

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 Commission Annex, on the 7th day of August, 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: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting that was held on July 11, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on July 17, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She gave a report on the program from last fiscal year. She said they had a total of 272 participants on the program last fiscal year and they saved the County \$1,783,741.44 in regional jail bills. She said the current participants on the program are 96 and the program has saved the County \$136,106.80 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year. She also presented a financial report to the Commission and said that North Central Community Corrections was able to put \$180,930.38 in the bank account last fiscal year.

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said on Sunday afternoon Deputy Wolfe was involved in a car crash on the 4-Lane which totaled the cruiser. He said Deputy Wolfe was not hurt. He said Deputy Wolfe was attempting to cross the 4-Lane with his lights and siren on and a car coming from the direction of Elkins struck him.

Sheriff Elbon also reported that Deputy Tyler Knotts is leaving the Sheriff's Department and going to the City of Elkins. He said Deputy Knotts last day will be August 17th. He said K-9 Twix only has one trainer and that was Deputy Knotts. He said no one else can work with Twix. He said they are not sure what to do since the dog is owned by the County. He said they might consider selling Twix to the City of Elkins. He said he does not want to see the dog be put down. He said Knotts has been a good Deputy and he is going to miss him.

Sheriff Elbon also reported that Deputy Ethan Carr has accepted the position of Sergeant so he will no longer be at Elkins High School as the PRO Officer. He said that will leave the post open but he does not have enough staff right now to fill that position. He said possibly the City of Elkins can send an Officer there. He said the PRO program is a good program and he doesn't want to lose it.

Commissioner Kesling said the Dog is County owned property and they paid over \$15,000.00 for the Dog along with training and equipment for the Dog. He said they would be willing to sell the Dog to the City of Elkins but it will not be cheap. He said they can't make a decision today because it is not on the Agenda. Sheriff Elbon said Deputy Knotts leaves the 17th and they need to know what to do with the Dog from then. Commissioner Kesling said the City of Elkins would come out ahead with getting a good Dog and it would cost them less to do it this way. Sheriff Elbon said Twix has been instrumental in a lot of arrests and seizures.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a card from Tucker County Community Foundation thanking them for their support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting of the County Commission will be held on August 21, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT AWARD

(See attached copies)

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She said they received a grant for \$100,000.00 from the Governor. She said this is the same amount as the last couple of years. She said this will cover her salary and benefits and part of salary and benefits for one other position. She said the cash match for the County will be \$42,857.14. She said a Resolution will need approved and the grant paperwork accepting the grant will need to be signed. Commissioner Kesling read the Resolution out loud. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Resolution and grant award, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WEST VIRGINIA GOES PURPLE PROCLAMATION

Tammy representing West Virginia Goes Purple appeared before the Commission. There were several other people in attendance as well. She said they are asking for Randolph County to participate in the West Virginia Goes Purple initiative held in September in alignment with National Recovery Month. She said they would like to light up everything in purple and for people to wear purple. Commissioner Kesling read the Proclamation out loud. Commissioner See moved to approve the Randolph County Goes Purple Proclamation, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Melinda Lott said at the beginning of September they are going to light up the Courthouse in Red, White and Blue lights for Labor Day. She said after that they will do purple lights for the rest of September.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT FOR NORTON-HARDING-JIMTOWN PSD

Commissioner Siler moved to re-appoint Bradley Smith to the Norton-Harding-Jimtown PSD. His term began on July 1, 2025 and will end on June 30, 2031. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENT FOR THE AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

Commissioner Siler moved to appoint Dan Bucher to the Randolph County Ambulance Authority to replace Tom Pritt who has retired. Mr. Bucher's term began on August 1, 2025 and will end on June 30, 2028. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO HUTTONSVILLE PSD

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the appointment of John Proudfoot and John Gilmore to the Huttonsville PSD replacing Willy Saucerman and Gary Morgan. Their terms began on August 1, 2025 and will end on June 30, 2031. Discussion: Commissioner See said John Proudfoot is on the town council for Mill Creek so Commissioner See contacted the Ethics board to make sure he could serve on the Huttonsville PSD and there is no issue unless the Town of Mill Creek would want to give the Huttonsville PSD money for their sewer lines or something then he would have to recuse himself from the vote. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (See copy attached)

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said they started with 11 people that applied for the entry level deputy position. He said 7 showed up for the physical agility test and 5 passed and 2 failed. He said they tried to interview the first 3 on the list after testing and they backed out and said they were

not interested anymore. He said 1 did not pass the background check. He said they have 1 person that passed everything that they would like to hire. His name is Samuel Ryder Schoonover. Sheriff Elbon said he would like to hire Mr. Schoonover as a full time benefited uncertified probationary deputy sheriff. He said he will be available to begin working after giving a notice to his current employer. He said Mr. Schoonover will go to the State Police Academy on August 19th and must pass a physical agility test when he arrives. He said as long as he passes that he will be able to get into the August session of the State Police Academy. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Samuel Ryder Schoonover as an uncertified probationary deputy sheriff beginning on August 19, 2025 and he will be placed on a 1 year probationary period, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler asked Sheriff Elbon how many Deputies he is down now? Sheriff Elbon said he is down 6 or 7 and it is getting really difficult for his department.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY POOL REPAIR

Commissioner Kesling said they had some issues that arose after they opened the pool and he called Dan Hill Construction back because they are the company that installed and did the pool for us. He said some of the items were under warranty and some wasn't. He said the total cost was \$15,929.58 for the repairs they completed. He said he was up there yesterday and some of it was the paint on the bathroom floor was peeling up, some splash pad animals weren't working and some issues in the pump house. He said they have it all repaired now. Commissioner See moved to approve the Randolph County Pool repair costs of \$15,929.58 and that is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELKINS PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Siler said he spoke with Rob Nestor several times about this. He said the Elkins Parks and Recreation are asking for help with funding for the summer program for kids that go to the Elkins City Park for the summer. He said they provide lunch to them and this helps the low income families and it is for the whole County not just City of Elkins residents. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Elkins Parks and Recreation Board 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 RATIFICATION OF WAGE INCREASE FOR GENERAL COUNTY

