

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 18th day of December, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President, David Kesling and 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 regular meeting that was held on December 4, 2025, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She said there are currently 112 participants on the program and the program has saved the County \$755,910.00 in regional jail bills so far this fiscal year.

Rhett Dusenberry from Congressman Moore's Office appeared before the Commission. He said Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the Commissioners. He said the congressman is ready to do letters of support for grants that the County Commission wants to apply for. He said they will be sending out applications for funding requests the middle of February.

Ron Gooden, Randolph County Humane Officer appeared before the Commission. He said Merry Christmas to the Commissioners. He said he had a report on activity from November 20, 2025 through December 16, 2025. He said it was the most cases he has seen in that period of time. He said there were 43 total calls with 11 in the City of Elkins and 32 in the County. He said 4 animals have been seized just in December. He said he has 5 open cases right now. He said from the big case where 31 animals were seized, there is good news that some of those animals have been adopted out. He said he has a passion to go into the schools and educate the children. He said he has also been looking into a spay/neuter clinic for our area. He said the closest ones are in Clay and one is near Fairmont.

Rob Daman from the Randolph County OEM/911 Center appeared before the Commission. He said the new recording system has been installed and is operational. He said they are trying to figure out how far back they can keep recordings from the old system. He said they have been working in getting grants. He said they are getting portable radios. He said the 70 foot tower at the 911 Building is now standing and OEM/911 Director, Mike Miller is going to the Rich Mountain Tower now to get the dishes aligned. Commissioner Siler said the 911 Center is down right now but working out of Barbour County. Mr. Daman said everything is working smooth so far and Randolph County 911 should be back up and running in 4-5 hours.

Kurt Gainer with Randolph County EMS appeared before the Commission. He said they are currently at full staff. He said they had 2 ambulance crashes in the last month so those 2 ambulances are out of service. He said a new unit is arriving after the first of the year and he is still trying to find some funds for equipment on it. He said they are starting to get CMS re-imbursements back from Medicare since the government opened back up.

Sheriff Rob Elbon reported that his Deputies are back to 12 hour shifts now. He said Deputies Talkington, Pingley and Channell are back from military leave so they have enough to do 12 hour shifts again which is great. He said he had one Deputy graduate last Friday from the State Police Academy and now he will have to do 600 hours of PTO time before he can be on his own.

County Clerk Brenda Wiseman reported on the 2026 Primary Election. She said in 2024 the West Virginia Republican Party Executive Committee voted to close its primary election, limiting it to

Republican voters only. She said this will affect anyone that is registered as an Independent or No Party Affiliation. She said in the past you could request either a Republican or Democrat ballot during the primary but now those registered as Independent or No Party will only be allowed to request a Democrat ballot or vote on the non partisan ballot. They cannot ask for a Republican ballot. She said she just wanted to get the word out to let people know in advance. She said anyone wanting to change their party affiliation may do so at her office and the deadline to make any changes for the May 2026 Primary Election would be April 21, 2026.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday January 8, 2026 at 1:30 at this location. He announced that the Courthouse Complex will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Holidays.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR THE 911 CENTER**

Rob Daman from the Randolph County OEM/911 Center appeared before the Commission. He had a letter from 911/OEM Director Michael Miller requesting approval to hire Mercedes Herron as Chief of Operations. Mr. Miller would like her to begin working in her new position on January 5, 2026 with an hourly rate of pay of \$20.00 per hour with full county benefits. This will be a 40 hour per week position and the current 911 budget will cover her wages. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Mercedes Herron as Chief of Operations at the 911 Center, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON COUNTRY ROADS LEASING (See copy attached)**

Jeffrey Smell with Country Roads Leasing, LLC appeared before the Commission. He said the Sheriff would like to purchase 6 cruisers and they do leases on vehicles. He said it is not like a lease from Enterprise, this is lease purchase financing. He said the County would own the vehicles once the lease is up. He said they have been doing this since 2010 and they use local banks to do the funding. He said this would include the equipment for the vehicles and the Star Link the Sheriff recently requested. He said the total would be \$459,023.00. He said the monthly payment for 4 years would be \$10,909.52. Commissioner Kesling asked the Sheriff if they lease 6 new cruisers now would he need more next year? Sheriff Elbon said he doesn't know, they just have to keep an eye on them and see. Commissioner See moved to approve the contract with Country Roads Leasing, LLC, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LED GRANT RESOLUTION**

Commissioner Kesling said Robbie Morris with the Randolph County Development Authority is applying for a Lead Economic Development grant and needs a Resolution from the Commission. Commissioner Kesling read the resolution out loud. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Resolution, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VOCA GRANT CONTRACT**

This item was tabled as it was not ready to be presented yet.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WAGE INCREASE FOR NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission. She said the North Central Community Corrections Board met last week. She said they discovered that the DRC Officer's wages were lower than anybody around us. She said they decided to increase the DRC Officer's pay to \$35,000.00 per year. She said they also approved a \$5,000.00 increase in wages for every employee of North Central Community Corrections. She said this funding will be taken out of account 072 which is the Community Corrections fund line. Commissioner Kesling said himself and the Sheriff were at that meeting and everyone agrees that they should be paid as much as the other

counties are making. He said this will start with the next pay period. Commissioner See moved to approve the wage increase for North Central Community Corrections beginning on December 22, 2025, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ASSESSORS/THRASHER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Commissioner Kesling said this is a memorandum of understanding between Randolph County Assessor, Lance Marcum and The Thrasher Group, Inc. for the 2026 countywide Aerial Imagery. He said the total cost for that is \$65,457.00. He said they were the lowest bidder. He said the payment will be made once the project is completed. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Randolph County Assessor and The Thrasher Group, Inc., as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE ELKINS-RANDOLPH COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Commissioner Kesling said the Elkins-Randolph County Regional Airport Authority Board would like to re-appoint Mark DeMotto for an additional (3) year term. Commissioner See moved to approve the re-appointment of Mark DeMotto to the Elkins-Randolph County Regional Airport Authority Board for a (3) year term beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON WEST VIRGINIA COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY CONTRACT

