

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a regular session of the County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the Wees Annex, on the 1st day of May, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President David Kesling and Randolph County Commissioners, Chris See and Chris Siler

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sarah Wamsley, Carla Lambert and Brian Currence from Elkins High School appeared before the Commission. Ms. Wamsley spoke about the PRO Officers at the schools and how getting rid of Comp time could affect them being able to attend after-hours events. She said they attend approximately 90 per year at Elkins High School alone. She said they are also present at non-athletic events such as dances, performances and ceremonies. She said eliminating compensatory hours would significantly reduce the PRO Officers ability to perform these critical duties. She said they urge the Commission to continue supporting comp hours for these invaluable officers. (See copy attached)

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on April 15, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Sheriff Elbon reported that he has another Deputy out on Military leave which makes three out on Military leave at this point. He said they gave a Civil Service Test the other day and have probably 5 really good candidates on the list for entry level Deputy. He said they are waiting on the written test results to see how they did. He said he received an email yesterday about an Officer resigning and he is going to another agency for monetary reasons. He will be leaving within the next 30 days. Sheriff Elbon said he found out from some of the deputies that the Mayor of the City of Elkins has been calling his Deputies trying to get them to come to the City and offering them a \$20,000.00 sign on bonus. He said the County pays all the insurance which is great but the City also pays their insurance and gives them a stipend on a card to pay any unpaid balances such as co pays for medical reasons. He said things are getting real competitive to try to keep good certified guys working. He said the Commission letting them sign the contract with Wal-Mart was good as it gave the Deputies extra money and it helped with their retirement also.

Sheriff Elbon reported on an incident that happened the day before. He said he drove up on a young male who was punching a set of mail boxes and yelling. Sheriff Elbon said he stopped to check on him and he came at him punching and kicking and kicked his car and damaged it. He said he got kicked in the ribs also. He said he was just expelled from school and no one could calm him down. He said Officer Rocky Hebb arrived and opened the back door of the cruiser where the young man was sitting and as soon as he saw Officer Hebb he broke down and started talking to him. Sheriff Elbon said these PRO Officers have a rapport with these kids and he is proud of that.

Rhett Dusenberry appeared before the Commission. He said that was good story from the Sheriff and that is a credit to him and his Officers. He said he wanted to let the Commission know the applications for funding have been submitted but as he said before there are no guarantees.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received letters from Pioneer Memorial Library and Kiwanis thanking them for their financial support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced the next meeting of the County Commission will be held on May 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the Wees Annex.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR OUR TOWN'S ANNUAL CAR SHOW JULY 4TH & 5TH

(See copy attached)

Priscilla Gay, Treasurer of Our Town Inc. appeared before the Commission. She said this will be the first car show without Bobby Hart who recently passed away. She said he always parked the cars and had a special way he did it. She said he will be greatly missed. She said the car show will be held July 4th and July 5th. She said last year they significantly increased advertising which resulted in close to a 25% increase in the number of cars coming to Elkins. She said the Fleetwood Mac tribute band will be performing on Friday night which will be followed by the fireworks show. She said they appreciate all the support the County Commission provides. Commissioner Kesling said this event draws a lot of people into the County and they can collect Hotel/Motel tax for all the Hotels and Motels that are out of the city limits which is what they then use to help fund projects like this. He said this is a worthwhile project and they have already given money to help buy the fireworks also. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Our Town Inc. for the annual car show in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR HARMAN SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025 PROJECT SAFE GRADUATION PARTY

Kelly Shaffer, Principal of Harman School appeared before the Commission. She read a letter out loud that was prepared by Jonnie Ann Lane Skidmore, Advisor for the Class of 2025 of Harman School. Ms. Shaffer said this event was started back in 2022 with the help of the Elkins Junior Women's Club. She said they are now continuing it on their own and it is funded entirely through community donations and sponsorships. Commissioner See said it's a very worthwhile project. Commissioner Kesling said the Commission started helping with funding for this a few years ago. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from Harman School in the amount of \$1,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHILD CARE PROVIDER PROCLAMATION

Stephanie Hoover from Mountain Heart Community Services appeared before the Commission. She said they would like to proclaim May 9, 2025 as Provider Appreciation Day in Randolph County. Commissioner Kesling read the Proclamation out loud. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Proclamation, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK PROCLAMATION

Teri Shaver and Autumn Elza appeared before the Commission. They asked that May 6 thru May 12 be proclaimed National Nurses Week in Randolph County. Commissioner Kesling read the Proclamation out loud. Commissioner See moved to approve the Proclamation, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON HUTTONSVILLE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT SUPPORT LETTER

Commissioner Kesling said the Huttonsville Public Service District is trying to get funding and needed a letter of support from the County Commission. This letter of support had to be sent in before today's meeting. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of Commission President Kesling's signature on the letter of support for Huttonsville Public Service District. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEADSVILLE PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT REAPPOINTMENT

