

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 2nd day of April, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

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

REPORTS:

Kenneth Watson gave a Court Security report for the month of March. He said they scanned 3,325 people, confiscated 351 knives, 6 guns, 8 pepper sprays and several miscellaneous items such as magazines for weapons. He said they had 68 inmates in their possession and process served 115 papers.

Rhett Dusenberry from Congressman Moore's office was present but he said not a whole lot to report right now. They are working on the funding requests at this time.

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman reported on the upcoming Primary election. She said her office began mailing out absentee ballots on March 27, 2026 and have already received some of those back. She said voters can still request an absentee ballot up until May 6, 2026. She said they have mailed out the notices to the poll workers that were approved at the last County Commission meeting. She said poll worker training is scheduled for April 23, 2026 in the courtroom of the main courthouse at 6:00 pm. She said they still need back up poll workers if anyone is interested. She said people can still make changes to their voter's registration up until April 21, 2026. Those changes could be for name change, address change or party change. She reminded everyone that Independents or No Party Affiliation voters cannot ask for a republican ballot during the primary. She said people that are registered Independent or No Party Affiliation can still vote, they just can't request a republican ballot. She said voters are required to show photo ID now to vote. She said there are several different options for that and she has a list of them in her office if anyone is worried that they don't have the right item. She said if the poll workers know the voter they don't have to show photo ID. She said candidates for County Commission and Board of Education need to file their first financial statement which is due between April 1 thru April 7th. She said early voting will begin on April 29th and run thru May 9th. She said it will be held here in the Commission Annex and also at the Russell Memorial Public Library in Mill Creek. She said the hours will be Monday thru Friday from 8:00 – 4:30 and on Saturday May 2nd and Saturday May 9th from 9:00 – 5:00. She said election day is Tuesday May 12th and the polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. She said all 27 precincts will be open that day. If voters are not sure where to go vote please call the County Clerk's Office.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday April 16, 2026 at 1:30 at this location. He also announced that the Courthouse complex will be closed tomorrow April 3, 2026 in observance of Good Friday.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELKINS HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT SAFE GRADUATION FUNDING REQUEST

Rachel Varner, Secretary/Treasurer of Elkins Kiwanis Club appeared before the Commission. She said last year was the first year that the Kiwanis took over the Elkins High School project safe graduation. She said they had over 100 students attend and it turned out really well. She said this year it will start at 9:00 pm on May 29, 2026 and end at 6:00 am on May 30, 2026. It will be held at the Phil Gainer Community Center. She went over some of the games and prizes that will be given out during the party. She said each student that stays will receive a prize valued at \$125.00. She said the grand prizes will be two Kindle scribes. She said students will also design a Hoodie. She said they will be giving out registration forms to the students soon. She said they are asking for donations for the party which can either be money or prizes. She said the Elkins Kiwanis Club held a pepperoni roll sale to make money for the party. Commissioner Kesling said the Elks Club could possibly donate a family pool pass as a prize. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Elkins Kiwanis Club in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Elkins High School project safe graduation, and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TYGART VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION FUNDING REQUEST

Steve Currence with the Tygart Valley Lions Club appeared before the Commission. He said the Tygart Valley Lions Club has been doing this graduation party for the last 39 years. He said they offer the parents a night of peace before their kids become adults. He said they hold the graduation party at the Elkins YMCA. He said they have 52 students this year. He said they have a great night and have lots of fun. He said the Deputies come in and the kids have a blast with them. He said this party will be held on May 28, 2026 after graduation. Commissioner Kesling mentioned that the Elks Club could give a family pool pass as a prize to this party also. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Tygart Valley Lions Club in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Tygart Valley High Graduation party, and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOYS STATE FUNDING REQUEST

Donnie Lambert with the American Legion appeared before the Commission. He said the American Legion has been doing Boys state for 87 years. He said it is a lot of fun. He said Junior boys go and it is held at Jacksons Mill. He said this year it will be June 7th-June13th. He said the boys learn good government and the objective is to have them run the State. He said the Commission has sponsored this for several years. He said Girls state is the same thing and theirs is held at D & E College. He said they are asking for 3 boys to be sponsored this year. Commissioner Siler said Boys and Girls State is something he is very supportive of. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the American Legion to send 3 Boys to Boys State in the amount of \$1,050.00 and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GIRLS STATE FUNDING REQUEST

Donnie Lambert with the American Legion spoke about Girls State and said it is basically the same thing as Boys State. The girls will go the D & E College in Elkins. He said they will learn about government and run a State also. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the American Legion to send 3 Girls to Girls State in the amount of \$900.00 and that is to be taken out of courthouse contractual funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FIRST READING OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE FEE ORDINANCE

Kurt Gainer from Randolph County EMS along with Board members, Jim Sayre, Mike Mullens, Dave Bobes, Stanley Teets and Charles Shomo appeared before the Commission. Mr. Gainer said they currently have 37 full time employees with 3 stations and 11 ambulances with 1 reserve unit. He said they have had some funding expense problems. He said the government shut down hurt them with getting Medicare payments. Mr. Gainer said next fiscal year they will be one million dollars short. He said they lost the hospital contract and all of the equipment and radios are going up & up. He said they need to figure out a way to get funding back and with no help they will have to start reducing staff and close stations down. He said they average 27-40 calls per day. Commissioner Kesling asked Mr. Gainer what other ways have you thought about before deciding on this ordinance? Mr. Gainer said they discussed doing a Levy or an Amusement Tax but they think an Ambulance Fee would be best.

