

Justice For Logan County Commissioners Office Employees

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2023, Logan County Commissioner's office employees voted to join the UMWA, after getting agreement from the Commissioners regarding holding a representation vote, and

WHEREAS, a letter was sent by the International District 17 Vice President to the Logan County Commission asking for available dates for negotiations, and

WHEREAS, UMWA District 17 staff met with two of the Logan County Commissioners, the Human Resources manager, and the county administrator, and

WHEREAS, UMWA representatives were provided with an updated policy manual and employee list containing dates of hire, job titles, and salary information and a follow up meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the HR manager Dara Walls emailed UMWA staff asking to postpone the February 20, 2024, meeting. Reason given was that President of the commission Ms. Barnette would be on vacation and

WHEREAS, after repeated attempts to reschedule UMWA staff met with the commissioners to resume bargaining on April 3, 2024. At this meeting the commissioners asked the UMWA to provide a complete Collective Bargaining Agreement proposal, and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2024 – **more than six months after the initial vote that the Commissioners supported** – the UMWA received a response from HR manager Dara Walls that the commission was no longer going to bargain with the UMWA, and

WHEREAS, after this response UMWA International President Cecil E. Roberts conducted a robocall to UMWA members in Logan County urging them to contact the commission, and

WHEREAS, Logan County prosecutor Dave Wandling met with UMWA staff in mid-May 2024 and began regular communications. Prosecutor Wandling informed the UMWA that based on his discussions with the UMWA that he had prepared a draft proposal for the commission to review, and

WHEREAS, in mid-July 2024 the UMWA along with Logan County Commissioner's office employees began attending Logan County commission meetings and were informed that the commission would not be sharing the draft proposal Mr. Wandling had prepared with the union, and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2024, commission meeting the UMWA was informed that the commission had obtained outside counsel from Steptoe and Johnson, and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2024 Michael Moore with Steptoe and Johnson informed the UMWA that the Logan County Commission was not going to recognize nor bargain with the UMWA, and

WHEREAS, this position represents a complete flip-flop from the Commissioners' original position regarding union representation of its employees, and

WHEREAS, West Virginia law does not prohibit county governments from recognizing union representation of its employees, conducting collective bargaining negotiations, reaching an agreement and abiding by it, and

WHEREAS, the right to join a union and bargain collectively is recognized as a basic human right in the United States and across the world, and

WHEREAS, more than \$35 million dollars flowed into the economy of Logan County in 2023 in the form of health care and pension payments on behalf of UMWA retirees, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Logan County would suffer significant economic harm without the millions of dollars that annually are paid into the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the members of the Logan County Commission highlighted that they were union-friendly during their campaigns and used this to gain endorsement from the UMWA and other unions, and

WHEREAS, its current stance marks the Commission as little more than another anti-union employer that cares little for the well-being of its employees, their families and their community, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of UMWA Local Union 1440 hereby call on the Logan County Commission needs to live up to their promise and uphold their employees right to join the UMWA and keep the promises made a year ago, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that failure to do so will forever mark the Commissioners as union-busters and unworthy of support from any union member or their families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Local Union 1440 will engage in any and all efforts to support the Logan County Commission Employees' right to join a union and build a better life for their families.

ADOPTED this 5th day of October 2024.

Frank Collins
President

Craig Patricks
Recording Secretary

