

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 6th day of November, 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:

Jack Hinchman appeared before the Commission. He said there is an old house that is ready to fall down next to his new house on Summer Street. He said it has been in really bad shape for 20 years and there are snakes and other animals in it. He asked the Commission when it will be demolished. Commissioner See said it is on the list but they have no money to do it right now. Commissioner Kesling said they are waiting on getting more funding. Commissioner See said they have several on the list that needs taken care of.

Rhett Dusenberry with Congressman Riley Moore's Office appeared before the Commission. He said they are totally shut down right now and he has been working from home. He said he just wanted to stop by and say Hello. He discussed the wild fire in Pendleton County and how we needed rain to help put it out. Mike Miller with 911/OEM said it is hard to fight the fire because it is straight up and down a mountain.

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on October 16, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Kenneth Watson, Randolph County Court Security gave a report for October, 2025. He said they scanned 2,272 people, confiscated 188 knives and 9 pepper sprays. He said one man had magazines for a gun but no gun. He said that was a little concerning. He said they received heat today in their office in the basement of the Courthouse and he thanked the Commission for that. He said everything else is doing real good, the team is coming together well. He said Amanda is doing an excellent job.

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a grant to replace the basement windows to help with the heating problems and they are trying to get another grant for the 2nd and 3rd floor windows of the Courthouse also. The old windows are letting a lot of cold air into the building.

911/OEM Director, Mike Miller appeared before the Commission. He said on October 14, 2025 they received a call about a missing person in the Bowden area. He said approximately 50 personnel were involved in the search. He said Andy Teter from the State was there with his star link and that helped out tremendously. He said on October 16, 2025 the missing person was located. He said it was not the outcome they wanted but he wanted to let the Commission know that everyone worked well together in this search.

Mr. Miller said the two (UPS) units at the 911 Center still need batteries and one of them needs a power module that will cost about \$64,000.00. He said if they lose power, the 911 Center will not be able to operate.

Mr. Miller said they had a meeting yesterday with the State FEMA personnel to help them finish the FEMA report from 2024. Sandy Bibey from the 911/ OEM Office appeared before the Commission to speak about this. She said she has been working on this since June 2024. She said they were sent the list of violations in August 2024 for Randolph County. She said there is WV State OES NFIP Office representative here to explain it better. She said the problem is the enforcement of the Flood Plain Ordinance. Mr. Kevin Sneed with WV State OES NFIP Office appeared before the Commission. He said

the violations are a big issue and Sandy is doing a great job trying to get this taken care of. He said they are just there to try and help her out. He said he knows what FEMA wants. He said the problem is the landowners do not want to comply. He said most of the issues are easy to fix. He said the way it should be is that the Prosecuting Attorney is notified of the violation of the floodplain ordinance and then they would issue a summons for the person to appear in Magistrate Court. He said if the person fails to appear they would be charged a fee of \$50.00 to \$500.00 per day in fines. He said they would keep doing that until their property gets taken away from them eventually. He said these issues could all be resolved in the next 6 months as long as the Prosecuting Attorney and Magistrates go along with it. He said it's a compliant ordinance. He said this is how it is handled in other counties he has worked with.

Ritchie Shyrock, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, said that Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker has been discussing this with the WV Association of Counties and is trying to figure out the frame work on bringing those charges to Magistrate Court. He said they hope to have an answer shortly on it. Mr. Shyrock said they want to make sure they are doing it 100% right. They don't want people to find anything wrong down the road with how it was handled. He said the code does not say it goes to Magistrate Court. Mr. Sneed said WV Code 7-1-3V gives the County Commission the right to do Ordinances and he does not agree with Mr. Shyrock. He said it is common sense that it goes to Magistrate Court.

