

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 July, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

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

Commissioner Siler asked for a moment of silence for Commissioner Chris See and his family before doing the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rhett Dusenberry with Congressman Riley Moore's Office said they wanted to extend 4th of July good wishes on everybody and they wanted to express their sympathy on the passing of Commissioner Chris See. He will be deeply missed.

Leah Knicely with WV for Energy Freedom appeared before the Commission. She said they are working on educating citizens about utilities. She said Randolph County is her home. She offered her condolences on the passing of Commissioner See. She said there is a proposed Gas power plant in Monongalia County right now. She said this will affect people in Randolph County because customers will have to pay for the cost of building the plant. She said they will be holding public hearings but not near here. She said they will do online meetings where people can comment. Ms. Knicely said she would like the County Commission to spread the word about this, so people can make their voices heard during these public hearings. Commissioner Kesling said the County Commission meetings are live streamed and also the Inter-Mountain watches it. He said he will make sure to let Edgar Kelley at the Inter Mountain know. He said he appreciates her passion about this.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on June 18, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that Commissioner Chris See passed away on June 28th. He said Commissioner See served 18 years on the Commission and he served 8 years with him. He said he considered Chris See a historian and he always gave sound good advice. He said we will all miss him. He said Chris See never met a stranger.

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday July 15, 2026 at 1:30 pm. The change is due to getting the State Budget Revisions done.

Commissioner Kesling announced that the Courthouse Complex closed today at Noon, as the County Commission usually does what the Governor does, and will remain closed tomorrow for the 4th of July and the 250th Birthday Celebration of the United States of America.

Commissioner Kesling announced that they have posted the Humane Officer position on Indeed. He said the Commission will also have to appoint a County Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of Chris See. This will have to be a person registered as a Democrat and they must live in the Tygart District. He said if anyone is interested to please call the Commission Office and speak to Melinda Lott. He said they will conduct interviews and choose someone.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY GOES PURPLE PROCLAMATION

Julie Cutright appeared before the Commission. There were several other people in attendance as well. Ms. Cutright said on behalf of the Hope Dealer Project and the statewide West Virginia Goes Purple initiative they would like to let everyone know that September is National Recovery Month. She said this proclamation is more than just words on paper. She said this sends a message of hope across our communities. She said all 55 counties in West Virginia is sending this message.

Shelby Wilson, Director of Ally's Hope appeared before the Commission. She had with her some ladies from Ally's Hope. She thanked the Commission for partnering with her. She said one participant has already graduated that was there for 6 months. She said the program is working very well. She said she is proud to be here to represent and to let people know there is hope and hope does exist.

Megan Payne from One Unique Recovery House located in Buckhannon, WV appeared before the Commission. She said their facility is a rehabilitation center for Men and Women. She said she is proud to be here today. She said hope is here, recovery is here. She said she is proud of Ally's Hope.

Commissioner Kesling read the proclamation out loud. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the month of September, 2026 as Randolph County Goes Purple Month in Randolph County, West Virginia. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY FAIR FUNDING REQUEST

Chrissy Harper appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Randolph County Fair. She said the Fair makes a big impact for our County. She said the County Commission has an interest in the fairgrounds and have invested a lot into the fairgrounds. She said the fair does provide educational information to our community with the livestock barn, arts and crafts and different contests. She said they promote the heritage industry and this year they will have a lumberjack show. She said they will have a petting zoo and will provide entertainment with a Rodeo and a Truck and Tractor pull. She said the Commission has always been very generous to them. She said last year the fair cost \$90,000.00 and she said this year they are expecting it to be around \$95,000.00. She said they are very reliant on donations and partnerships. She said they want to keep the gate fee low so people can afford to come. Commissioner Kesling said the Randolph County Fair is a good thing and the Commission does budget \$3,000.00 for the fair every year. He said the Commission also has a line called Hotel/Motel tax that they can use for events like this that bring people into the County. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the \$3,000.00 out of the budget and also \$3,000.00 out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds for a total of \$6,000.00, for the Randolph County Fair funding request. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROSECUTOR'S KARPEL SOFTWARE FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Prosecuting Attorney has asked for a software upgrade for his office. The system they have now is outdated and is probably 25-30 years old. Commissioner Siler said other Counties would use this same portal system so they could see if the person they are investigating has violations in other counties also. Commissioner Kesling said this is going to be funded out of the Opioid Funding and the Opioid Board has already approved it. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in the amount of \$20,800.00 for a software upgrade and that is to be taken out of the Opioid Settlement Funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TOWN OF HARMAN FUNDING REQUEST

