

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 19th day of February, 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 regular meeting that was held on February 5, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Randolph County Clerk Brenda Wiseman reported to the Commission about the "I Voted Sticker" contest that the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office is doing. She said the contest was open to all 8th grade students. She said they had a total of 15 submissions. She said her office along with another office in the courthouse judged the submissions and selected a 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place winner. The 1st place winner submission was sent to the Secretary of State's Office to be put into the statewide competition but unfortunately it was not selected. She said the three Randolph County winners are here today and she would like to present them with certificates. The first place winner was Addisyn Gragg, second place winner was Alexis Conti and the third place winner was Claire Johanns. They were all present along with several other people in the audience. The winners were all from Tygarts Valley Middle/High School.

Clerk Wiseman also reported that the drawing for ballot positions will be held at the County Clerk's Office on February 24th at 9:00 a.m. and it is open to the public and candidates. She also said they always need poll workers so if anyone is interested in being a poll worker, please call the County Clerk's Office. She said the poll worker position pays \$50.00 for training and \$150.00 for working the day.

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections dropped off her report to the Commission.

911/OEM Director, Mike Miller reported to the Commission that he has reached out to Country Roads Leasing but hasn't heard anything back yet. He said they are keeping an eye on the water situation with all the ice and snow melting but there have been no problems yet.

Sheriff Robert Elbon, Jr. reported to the Commission about the Starlink equipment. He said they have the Starlink equipment in the cruisers now and it is working well. He said they have connectivity where they didn't before. He said he was in Durbin and it worked there. He said they were in pursuit of a side by side in the Gladys/Bemis area and it worked there. He commends the Commission for letting his Office get them. He said EMS and Fire Departments will probably be wanting them now. He said instead of putting up more Towers they should get this. He said Starlink automatically kicks in when needed.

Commissioner Kesling discussed the Fire Fee and said there needs to be a way to track seasonal property. He said they have the same problem every year on the seasonal properties. He said when a previous person worked on the Fire Fee they kept a spreadsheet with the information on it.

Commissioner Kesling said the Pickens and Whitmer Fire Departments missed a deadline to get paperwork to the West Virginia State Auditor's Office. He said with them not doing it the Commission won't send them their payment because they are not in compliance. He said they get money from the State and the County Commission is a pass thru agency. Commissioner See said he spoke to them and

one of them said they didn't receive the papers and the other one the Fire Chief has been sick. Commissioner Kesling said we have to get all of them in compliance.

Commissioner Kesling also reported that it has come to their attention that some of the County employees do not like using their personal cell phones to get into the buildings. He said they are going to order fobs to use instead of cell phones. He said the time clock system is also on people's cell phones and if they don't like that it can be removed from their phones.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday March 5, 2026 at 1:30 at this location.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONERS REPORT FOR THE ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE JODI ARIZONA WINGFIELD

Randolph County Fiduciary Commissioner, John J. Wallace, IV appeared before the Commission. He provided the Commission a copy of his report and recommendation. He said this estate has been going on for quite some time and he has been here before regarding it. He said the Executrix was supposed to sell the house to satisfy the debts of the estate. He said now the house has been foreclosed on so there is no money to pay the debts and he has not been able to reach the Executrix. He recommends to remove the Executrix, Lisa A. Evix, and appoint the Sheriff of Randolph County to close the estate. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the recommendation of the Fiduciary Commissioner, as submitted regarding the estate of Josephine Jodi Arizona Wingfield. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIDUCIARY COMMISSIONERS REPORT FOR THE ESTATE OF ANNA MADGE BLEDSOE

Randolph County Fiduciary Commissioner, John J. Wallace, IV appeared before the Commission. He said Anna Madge Bledsoe died in 2016. He said her Last Will and Testament required her real estate to be sold. He said the Co-Executors know this and he has urged them to list the real estate for sale. He said eventually it was listed but it does not appear to be listed for sale currently. He said this estate has been open nearly nine years. He said the real estate does not appear to be listed for sale and has vested in the beneficiaries by operation of law. He said WV Code required the personal representative to file a final settlement within a reasonable time. He said the Co-Executors have failed to make the appropriate filings within a reasonable time. Mr. Wallace recommends the County Commission to administratively close the estate as they have the power to do. Commissioner Siler moved to administratively close the estate of Anna Madge Bledsoe, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COURTHOUSE WINDOW GRANT PROJECT BID ACCEPTANCE

Commissioner Kesling said they had the bid opening earlier today for the windows at the main Courthouse. He said they first received a grant for the basement windows but now they received a grant to do all of the windows at the main courthouse. He said they received two bids. He said the winning bid was from J.C. Construction Company with a bid of \$193,523.00. Commissioner See moved to approve and accept the bid from J.C. Construction Company in the amount of \$193,523.00 for the window project at the main Courthouse. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FRONTIER DIA CONTRACT FOR THE 911 CENTER

Commissioner Kesling said this is a contract for Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) from Frontier for the 911 Center. This is a contract for 60 months in the amount of \$600.00 per month. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Frontier DIA contract for the 911 Center, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH KIESS FAMILY ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR COMMISSION ANNEX

