

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 4th day of September, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President David Kesling and Randolph County Commissioner, Chris See. Commissioner Chris Siler was absent.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on August 21, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. He said Ryder Schoonover is on his second week at the WV State Police Academy. He said he reported back after the first week so that is good news.

Randolph County Humane Officer, Ron Gooden appeared before the Commission. He gave a report of activity between the dates of August 22, 2025 thru September 3, 2025. He said he had 28 total 911 calls. He said of those calls 9 were in the City and 19 were in the County. He said his intake to the Shelter since the beginning of the year was 46 dogs, 11 cats and 5 ducks. He said the Shelter off the street intake since the beginning of the year is 68 dogs, 138 cats and 2 rabbits. He said so far out of all those animals 21 dogs and the 5 ducks have been reclaimed by their owners. He said they have had 82 adoptions of dogs and pups and 69 cats since the beginning of the year. He said there is a community cat problem and they are working on that. He said the shelter is going to try to get grants but what they cannot get in grant funds they might come to the Commission for help. He said he did attend a public safety meeting with the City of Elkins. He said they want to work on the cat population and they are going to go ward by ward and try to get some numbers. He said he has completed a chemical mobilization training and there is a lot that goes into that. He said next couple weeks he will be starting a ACO2 training and he has completed a lot of online classes so he doesn't have to be off work.

Kenny Watson, Randolph County Court Security Officer, appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to give a report for the month of August, 2025. He said they scanned 4,465 people. He said they confiscated 3 guns, 421 knives and 6 pepper spays. He said they served 139 papers. He said they still need radios. He said they received their shirts and are going to order trousers next. He said they are also going to order a camera for the process server.

Commissioner See asked how many radios are they short? Mr. Watson said they still need 4. Sheriff Elbon told Mr. Watson to bring him the bad ones and he will see about getting them repaired.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting of the County Commission will be held on September 18, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. He said the Opioid Committee meeting will follow that meeting at 3:00 pm on September 18, 2025. He also announced that there will be a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 1:00 pm for the Vape Shop Ordinance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CAMP PIONEER

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received an email from Tracy Walker with Camp Pioneer. They are applying for a grant to expand the Dakan Arena. He said Delegate Jonathan Kyle brought it to the attention of Camp Pioneer that there was a grant opportunity that could assist with funding to expand the Dakan Arena. They currently only have 66 permanent stalls on the property and most shows need approximately 100 stalls. Commissioner Kesling said the Commission would be doing a letter of support. He read the letter of support out loud. Commissioner See moved to approve the letter of support for Camp Pioneer, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL FUNDING REQUEST

Heidi Bray, Executive Director of the Mountain State Forest Festival appeared before the Commission. She said it is 23 days before the 87th Mountain State Forest Festival begins. She said they are striving to bring big acts for the parade and shows/events. She said they have re-structured the band field show and are giving out money to come. She said they have 6 coming so far. She said there will be many events at the Elkins City Park. She said there will be a bike race at Bickel's Knob which is a new event. She said there will be a chili cook off on Davis Avenue, lots of events on the downtown stage and much more. She said they are requesting \$10,000.00 in funding from the Commission. She said next year they want to replace all of the flags which will cost approximately \$8,000.00. She said approximately 85,000 people attend the Mountain State Forest Festival. Commissioner Kesling said they already budgeted \$10,000.00 for them in the budget and he would like to give them an additional \$5,000.00 out of hotel/motel tax to help with the purchase of the new flags. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Mountain State Forest Festival with the amount of \$10,000.00 to come from already budgeted funds and \$5,000.00 to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds for a total of \$15,000.00. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELKINS ELKS LODGE 1135 NATIONAL DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from the Elks Lodge asking for \$2,500.00 in funding to help support their National Drug Awareness Program. He said they are going to be bringing in a renowned national speaker, Ray Lozano to spend four days in Randolph County going to schools and speaking about drug awareness and prevention. He said they received a grant for his salary but still need funding to cover travel, lodging and meals. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from Elkins Elks Lodge 1135 in the amount of \$2,500.00 and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DELPHA REBEKAH LODGE #62 USE OF WEES BUILDING SIDEWALK FOR FOREST FESTIVAL

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from the Delpha Rebekah Lodge #462 asking to use the sidewalk in front of the Wees Annex to set up and sell parade chairs for the grand feature parade. He said they have done this for years and the Commission has no objection. Commissioner See moved to approve the request from Delpha Rebekah Lodge #462 to use the sidewalk in front of the Wees Annex Building for the Mountain State Forest Festival parade. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JOB STATUS CHANGE FOR ALLAN HIGGINS

Commissioner Kesling said Allan Higgins was hired in the maintenance department with part time status. He said Mr. Higgins has successfully completed his 90- day probationary period and they would like to change his job status from part time to full time. He said this will take effect on September 15, 2025 and he will be entitled to receive full county benefits and he will be given a 5% increase in pay. Commissioner See moved to approve the job status change of Allan Higgins effective September 15, 2025 and he is to have full county benefits and receive a 5% increase in pay. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIRST READ OF THE VAPE SHOP ORDINANCE

Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker appeared before the Commission. He said the first step is the reading of the Ordinance today. He said that can be done by reading of the Title of the Ordinance, not reading of the whole Ordinance. He said he has conducted research on this and believes the Commission is good with it. He said this limits where they can operate. He said the next step is to hold a public hearing and to advertise it. He said after the public hearing the Commission can modify it if they choose to. He said this is a lengthy procedure but they need voices of opinion. Mr. Parker said this would not affect the vape shops that already exist, this would only be for ones coming in to the area. Commissioner Kesling said today is the introduction of this Ordinance and first read of it by Title. He read the Title out loud. The Randolph County Vape/Smoke Shop Location and Operating Requirements Ordinance. Commissioner Kesling said several other County Commissions have taken steps to do this. He said Putnam County was one of them and they got a lot of information from their Ordinance. He said this Ordinance also has restrictions on the bright flashing lights and marijuana leaf on their signs, etc. He said the Commission is getting calls all the time regarding this. Sheriff Elbon said they have cases going on right now with them. He said they put them near schools on purpose, they are targeting our kids. Commissioner Kesling said this will be posted today on the County Commission website, at the main Courthouse and in the James Cain Annex. He said the last meeting in October is when there will be a final reading and final vote. Sheriff Elbon said we need this. Commissioner See moved to approve the first read of the Randolph County Vape/Smoke Shop Location and Operating Requirements Ordinance and to set the public hearing for September 18, 2025 at 1:00 pm. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (14) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Charles Benie Arbogast

Edward Lee Cain

Peter Siegfried Doring

Glenda Jean Fitzwater

Marshall Terence Gainer

Richard Lynn Harris

Fred Lee Hornick

Linda Morrison

Richard Floyd Rosencrance

Anita Cay Tacy

Anita Talbott

Martha R. Talbott

Russell Husted Ward, II

Elaine P. Ware

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: (1)

Commissioner See 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

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS/INCREASE OF ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (5) fire fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

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

Attest: _____