A representative from the Harman Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the Commission. He said they are requesting funding for their 4th of July Celebration. He said the Fire Department does a chicken BBQ. He said there is a parade, vendors, crafters, yard sales, car/truck show and more. He said they do the fireworks and they cost a lot of money. Commissioner Kesling said the Commission has been helping with this for the past several years. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Harman Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$2,500.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 88TH MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL COURTHOUSE LAWN USE REQUEST
FOR SEPTEMBER 26 – OCTOBER 4, 2026

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Heidi Bray, Executive Director of the Mountain State Forest Festival asking to use the Courthouse Lawn for the Forest Festival. He said they use it for the hospitality tent during the Grand Feature parade. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Courthouse Lawn Use request from the Mountain State Forest Festival, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2026 UNITED FOR KIDS HYGIENE DRIVE

Commissioner Kesling said this is something they have done for the past couple of years. He said they set up a box/tote in the Courthouse Lobby for people to donate items for the Kids Hygiene drive. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the 2026 United for Kids Hygiene Drive, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON FY27 VOCA APPLICATION

Melinda Boggs, Victim Service Coordinator with the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, appeared before the Commission. She said she submitted the FY27 VOCA grant application on June 30th. She said the total they asked for was \$59,430.00 with a cash match from the County of \$14,862.00. That brings the total amount of the grant to \$74,292.00. She went over some of the numbers of misdemeanors and felonies in past years and said 2026 will exceed what they have done in the past. She said she helps the victims in the County. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ratification of signature on the FY27 VOCA grant application, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VALLEY HEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT OF JOYCE BARNETT

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Nicole Matthew, Library Director of the Valley Head Public Library. He said they are requesting Joyce Barnett to be re-appointed to the board of trustees of the Valley Head Public Library for a five -year term. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the re-appointment of Joyce Barnett to the Valley Head Public Library Board of Trustees for a five-year term beginning on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2031. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RANDOLPH COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION BOARD FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Tracy Walker, President of Camp Pioneer Randolph County Park and Recreation Board. He said they are requesting \$60,000.00 for the utility expenses at Camp Pioneer for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. He said the Commission would be giving them that in increments of \$5,000.00 per month out of the Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from Randolph County Park and Recreation Board in the amount of \$60,000.00 and that is to be done by using \$5,000.00 per month out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ABCA LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE ELKINS FLEA MARKET EVENT

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Danielle George, Owner of the Elkins Flea Market, LLC. He said they are requesting a letter of support from the Commission for a ABCA permit for an event they are going to have on July 18th with a rain date set for July 21, 2026. This event is to raise funds for multiple animal shelters. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the ABCA letter of support, as requested. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION ON SPECIAL EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE FEE

Commissioner Kesling said the WV State Tax Department recently conveyed to us their objections to the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee Ordinance as raised by the streamline sales tax governing board of which WV has been a member of since 2005. He said specifically the State Tax Department informed the Commission that provisions of the Ordinance imposing a service fee violate the streamline sales tax agreement thus jeopardizing WV's continued participation in that agreement. He said as a

result the WV State Tax Department would be required to bring civil action against the County for collection of any money generated under the Ordinance. He said the Commission contacted the State Tax Commissioner and he agreed not to sue the County if the County were to immediately suspend collection of the service fee. Commissioner Kesling said upon consultation with the Commissions new council, out of Charleston, we will be seeking an advisory opinion from the State Attorney General whether that service fee in some form or another can still be imposed. Commissioner Kesling moved that the Commission suspend the service fee pursuant to the Special Emergency Ambulance Fee board effective immediately and notice of this action shall be sent to all businesses forthwith, further he moved that the Commission request that the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, which is their council, to seek the advisory opinion of the State Attorney General whether the service fee in it's present or other form may still be lawfully imposed. Commissioner Siler moved to suspend the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee pending the advisory opinion of the State Attorney General. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2026 HAVA SECURITY SUB-GRANT

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman appeared before the Commission. She said her office would like to apply for a HAVA grant to purchase e-poll books for all 27 precincts. She said they currently use the e-poll books for early voting but have never purchased them for all the precincts to use on election day. Commissioner Kesling said he worked the polls for the May Primary election and he said he thinks the poll workers would really like it. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the HAVA Security Sub-Grant application, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (8) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Mary Anne Crites

Kenneth Lee Gumm

Willa F. Hamrick

Roger David Hankey

Betty Jean McClure

Charles Schoonover

Thelma Louise Shoemake

Mary Virginia Updike

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Kesling moved to approve a State Budget Revision for the EMS contribution in the amount of \$110,000.00. That is to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual funds. Commissioner Kesling voted yes, Commissioner Siler voted yes. Motion passed

Commissioner Kesling said that is what they usually give the EMS yearly and did not this year in anticipation of the service fee, but now they will re-instate that yearly amount to them.

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the erroneous assessments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

ZONING LETTERS: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (8) fire fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

EMS FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (3) EMS 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: _____