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Leadsville PSD requesting the re-appointment of Thomas Nick Channell to the Leadsville Public Service District Board. Commissioner See moved to approve the reappointment of Thomas Nick Channell to the Leadsville Public Service District Board for a term beginning on June 30, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2031. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED COAL SEVERANCE TAX BUDGET

Commissioner Kesling said when the budget for the County was sent in to the State Auditor's Office it had the Coal Severance tax budget at \$505,967.00 but after reviewing it the Auditor's Office found that the correct amount should have been \$404,272.00. He said the Auditor's Office need a revised copy of it. Commissioner Kesling said he thinks it is where money was spent out of that line for Judge Wilfong's office renovations. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the revised Coal Severance Tax Budget, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE RANDOLPH COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

Tina Vial from the Randolph County Humane Society appeared before the Commission. She told the Commission that last week they started demolition of the old building where they kept the cats. She said they had generous donations that helped with this. She said one donation was for \$75,000.00 and another was for \$25,000.00 with a matching donation of \$25,000.00. She said they have a \$350,000.00 budget set for this project. She said they need to find foster homes for 13 cats that were housed in the old building. She said the new building will have a quarantine room for sick cats to keep them away from the healthy cats. Commissioner Siler commended them on what a great job they are doing. Commissioner Kesling said the Randolph County Humane Officer talks about what a great relationship he has with the Humane Society. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Randolph County Commission and the Randolph County Humane Society. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH WVU EXTENSION AND RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION FOR JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

Commissioner See moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with WVU Extension Office and Randolph County Commission for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE TOWN OF MONTROSE PARK

Commissioner Kesling said there was a presentation given from the Town of Montrose at the last Commission meeting. He said they are working on a park in the community. He said the Commission gave them some funding back in 2023, but the prices have went up since then on the rock boulders they wanted to install. He said the Commission took it under consideration. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Town of Montrose in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMUNITY POOL AND SPLASHPAD

Commissioner Kesling said they received a letter from the Elkins Elks asking for their first allotment for opening of the pool, chemicals, lawn care and employees. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Elkins Elks 1135 in the amount of \$7,500.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE TOSHIBA LEASE AGREEMENT WITH HART OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said this is for the copier in the Law Enforcement Office. He said they already have a Toshiba in the tax office so this will coincide with that one.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the lease agreement with Hart Office Solutions, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER FINAL READ OF NEW COMP TIME POLICY CHANGE TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said the guys that mostly use Comp time are the PRO Officers. He said it is mostly used for after school activities and there is no abuse of it. He said they try to use it up by August when the new school year starts. He asked the Commission to leave it in place for the PRO Officers. Commissioner Siler said they can't do that for some people and not everyone else because that isn't fair. Sheriff Elbon said the Board of Education does not have money to pay them any extra and they are not abusing it. He said they work on abuse cases and do a great job. Commissioner Kesling said the Commission is not saying they aren't doing a great job but with the lack of Deputies right now they could be working instead of using comp time. He said all combined it comes out to 22 weeks of coverage. He said anytime they work over 40 hours they would get paid overtime and everyone else should too. He said the PRO Officers generally take off in the summertime and other Deputies want to take off too. Sheriff Elbon said they need to be there when the kids are at the school so they need to go in early and stay late. Sheriff Elbon said he never allowed for overtime in his budget. Commissioner Siler said he will have to pay it out of his budget because it will not come out of the County Commission's budget. Commissioner Kesling said they need to do management of scheduling and that is 22 weeks they could have helped out when he is short staffed. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the final read of new comp time policy change to employee handbook, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PART TIME HIRE FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said he has a gentleman that worked as a Deputy before that is still certified that might be interested in coming back part time. He did not have the name or all of the information needed to proceed at this time. Commissioner Kesling moved to table this item. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (5) Final Settlements, as submitted.

John Francis Maize, III

Harry Donald Price

Leon Kerens Rennix

Steven R. Rose

Charles Jefferson Whetsell

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (2)

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office to increase Sheriff Wages, Sheriff FICA, Sheriff Medicare and Sheriff Retirement in the amount of \$817.00. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for the County Clerk's Office to increase County Clerk FICA, County Clerk Medicare and County Clerk Retirement in the amount of \$1,250.00. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the division of property and erroneous assessments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner Siler moved to pay the bills, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner Kesling moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Attest: _____



Elkins High School

Tiger Pride!

100 Kennedy Drive, Elkins, WV 26241 - Phone 304-636-9170 - Fax 304-636-9168 - <http://ehs.rand.k12.wv.us>

April 30, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the administration at Elkins High School, we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the potential elimination of compensatory hours for our School-Based Prevention Resource Officers (PROs). These officers are not only essential to the daily safety and well-being of our students and staff, but they also provide a critical presence at a wide range of extracurricular events beyond the traditional school day.

Our PROs are trusted, highly trained professionals who build meaningful relationships with students, proactively prevent conflict, and serve as a visible, stabilizing presence in our school community. Their contributions extend well beyond the school bell. Compensatory time allows these officers to attend after-hours events where their presence is not only appreciated but essential.