Commissioner Kesling asked what happened with Davis Medical? Mr. Gainer said the problem was with the runs from hospital to hospital and they had to put up a proposal against three other companies and their proposal lost. Commissioner Kesling said people are telling him ambulance rides are expensive, how much does the Randolph County EMS get out of a call? Mr. Gainer said the federal standard sets the amount. He said they only get \$400.00 to \$500.00 out of a call. Commissioner Kesling asked about the City of Elkins funding loss and how much was it? Mr. Gainer said the City of Elkins has given them \$50,000.00 for the last three years but they are not giving them anything now. Commissioner Kesling said what about the money from the State that was just announced recently? Mr. Gainer said that has to be divided up between all the EMS in the State. They won't get very much of it. Commissioner Kesling read over parts of the ordinance. He said the purpose of the ordinance is to enact a Randolph County Special Ambulance Service Fee. He said the County Commission is mandated to provide an Ambulance Service in our County. He said this fee will be collected by all businesses in the County that collects a sales tax. He said the exemptions are non-profit organizations such as volunteer fire departments, schools, churches, senior centers, Randolph County Fair, Randolph County 4-H, municipalities, and any business that is exempt from paying state sales tax. He said this will be a (0.4%) tax in addition to the already collected 6% WV state sales tax. The payment of fees will be made to the Randolph County Sheriff's Office on or before the 5th day of the month to pay for the month previous. He said those payments will be deposited into the Randolph County EMS Fund and they can only be used for certain things. The Randolph County EMS will submit a request to the Randolph County Commission to release of an amount of funds with supporting invoices or other documentation acceptable to the County Commission. Those invoices/documents will be approved at a Commission meeting. The County Commission may retain up to 6% of the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee for administration. Any fees not expended in a given fiscal year shall be maintained in the fund for the Randolph County Ambulance Authority to use in a subsequent fiscal year. Commissioner Kesling said this ordinance can be amended by the County Commission. He said it will be reviewed annually by the County Commission when the budget is done. He said Preston County is getting ready to do something to but they are going to charge \$100.00 per dwelling. He said for years the Commissioners have asked the State Legislature for help with funding for EMS. He said we are responsible for this but the State Legislature won't help with it. He said this is the first reading of the Ordinance. Board Member Jim Sayre said the Ambulance Authority offered Davis Medical a contract and they wouldn't even look at it. Board Member Dave Bobes said they put in a proposal to Davis Medical that would have hurt the board just to keep the contract but they wouldn't look at it. He said the ambulances that are doing their transports are taking people to the hospital in Charleston now. He said that is basically a 14-hour run. He said they would love to re-visit that contract but can't afford to do it at a loss.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF SECOND EXTENSION REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE RANDOLPH COUNTY EMS

Commissioner Kesling said this is the second extension request from the firm that did our Audit for the Randolph County EMS Audit. He said the letter had to be signed and turned in before this meeting. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of the second extension request approval for the Randolph County EMS audit. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of signature on the letter of support for North Central Community Corrections program. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WV DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, STATE ARTS OFFICE RESOLUTION

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this Resolution is for the 250th Birthday Celebration. She said they want to put a mural up which will be done by local artist Heather Johnson. She said this grant would cover the full cost and it would be finished by May 1st. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the resolution for the WV Department of Tourism, State Arts Office, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WV DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, CULTURE & HISTORY STATE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this is a State Development Grant. She said they have not decided what they will use it on yet. Commissioner Kesling said they want to replace the lighting in the main courthouse and use it to work on the old jail restoration. Peggy Ross said they normally give up to \$50,000.00 in this grant. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the resolution for the WV Departments of Arts, Culture & History State Development Grant, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said she doesn't know the amount on this grant yet because they just opened it up last week. She said they are required to have a meeting with the Judicial Officers to see what they all want. She said when they got it before they purchased scanning tunnels, panic buttons and prisoner holding cells with it. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the resolution for the Court Security Fund Grant, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT PROGRAM MANPOWER RESOLUTION

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this goes along with the prior grant that they are applying for. She said this just shows that sufficient manpower will be used to operate and manage all equipment and other items requested from the grant. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the resolution for the Court Security Fund Grant Program Manpower Resolution, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EDWARD BYRNES MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT RESOLUTION

Peggy Ross appeared before the Commission. She said this grant is for the Sheriff's Office to purchase rifle mounts and ammunition. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Resolution for the Edward Byrnes Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS COMBINED PARTICIPATION FORM

Commissioner Kesling said this is in regards to the Opioid Lawsuit that Randolph County is involved in along with several other Counties. He said this is something the Attorney's sent the Commission to be signed. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the signing of the form, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TASK FORCE FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission was approached by the Task Force asking for funding to purchase supplies out of the Opioid funding. He said the Opioid Committee approved this at their last meeting. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the task force funding request in the amount of \$2,925.00 and that is to be taken out of Opioid Settlement funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALLY'S HOPE FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said at the last Opioid Committee meeting Ally's Hope requested \$20,000.00 in funding to help with staff, supplies etc. He said this will be an annual request. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Ally's Hope in the amount of \$20,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Opioid Settlement funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (9) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Derek Christopher Arbogast

Harold Calain

Allen W. Conrad

Thomas D. Gardner

Glen E. Hamrick

Ruth M. Ish

Patricia Kenney

James Howard Wiest

Robert Bruce Wright

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision in the amount of \$2,500.00 which the County is a pass thru agency on a LEDA Grant for Elkins Babe Ruth Renovation. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes. Commissioner See was absent. Motion passed.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$10,000.00 in preparation for a new State grant. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$30,000.00 to move money to cover the loan for the new cruisers. This will go from Courthouse contractual services into Courthouse Equipment. 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: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the 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: _____