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission has been working on this with help from the County Clerk's Office and Melinda Lott and the elected officials. He said they budgeted \$900,000.00 for the rollover money from last year, but it ended up being \$75,000.00 more. He said how that works is that the elected officials didn't use it last year so it goes back into the General County funds. Commissioner Kesling said he would like to propose a 5% wage increase for all general county employees. He said this will be based on a 37 ½ hour work week and hopefully we can try to keep the overtime down. He thanked the elected officials for the extra rollover money to be able to do this. He said it would take effect as of August 4, 2025 so it will show the increase in pay on the next payroll. Commissioner Kesling moved to approve the wage increase of 5% for all general county employees, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF WAGE INCREASE FOR DEPUTIES

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said the sign on bonus that the City of Elkins is offering is taking his Deputies along with other agencies that are paying more. He said Chief Deputy Sharp put together a spreadsheet showing what other Counties are paying and we are low compared to other Counties. He said with this increase with no training a Deputy would start off at \$50,000 per year and after certification they would make \$55,000.00 per year. He said they also do not have to pay anything for their insurance. He said that should make us more competitive. Commissioner Kesling said they have been discussing it and had Brad Sharp check into it and Commissioner Kesling also checked out some himself. Commissioner Kesling said he feels that these gentlemen put their lives on the line every day and they need to make sure to take care of them. He said he is also tired of the City of Elkins taking away our Deputies. He said the Deputies deserve a raise. He said hopefully this will attract more people to apply and maybe get some certified officers to apply as well. Commissioner Siler said it's had

to compare us to bigger cities but when our Deputies make less than Tucker or Pendleton Counties that is wrong. He said we have more population and more area to cover. He said the Deputies should be making better than what they are now. Sheriff Elbon commends the Commission and said he appreciates it and thanked them. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the wage increase for the Deputies, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling said he forgot to mention under Announcements earlier that the Tygart Valley United Way donation for kids is underway and there is a bin in the main Courthouse for anyone to drop off donations for kids such as shampoo, body wash, leggings, deodorant etc. He said the last day is August 15th so please donate if you can.

Commissioner Kesling also announced that the Commission has been working on two Ordinances. He said one is regarding vape shops and one is regarding camping. He said Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Paker is reviewing them.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (11) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Phillip William Cooper

Nellie Margaret Galford

Eula Jean Gibson

Diane Lynn Morgan

Stephen Thomas Nestor

Rachelle A. Perrine

Carolyn Joan Rice

Thomas Page Romine

Heather Danielle Sneberger

Dorothea Emogene Williamson

Ralph E. Wilmoth

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (4)

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$6,836.16 for the Sheriff's Office for the JAG pass through grant. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office into the TF Distribution of Shares line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$8,950.00 for the Sheriff's Office into the contract services line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$24,450.00 to move money to Court Security Grant line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve (6) fire fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

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

Attest: _____

A.

Total Grant FY 25-26

		<u>Grant</u>	<u>Cash Match</u>
Executive Director Salary		\$64,890.00	
	Benefits	\$2,674.00	\$28,681.00
DRC Officer Salary		\$32,436.00	
	Benefits		\$15,001.00
Cash Match Needed			
	Total	\$100,000.00	\$43,682.00

Cash Match Formula		
\$100,000.00	Divide .70 -	\$236,854.29
		\$42,857.14

	Grant	Cash Match	Total
<u>Total Grant FY 25-26</u>	\$100,000.00	\$42,857.00	\$142,857.00

Randolph County Commission



Commissioners

David L. Kesling

Chris See

Christopher Siler

RESOLUTION

The Commission of Randolph County met on August 7th, 2025 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution.

Be it resolved that the Randolph County Commission hereby authorizes David L. Kesling, President of the Randolph County Commission, to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the Division of Administrative Services, Justice and Community Services to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Community Corrections Program.

Signed:

Brenda Wiseman

County Clerk

4 Randolph Avenue – Suite 207 – Elkins, West Virginia 26241 – Phone (304) 636-2057

Fax (304) 630-1125 - randolphcountycommissionwv.org

Office of the
SHERIFF OF RANDOLPH COUNTY

Law Enforcement

32 Randolph Avenue
Suite 201
Elkins, WV 26241

Web: RandolphSheriff.wv.gov
Phone: (304) 636-2111
Fax (304) 630-0467



Tax Office

4 Randolph Avenue
Suite 100
Elkins, WV 26241

Web: wvpropertytaxes.com
Phone: (304) 636-2100
Fax (304) 636-2093

Robert R. Elbon Jr., Sheriff

July 31, 2025

To: The Randolph County Commission

RE: Request to hire Samuel Ryder Schoonover as an Uncertified Probationary Deputy Sheriff

I respectfully request the approval to hire Samuel Ryder Schoonover as a full time benefited uncertified probationary deputy sheriff. If approved his beginning uncertified salary will be the current uncertified Deputy Sheriff rate as of date of hire.

Mr. Schoonover is currently employed by Walmart as a loss prevention specialist. He is a current resident of the Elkins area of Randolph County. An extensive background investigation was completed by our Office, which he successfully passed. Mr. Schoonover is available to begin work with the Sheriff's Office after submitting a notice with his current employer and acceptance into a basic class at the West Virginia State Police Academy.

Respectfully,

Robert R. Elbon Jr.
Sheriff