Commissioner Kesling said at the last meeting he announced that the Commission has received a \$100,000.00 grant for the windows at the main courthouse. He said they had to fill out and get paperwork back to Charleston before this meeting. He said the next step will be to put it out to bid. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of signature on the contract with West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CITY OF ELKINS FY27 HUMANE OFFICER BUDGET REQUEST LETTER

Commissioner Kesling said every year the City of Elkins requires the County Commission to send a letter to them requesting funding for the Humane Officer. He said they are requesting \$10,000.00 which is the same amount as they requested last year. Commissioner See moved to approve the City of Elkins FY27 Humane Officer budget request letter, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELECTION OF COUNTY COMMISSION PRESIDENT FOR 2026

Discussion between Commissioners. Commissioner See said he has thought about this and he would like to be President but he still has some more hurdles to get thru with his health. He said he is doing better every day but is still not 100%. He said he appreciates the other Commissioners asking him.

Commissioner See moved to nominate David Kesling as County Commission President for 2026. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler said Commissioner Kesling is doing a good job. Commissioner Kesling said he will have more time now because he closed one of his businesses. He said the Commissioners have a good relationship.

#### CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2026 (See attached copy)

Commissioner Kesling went over the list of board appointments for each Commissioner. He said nothing has changed from the last list. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Commissioners Board Appointments for 2026, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

#### FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

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

Ethel L. Cunningham

Travis Lee Ludwig

Herbert Clare Wamsley, Sr.

Nancy Wisdom

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$11,822.37. This is going into Task Force Equipment line. This is from collections they received. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budge Revision in the amount of \$70,230.00. This is for a refund of a check because the incorrect vendor was paid. It will be placed in the Community Development 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: None

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: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: December 18, 2025

**COUNTRY ROADS LEASING, LLC** is pleased to present the following tax-exempt lease purchase financing

to the Randolph County Commission for the acquisition of

**One (1) New 2026 Dodge Durango and Five (5) New Ford Interceptor Police Vehicles with Communication and Upfitting equipment**

<b>ACQUISITION COST:</b>	\$ 459,023.00
<b>TERM:</b>	4 Years
<b>PAYMENT MODE:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrears
<b>INTEREST RATE:</b>	5.10 %
<b>PAYMENT:</b>	\$ 10,909.52

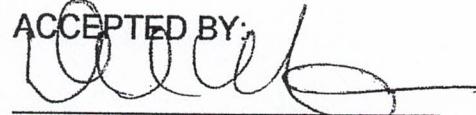
The above quotation is subject to credit review, approval and execution of mutually acceptable documentation, including legal counsel's opinion that the purchase is legal, binding and qualified as a tax-exempt debt, if necessary. ***All additional costs relating to the completion and recordation of this transaction are included in the above quoted payment.***

This quotation does not obligate **COUNTRY ROADS LEASING, LLC** or any of its funding sources, until all requirements and obligations have been met. In order to process this quote on a timely basis, three (3) years audited financial statements; current budget and a completed lease application must be submitted. No funding will be released until compliance. The above quoted rate is valid for a period of twenty (20) days from the day hereof, thereafter said rate may be subject to change.

QUOTED BY:

Jeffrey W Smell  
Jeffrey Smell

ACCEPTED BY:

  
Signature  
Paul J. Smell  
Title

Costs related to the completion and recordation of this transaction are subject to a minimum three percent (3%) service fee that is rolled into the lease proceeds.

Country Roads Leasing, LLC. PO Box 217, Bridgeport, WV 26330  
Phone: 304.842.2288 - [www.countryroadsleasing.com](http://www.countryroadsleasing.com)

## **Commissioner Board Appointments 2026**

### **Commissioner Kesling**

Randolph County Development Authority 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Forest Festival – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Elkins Welcome Center Board of Directors – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday @ 5:15 p.m.

Community Corrections – Varies from month to month

Midland PSD – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.

Corridor H Authority

Chamber of Commerce – 4<sup>th</sup> Tues @ noon

### **Commissioner See**

Solid Waste Authority – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.

Extension Service Committee – (called only)

Local Emergency Planning Comm. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ noon

Region VII – quarterly 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 12:00

Norton PSD – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @ 7:00

Fire Board – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 6:00

### **Commissioner Siler**

Leadsville PSD – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 1:00 p.m.

Recreation Board – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 6:00 p.m.

Airport Authority – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.

Ambulance Authority – last Tues. @ 5:00

E911 Advisory Board

Huttonsville PSD – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 10:00 a.m.

RC Unsafe Buildings and Lands Enforcement Agency – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 4:30

Employee Assignments

Kesling – Custodians/Maintenance

Siler – 911/OEM

See – Dog Warden