

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 20th day of August, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President, David Kesling and Commissioners Chris Siler and Kenna Barger.

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner Barger moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on August 6, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

North Central Community Corrections Director, Erin Golden appeared before the Commission. She gave an end of year report on 2025/2026. She said they had a total of 324 participants on the program and the program saved the County \$1,730,938.56 in regional jail bills. She reported that they currently have 127 participants on the program and so far this fiscal year they have saved the County \$201,467.04 in regional jail bills.

Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker appeared before the Commission. He said the County Commission requested that he seek an opinion from the Attorney Generals Office regarding the Special Ambulance Service Fee Ordinance. He said he received an answer back yesterday and it was an extensive 12 page letter. He said the number one question was does the Ordinance violate the authority granted by the County and they said it does violate that and it would be considered a tax instead of a fee. The next question was does it violate the streamlined sales and use tax agreement and based upon his interpretation it did violate it. Mr. Parker said the last question was could the County re-structure the Ordinance as a simple flat fee based not upon the percentage of the cost of items purchased but instead upon the occurrence of the transaction, and the answer to that was yes but with certain provisions. He said they could not put in a minimum and maximum amount as that would be considered a tax. It would have to be a flat fee for every transaction in the County. Mr. Parker said if the person does not come into the County then they cannot be charged this fee. He said that would be such as online transactions. Commissioner Siler said he has a problem charging someone more than what the item cost. Mr. Parker said it has to be a reasonable fee. Commissioner Kesling said they could not take any action today, as this item was not on the Agenda. He said they can look at what possibly a 10 or 15 cent flat fee would bring in. He said they might not have to do the Levy. He said there is a Board Meeting next week to discuss it. He said with the Levy it's just the landowners who has to pay and with this it would be everyone paying it. Mr. Parker said this has not been brought up by Supreme Court so there are no prior court cases to go by. Commissioner Kesling said they had to have the Levy paperwork in by 71 days before the Election so that's why they went ahead and did it at the last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday September 3, 2026 at 1:30 pm.

Commissioner Kesling said they have set up some dates for the public to come and talk about the Levy. He said the first one is September 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Elkins Substation, September 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Harman Substation and September 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Mill Creek Substation and October 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm at the Elkins Substation.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VALLEY LINK PROJECT OPPOSITION RESOLUTION

Commissioner Kesling read the Resolution out loud. The resolution states that the members of the Randolph County Commission do formally oppose the siting or construction of the 765 k V Valley Link Transmission Project within the boundaries of Randolph County. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the Resolution, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION OF RAPID FLOW DETECTION PROJECT

Andy Teter with WVEMD IFLOWS appeared before the Commission. He gave a power point presentation regarding the rapid flow flood detection system. He said they have 12 collection points with towers. He said if the power goes out they have generators that will run it. He said they have 258 rain weather stations with VHF radio telemetry. He said they can do reports for FEMA after flooding. This tells how much rain fell in a certain amount of time. He said this helped people get paid for flood losses as it gives information they need. He said if the County purchases this equipment he could set up a list of people to send warnings to. He said those can be in text or email alerts. He said the approximate cost would be \$15,900.00 for 3 units. He said he looked at placing one at Israel Church Road in the Kerens area and he thinks one should be placed in the Mill Creek area and one at Bemis on the bridge out there. He said they could start with those 3 for now and he could come back later if they wanted to get more. Commissioner Siler said they talked about this last year but it got lost in the shuffle and now with all the recent flooding it got them more interested in this warning system. He said if it saves one life then it would be well worth it. Commissioner Siler said it is also good if it helps people get reimbursed for flooding of their houses and property. Commissioner Kesling said for Mr. Teter to get final cost of the 3 warning systems they discussed, and come back to them with the final cost.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission was approached and asked to light the Courthouse up in yellow lights on September 2, 2026 for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. He said they have done different color lights in the past for other events and he sees no problem in doing this. Commissioner Barger moved to approve lighting of the Courthouse in yellow lights for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month on September 2, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE LOCATION