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission has decided to extend the lease with Kiess Family Enterprises for another year for this building. He said the new lease will start March 1, 2026 and end on March 1, 2027. He said everything stays the same as the first year's lease. Commissioner See moved to approve a one-year lease agreement with Kiess Family Enterprises, LLC, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NON-PAID INTERN FOR THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker appeared before the Commission. He said he would like to have Tyler Burda come to work in his office as an unpaid, non-benefited intern. He said a background investigation was done and everything was good. He said Mr. Burda will begin his internship on February 23, 2026 and continue until June 30, 2026. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the non-paid intern, Tyler Burda, for the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2026 TERRA FLORA MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE

Commissioner See moved to approve the estimate from Terra Flora Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$7,227.77 for the 2026 year, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AXON CONTRACT FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Randolph County Deputy, Bryan Talkington appeared before the Commission. He gave a power point presentation to the Commission regarding Axon. He said they currently have 6 different contracts with Axon with the Tasers and Body Cams. He said they would like to just have 1 contract to cover it all. He said they started with Axon in 2021 and have just been adding to it every since. He said they would like to get the Axon body 4 cameras and the Taser 10's. He said they want to have the best technology but save the County money too. He said it's not just about the hardware but the liability too, they have 10 million dollars in insurance in case of litigation. He said they also have a warranty so they would ship back the broken devices and get back fixed ones in a few days. He said they have a couple options which would be to stay with what we have and pay \$265,000.00 over 5 years and option two would be to pay \$228,000.00 over five years and get the new equipment and it has a warranty. He said that would be 31 new Tasers and 22 new body cameras. He said it's a win win for the deputies and the taxpayers. Commissioner Siler asked if we would get any credit for the stuff that has been purchased since 2021. Deputy Talkington said yes, they are getting credit and without the credit it would cost about \$285,000.00. Sheriff Elbon stressed they have 6 contracts with them and they are trying to get it down to 1 contract. He said the Court Security Officers will use these too. Commissioner Siler said he knows there is only about a 5- year lifespan on equipment. Commissioner Kesling asked for a copy of the contract. Deputy Talkington retrieved the contract and presented it to the Commission. He said it looks like they are giving us a credit of \$25,490.42. Commissioner Siler said the savings is great and the most important thing is the safety of our officers and the citizens. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Axon contract for the Randolph County Sheriff's Department, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM KURT GAINER WITH AN UPDATE ABOUT THE EMS

Kurt Gainer from Randolph County EMS appeared before the Commission. He thanked the Commission for letting him come today. He said the EMS has approximately 8,000 calls a year and they help mutual counties with calls when needed. He said they have 37 full time and 30 part time staff members and they have 12 ambulance units and they are a 501C3. He said they run on insurance reimbursements. He said they are starting to see financial problems. He had some items to show the Commission such as medications and equipment they use on the ambulances and how much each one cost. He said the Randolph County Ambulance Authority is asking for some options for funding. He said in WV Code in Chapter 7 it says the County can do an Ordinance such as the Fire Fee, or they can do a Levy or an amusement tax. He said he can give the Commission paperwork to review it. He said they are going to be 1.5 to 2 million dollars short this year. Commissioner Kesling said so you are asking us to do an

Ordinance or a Levy. Commissioner Siler asked Mr. Gainer how much they lost from the Davis Medical Center bid? Mr. Gainer said approximately 1 million dollars. Commissioner Kesling said this is not only a Randolph County problem. Mr. Gainer said no, 26 ambulance services have closed in the State. He said Tucker County did an Ordinance and it seems to be working well for them. Commissioner Kesling said this has been a topic at the County Commissioners Association meetings as well. He said the legislators basically said no money would be given for this year. Mr. Gainer said they are trying everything they can. Commissioner Kesling said with no help what will happen? Mr. Gainer said they would have to start cutting staff and close stations. Commissioner Siler said then they start going backward instead of moving forward. Commissioner Siler said a consumer user fee would be for any person coming into the County. He said nobody wants more taxes but we have to make a decision for the County. He said we want our EMS to continue to do what they do. He said they would like to have another station for the Coalton area sometime in the future. Commissioner See asked what Tucker County did? Mr. Gainer said a user fee. He said it's going well and they have even added more trucks. Commissioner Kesling said it is something the Commission has to make a decision on due to the Legislator's not helping. He said they will reach out to the Association and see what they can and cannot do. He said they need someone to guide them on this. Commissioner See agreed and said something has to be done.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (1) Final Settlement, as submitted.

Jack L. Peters, Sr.

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$27,760.00 to cover grant expenditures. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$84,891.00 to move money from Opioid Settlement Funds into Contractual Services. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$16,809.00 for the Starlink kits and accessories reimbursement. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$255.00 to move money brought in for restitution into the Courthouse Contractual line. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$1,720.35 for employee benefits reimbursed by personal checks. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes, Commissioner See voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner See moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$3,830.64 for the Fire Fee. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$17,780.20 for JAG pass through grant. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

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:

Commissioner See moved to approve the two zoning letters for sign acquisitions. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler said most of the fire fee adjustments today are on seasonal properties.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (52) 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: _____