Sheriff Elbon reported about the search of the missing person on October 14th. He said they located the truck and started searching the area. He said there was no communication out there. He said when Andy Teter came and brought the star link it worked well. He said that made communication possible. He said Deputy Brian Roy is specially trained in search and rescue and he linked into the star link and could watch the teams on a TV screen during the search. Sheriff Elbon said he would like to add star link into the cruisers. He said then they would have no problem with communication. He said other counties have it already. He said it would link into the new radios that were recently purchased. He said it is a safety thing and it is fantastic. He said he would be bringing a proposal to the Commission soon. He said he believes it would be \$14,000.00 for 15 units for first year and \$9,000.00 for the second year. Commissioner Kesling told Sheriff Elbon to bring a proposal to them and to have Deputy Brian Roy come and do a presentation on how it works.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday November 20, 2025 at 1:30 at this location. He announced that the Courthouse complex will be closed on Tuesday November 11, 2025 for Veterans Day. He announced that the Courthouse will be lit up in green for Veterans from November 4th thru November 11th.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR 911 CENTER

911/OEM Director, Mike Miller appeared before the Commission. He said he would like to hire Ethan Plum as a telecommunicator trainee. He said he would like Mr. Plum to begin working on December 1, 2025 with a starting pay of \$13.00 per hour. He said Mr. Plum is being hired as a temporary employee with a probationary period of 90 days. He said once Mr. Plum completes the 90 day probationary period he would be moved up to full time with full county benefits. He will still be on a 12 month probationary period as a telecommunicator trainee. Mr. Miller said the 911 budget will cover the wages. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Ethan Plum, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JOB CLASSIFICATION CHANGE FOR ONE 911 EMPLOYEE

911/OEM Director, Mike Miller appeared before the Commission. He said Teresa Blosser had went to part time status a while back but now she is ready to come back as a full time employee with full county benefits. He said he would like that change to take effect on November 10, 2025, if approved. He said

her rate of pay will remain the same. Commissioner See moved to approve the job classification change for Teresa Blosser, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF COURTYARD USE REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said they received a request from the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee about using the Courthouse Lawn for an event that was happening before this meeting. He said the request was approved and now they just need the ratification of signature on it. Commissioner See moved to approve the ratification of signature on the Courtyard Use Request form. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION DATES (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said Randolph County Assessor, Lance Marcum provided the Commission with a copy of the Board of Review and Equalization dates for 2026. He said the Commission will meet to open the meeting up and then stand in recess until someone schedules a hearing. He said they will adjourn on February 19, 2026. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Board of Review and Equalization dates for 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE SENECA TRAIL LODGE #104 FUNDING REQUEST

Brian Kilgore, Treasurer of the Fraternal Order of Police Seneca Trail Lodge #104, appeared before the Commission. He said the Christmas Party last year was a great success. He said they had 320 children attend along with their families. He said they are from Randolph, Barbour, Tucker, Pocahontas, Grant and Pendleton Counties. He said they spent about \$52,000.00 last year on the party. He said this year they think it will be less. He said probably mid thirties this year with about 280 children attending. He said they get the names from the school counselors and then they contact the families to see what the kids like. He said once they are on the list they usually stay on the list every year. He said they will have Santa Claus and the Grinch and refreshments. This year the Christmas Party will be on December 13, 2025 at the Phil Gainer Community Center. Commissioner Siler said they have done a great job. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Fraternal Order of Police Seneca Trail Lodge #104 in the amount of \$2,500.00 and that is to be taken out of Coal Severance funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BHC FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from the Beverly Heritage Center asking for their first allotment out of the Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Beverly Heritage Center in the amount of \$12,500.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CORRIDOR H FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Robert (Robbie) Morris, Jr. Chairman of the Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority Board. He said the Commission has given funding in the past to help with this project. Commissioner Kesling read from the letter about the work that has been completed so far but, still a lot more to do. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Coal Severance funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (4) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Norman Denver Hanifan

Ila May Nethken

Hollis C. Vance

Stephen Ralph Warner

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision for the County Commission's Office in the amount of \$13,436.00 for funds collected from restitution, insurance or sales to be put into the Courthouse Contractual line. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes. Motion passed

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS/INCREASE OF ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

ZONING LETTERS: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (4) 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: _____

Board of Review & Equalization

February 2026

Friday, January 30, 2026	10:00 – 12:00	Call to order
Tuesday, February 3, 2026	10:00 – 12:00	
Thursday, February 5, 2026	4:00 – 6:00	
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	10:00 – 12:00	
Thursday, February 12, 2026	10:00 - 12:00	
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	10:00 – 12:00	
Thursday, February 19, 2026	10:00 – 12:00	Adjourn