While PROs regularly attend athletic events—including approximately 90 per year at Elkins High School alone—they are also present at non-athletic extracurricular activities such as dances, performances, and ceremonies. For example, this past weekend, PROs attended our prom, where they investigated a student safety concern that had been reported to the Randolph County Sheriff's Department. Thanks to their quick and thorough response, the concern was fully resolved before students even arrived, ensuring a safe and enjoyable event for all.

Events like prom, football games, and basketball games frequently draw large crowds and occasionally require immediate intervention due to safety issues. At several sporting events this year, our PROs have had to address hostile language and remove individuals from the premises due to threats of violence or physical altercations. Their ability to respond swiftly in these situations has been critical to maintaining order and protecting students, staff, and spectators.

In addition to their presence, it is the relationships our PROs have built with students, staff, and school administrators that truly set them apart. At Elkins High School, we have developed strong, collaborative relationships with Officer Ethan, Officer Danny, and Officer Rocky. They know our students and staff by name, understand our culture, and are familiar with the dynamics of our school community. While we absolutely appreciate the support of other officers when needed, there is irreplaceable value in having PROs who are known, trusted, and integrated into our daily operations. These relationships allow them to appropriately and effectively de-escalate situations, communicate clearly with administration, and make quick, sound decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone involved. They are more than just police officers on duty; they are a part of our school family.

I want to reiterate, our PROs often use comp time to investigate off-hours threats or concerns that, if left unchecked, could jeopardize school safety the following day. They frequently work late into the evening to ensure that potential threats are identified, investigated, and resolved before

Carla Lambert, Principal

Brian Currence, Asst. Principal

Sarah Wamsley, Asst. Principal



Elkins High School

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students return to campus the next morning. This kind of preventative, behind-the-scenes work is rarely seen but plays a pivotal role in keeping our schools safe. They do an outstanding job at effectively communicating with staff about after-school events that impact our students.

Eliminating compensatory hours would significantly reduce our PROs' ability to perform these critical duties and would undermine the comprehensive safety net they currently provide. We respectfully urge the commission to continue supporting comp hours for these invaluable officers. Their service—during and beyond the school day—protects the students and families of Randolph County in ways that are both measurable and immeasurable.

Thank you for your time, attention, and continued support of our schools and our shared commitment to student safety.

Respectfully,

Carla Lambert
Sarah Wamsley
B. Currence

Elkins High School Administration and Staff

Carla Lambert, Principal

Brian Currence, Assistant Principal

Sarah Wamsley, Assistant Principal

Ross Ware, Athletic Director



April 25, 2025

\$5K
Hotel

Randolph County Commission
4 Randolph Ave
Elkins, WV 26241

Dear Commissioners,

The annual car show presented by Mountain State Street Machines is once again scheduled during the July 4th holiday. Last year's significantly increased advertising resulted in close to a 25% increase in the number of cars coming to Elkins. The members have been planning and advertising the car show since January. We expect another good turnout.

The car show will take place on Friday and Saturday, July 4th and 5th. Friday evening Fleetwood Macked The Ultimate Tribute to Fleetwood Mac will take the stage at the Rotary Amphitheatre at 7:30 pm. That performance will be followed by the fireworks show.

The Commission has been a loyal sponsor of the car show providing \$5,000 to help with costs for the July 4th annual event. We are hopeful that you will continue that tradition this year.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Gay

Priscilla Gay
Treasurer

STATE BUDGET REVISION

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	PREVIOUSLY APPROVED		DECREASE	REVISED AMOUNT
		AMOUNT	INCREASE		
001-388-90-0	Transfer from other funds		\$817.00		
TOTAL INCREASE / (DECREASE) REVENUES:			\$817.00	0	

[illegible]

S-1-2025
DK moved
DK yes
C see yes
C siler yes



A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	In-House Budget Revision April 24, 2025					
2	REVENUES:					
3		PREVIOUSLY APPROVED				
4	Account Number	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE	REVISED
5						
6						
7						
8	TOTAL INCREASE / (DECREASE) REVENUES:			\$0.00	0	
9					0	
10	EXPENDITURES:					
11		PREVIOUSLY APPROVED				REVISED
12	ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE	AMOUNT
13	001-402-1-09.00	County Clerk Extra Help	\$2,000		\$1,250.00	\$750.00
14	001-402-1-04.00	County Clerk FICA	\$16,795	\$500.00		\$17,295.43
15	001-402-1-04.01	County Clerk Medicare	\$3,928	\$250.00		\$4,178.32
16	001-402-1-06.00	County Clerk Retirement	\$24,381	\$500.00		\$24,881.00
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26	TOTAL INCREASE / (DECREASE) EXPENDITURES:			\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	
27	5-1-2025					
28	CSiler moved					
29	CSiler yes					
30	DK yes					
	CSae yes					
	Adjustment to cover T&B					
	Brenda Wiseman					