

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 5th day of March, 2026 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 special meeting held for the Board of Review and Equalization for 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on February 19, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Kenny Watson, Randolph County Court Security Officer, gave a report for the month of February. He said they scanned 2,421 people, confiscated 263 knives, 10 pepper spays and 13 miscellaneous items such as torch lighters. He said they did not confiscate any guns. He said they took in 39 inmates and served papers on 119 people. He said they are doing well and have everything they need. He said Court Security Office Ritchie Cox is out with an illness but he is home from the hospital and doing well.

Rhett Dusenbury with Congressman Riley Moore's office appeared before the Commission and said they are preparing for the community project funding. He said they received several applications from Randolph County agencies. He said tomorrow is the deadline to submit applications. He said they are willing to do letters of support, if needed.

Kurt Gainer with Randolph County EMS said they have all 3 stations in service and they have 1 vacant position in Harman.

Randolph County Clerk Brenda Wiseman reported to the Commission about the upcoming Primary Election. She said after the drawing for candidate positions on the ballot back on February 24th they sent everything in to Election Systems and Software (ES&S) for the ballot to be programmed and prepared. She said they will send back ballot proofs and she will call in the two ballot commissioners to come and review the ballots and then we will sign off for final ballot programming and printing. She said her office is currently accepting absentee ballot applications and if anyone needs an absentee ballot to contact the County Clerk's Office. She said they still need poll workers and back up poll workers so if anyone is interested in that please contact the County Clerk's Office. She said she has ordered I Voted Stickers with our County winner on them. She said other counties are also doing this for their winner. She said the statewide winner will only be on the stickers for their County but not all the other counties. Clerk Wiseman also reminded everyone that independent voters can no longer request a Republican ballot during the primary. She said voters have until April 21st to change their voter's registration.

Deputy Brian Roy appeared before the Commission to give a report on Starlink. He said Starlink is doing great for them. He said they have portable units and they are working well. He said the Chief Deputy went to Dolly Sods and it worked there and Deputy Vanscoy took it to Durbin and it worked the whole way. He said it is definitely doing what it's intended to do. He said they have 21 units with 17 of them active right now. He said that's the deputies and Kurt Gainer. Commissioner See said that's a good report. Commissioner Kesling said he is happy it's doing well.

Sheriff Rob Elbon reported they are getting ready to test again in April for entry level Deputy. He said he has 3 spots open.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Commissioner Kesling reported that the County received a pass thru grant in the amount of \$5,500.00 and this will go to Ally's Hope Women's Recovery Home. He also reported that the Tucker Community Foundation sent them a Thank You letter for the Commission's Support for Run for It.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday March 19, 2026 at 1:30 at this location. He also announced that the Opioid Committee will meet on Thursday March 19, 2026 at 3:00 at this location.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUNDING REQUEST FROM BLACKWATER ADVENTURE RALLY

Zachary Burke and Charlie Trippett appeared before the Commission. Mr. Burke said he was there on behalf of his son Christopher Burke who couldn't come today because of work. He said back in 2016 he and his son started riding and fell in love with it. He said they go on adventure routes all over. He said it brings in a lot of people to these communities. He said they came up with the idea to start their own business doing adventure routes. He said they formed a small business LLC. He said they contacted camp pioneer and had some people help them come up with routes. He said in 2022 the three day event cost them \$3,000.00 for camp pioneer. He said they usually come in on Thursday and leave on Sunday. He said they camp at camp pioneer and they furnish their meals, etc. He said it brings in a lot of people and they have even had celebrity riders come. He said they give the riders the routes and they put it in their GPS. He said last year they had over 400 people attend. He said at the end of 2025 they ended up with \$14,000.00 to the good. He said their largest expense is camp pioneer. He said it keeps getting higher and higher. He said this year Tracy Walker told them it would be \$10,500.00. He said they were able to get that down to \$7,000.00 after talking it over with them. He said they are very on the fence about closing the business. Mr. Trickett said the tickets are around \$200.00. He said last year they had to raise the price. He said this event is done out of passion and it does bring a lot of people into the community. Mr. Burke said it's a different type of people and they don't cause any problems. He said they are asking for a little help and to see if the Commission could talk to camp pioneer about reducing their prices. Commissioner Siler said he knows a lot of people come in and stay here and eat here and shop. He said it helps the local people too. He said the three day event should be the same price for everybody. Commissioner Kesling said Commissioner Siler sits on the 4-H Board and he can check into this. Commissioner Kesling said he appreciates their passion and it does bring business into the County. He said the Commission can use Hotel/Motel tax funds to help with events like this. Commissioner Siler moved to approve \$2,500.00 out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds for the Blackwater Adventure Rally, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM ELKINS-RANDOLPH CVB

Anne Beardslee, Executive Director along with Ben Duvall Erwin, Louwana Schoonover and Emily Higgs appeared before the Commission. They did a power point presentation and each one spoke to the Commissioners. Ms. Beardslee said she was appointed 13 years ago to the position. They went over what projects they have been doing and how many people have viewed the website. Ms. Beardslee said Randolph County has seen a growth of Hotel/Motel Tax in the past year of 15 million dollars. She said they just started a visitor participation card which people can use to get discounts. She thanked the Commissioners and the City of Elkins for all the support. Commissioner Kesling said they keep track of the Hotel/Motel Tax and noticed it is going up. He said that gives the Commission more money to give out for events such as the Blackwater Adventure Rally. He said he thinks the visitor appreciation card will be a great thing. Ms. Beardslee said the card will not be used for hotel stays because they book through other agencies.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON COUNTY AUDIT EXTENSION PROJECT

Commissioner Kesling said the company doing the County audit this year has asked for an extension to get it done. He said this extension letter needed to be signed and turned back in before this meeting. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of Commissioner Kesling's signature on the audit extension letter. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COURTYARD USE REQUEST BY RANDOLPH COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a request from the Randolph County Dems to use the main Courthouse lawn for an event on March 28, 2026. Commissioner See moved to approve the request from the Randolph County Dems to use the courthouse lawn, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Commissioner Kesling said the Randolph County Development Authority is applying for Congressional District Spending for a water and sewer line extension at the old IOOF property that they purchased. They have asked the Commission to do a letter of support for that. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the letter of support for the Randolph County Development Authority, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (2) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Darrel E. Hanlin

Carl Edward Nine

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$1663.86 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Law Enforcement Retirement and putting it in Home Confinement Retirement. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$14,893.62 for Sheriff's Office moving it from Law Enforcement Overtime and putting it in Task Force Overtime, SSRT Overtime, K9 Overtime and Security Overtime. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$21,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Contingency to Investigation. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$142.05 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Law Enforcement Medicare line into Home Confinement Medicare line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$607.72 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Law Enforcement FICA line into the Home Confinement FICA line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$9,787.60 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Law Enforcement Wages line into the Home Confinement Wages line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Contingency line into the Professional Services line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$450.00 for the Sheriff's Office moving it from Process Server Uniforms line into the Process Server Phone line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$5,500.00 for the pass-through grant for Ally's Hope. 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 (123) 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: _____