday, September 28, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.
Governor’s Cabinet and Conference Room
Minutes**

Attendees:

Members

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin
Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant
Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick
State Treasurer John D. Perdue
Steven Travis for Attorney General Patrick Morrisey
Russ Rollyson for State Auditor Lisa A. Hopkins
Terry Harless for State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael J. Martirano

Guests

Jeff Amburgey, Tax Department
Uriah Cummings, Tax Department
Robert Moore, Division of Highways
Gary Furbee, West Virginia University
Brittany Vascik, Governor’s Office
Joe Garcia, Governor’s Office
Gina Joynes, Treasurer’s Office
Ashley Summitt, Secretary of State’s Office
Judy Cooper, Secretary of State’s Office
Sam Speciale, Secretary of State’s Office
Phil Kabler, WV Gazette
Gabriel DeAngelo

The West Virginia Board of Public Works met on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Governor’s Cabinet and Conference Room of the State Capitol Complex. This meeting was held pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 11, Article 6, Section 11 of the West Virginia Code. The meeting was called to order and chaired by Governor Tomblin. A quorum of elected officials was established.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from the April 12, 2016 West Virginia Board of Public Works meeting. Treasurer Perdue moved to approve the minutes with Secretary Tennant seconding the motion. The motion carried.

The second item on the agenda was consideration of the formal receipt of the tentative assessments for public utilities for tax year 2017 as presented by the State Tax Department. Jeff Amburgey, Director of the Property Tax Division, addressed the Board. The Department of Tax and Revenue issued notices of tentative assessed values to public utility companies operating in West Virginia on September 12, 2016. Russ Rollyson noticed an error. A couple companies had

not been added in. The revised tentative assessments were re-distributed on September 19, 2016. For Tax Year 2017, the total of all of the tentative utility assessments in the State was \$10,482,111,600. This represents an increase of \$455,412,200 over the final assessed values set by the Board of Public Works for tax year 2016. Mr. Amburgey explained that the increase this year is attributable to an increase in taxable property in a couple of industries. Most notably the electric companies and the pipeline industry. The electric companies are exhibiting normal growth with expansion and addition of transmission lines throughout the state. The pipeline industry continues to invest in assets associated with getting Marcellus gas out of state. The increases have been offset this year by a decline in the coal industry and natural gas prices. The railroad values have decreased slightly, because coal is the most significant revenue generator that they handle. He continued that the gas stored underground decreased by about 67 million or 24% from last year due to the reduction in natural gas prices. Mr. Amburgey continued that if the tentative values become finalized, this would result in property tax revenue to be distributed to the counties and municipalities of approximately 10 million dollars. He explained that every year they have minor changes that they recommend after the protest hearing as a result of additional information they receive. He does not anticipate any protests from any of the larger utility companies this year; however, after some discussions with the DMV, it appears that some of the bus companies may be paying their property taxes while registering for apportioned license plates, through the International Registration Program. If this turns out to be the case, the tax department will recommend that those companies be removed from the Board of Public works jurisdiction prior to finalizing the assessments. Treasurer Perdue made a motion to formally receive the tentative assessments for public utilities for tax year 2017 as presented by the Tax Department with Secretary Tennant seconding. The motion carried.

The final item on the agenda was discussion of the following deeds listed 1 - 4 seeking approval by the Board of Public Works.

1. Between the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and West Virginia University Board of Governors, on Behalf of West Virginia University, dated June 30, 2016, approved as to form by the Attorney General's Office September 12, 2016.
2. Between the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways and the Town of Marmet, dated December 7, 2015, approved as to form by the Attorney General's Office May 11, 2016.
3. Between Pleasants County Development Authority and the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, dated July 18, 2016, approved as to form by the Attorney General's Office August 10, 2016.
4. Between the West Virginia Parkways Authority and the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, dated April 21, 2016, approved as to form by the Attorney General's Office June 27, 2016.

Robert Moore addressed the Board concerning deed number 1. He explained that this is a sale of excess property for WVU. It is an area of 0.67 acres. The value is \$241,400. Commissioner Helmick made a motion to approve deed number 1 with Treasurer Perdue seconding. The motion carried.

Robert Moore addressed the Board concerning deed number 2. He explained that this is a donation from the Division of Highways to the Town of Marmet of approximately 2,500 square feet. It is a hillside that has a Star on it. Treasurer Perdue made a motion to approve deed number 2 with Russ Rollyson seconding. The motion carried.

Robert Moore addressed the Board concerning deed number 3. He explained that this is a property transfer from the Pleasants County Development Authority to the Division of Highways for an access road to a Pleasants County industrial center. It contains two tracks of land. Treasurer Perdue made a motion to approve deed number 3 with Secretary Tennant seconding. The motion carried.

Robert Moore addressed the Board concerning deed number 4. He explained that this is a transfer from the Parkways Authority to the Div. of Highways of an existing roadway that serves bordering properties that the Division of Highways needed to provide access to. Commissioner Helmick made a motion to approve deed number 4 with Treasurer Perdue seconding. The motion carried.

With no further business, Treasurer Perdue made a motion to recess the meeting until November 3, 2016 with Commissioner Helmick seconding. The motion carried. The meeting recessed.



Mac Warner, Secretary of State
and Ex-Officio Secretary of the
Board of Public Works