County Clerk, Brenda Wiseman appeared before the Commission. She said there were two schools that we used as polling places that have been closed. She said they contacted the organization that took over the Harman School and it is still available for us to use for the November 3, 2026 General Election. She said the other school was North School and that building is not going to be available for us to use. She said there are not many choices of places to use in that area. She said this polling place has two voting precincts in it and one of those extends up the five lane. She said Elkins High School lies in the boundaries of Precinct 160. She said they contacted the School and the Board of Education and the West Virginia Secretary of States Office and all have agreed for us to use the Elkins High School as the new polling place for Precincts 80 and 160. She said they have already placed legal notices in the paper and will be sending a letter out to every voter that this affects. She said they just need it to be approved by the County Commission. Commissioner Siler moved to approve changing the polling place location for Precincts 80 and 160 to the Elkins High School, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON RECISSION OF GRANT AWARD FY 2026 WV DEP REAP CED RECYCLING GRANT LETTER

Commissioner Siler moved to approve ratification of signature on the WV DEP REAP CED RECYCLING grant. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE ON COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS RESOLUTION AND GRANT AWARD

North Central Community Corrections Director, Erin Golden appeared before the Commission. She said they have received notice that they will be awarded a grant for FY26/27 in the amount of \$100,199.00. She said that is a slight increase from last year. She said the grant will cover two salaries and part of their benefits and her salary. She said the County cash match will be \$42,923.00 which brings the total up to \$143,143.00. Commissioner Barger moved to ratify the signature on the North Central Community Corrections grant award and resolution, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR DOG WARDEN POSITION

Commissioner Siler said most everybody knows we lost our Dog Warden within the last couple months. He said Ron did a great job and we hated to lose him. He said Zach Judy who is one of our Court Security Officers has shown an interest in the position and applied for the job. Commissioner Kesling and Commissioner Barger did interviews and both agree that he is a good young man and a good employee. Commissioner Kesling said they may send him to Upshur County for some training. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the hiring of Zach Judy as the Randolph County Dog Warden with an effective date of hire of August 31, 2026 with a starting pay of \$15.57 per hour and he will be working 80 hours per pay period. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR TAX DEPUTY POSITION

Randolph County Deputy, Bryan Talkington appeared before the Commission on behalf of Sheriff Elbon. He said Sheriff Elbon would like to hire Teya M. Judy as a full-time benefited Tax Deputy. He would like her to begin working on August 31, 2026 with a starting salary of \$25,800.00 annually/\$13.25 per hour. He said she will be placed on a 90-day probationary period. Deputy Talkington said a background investigation was completed by the Sheriff's Office which she successfully passed. Commissioner Barger moved to approve the hiring of Teya M. Judy as a full-time tax deputy for the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER RE-APPROVAL OF REVISED AXON CONTRACT

Randolph County Deputy, Bryan Talkington appeared before the Commission. He said this is a contract dealing with the Axon Tasers. He said we thought we got everything we needed with the previous contract that was signed. He said when they got the shipment of Equipment they found out it was the same tasers as the old ones they were sending back, not the new updated ones. He said they spoke to them and got the new tasers and went over the cartridges needed for the tasers. He said because of their mistake they talked them into reducing the cost of the cartridges. He said the contract today is for \$37,858.40. Commissioner Siler asked what is the total? Deputy Talkington said \$266,057.54. He said to keep the taser 7's would have been \$265,725.54 so that is a difference of \$332.00. He said the taser 7's were 5 years old so this is new updated tasers for not much more money. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the revised Axon Contract, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH POSSON FAMILY

Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney, Michael Parker appeared before the Commission. He said he was contacted by Buddy Turner who is an Attorney representing the Posson Family. Mr. Turner said the prior contract that was done for the Tower Site Lease Agreement was confusing. Mr. Turner prepared a new Tower Site Lease Agreement which is for \$500.00 per month lease with a 4% per year increase. Mr. Parker said he reviewed it and it appears fine to him. He said we would have to pay back \$3,300.00 of what is owed to them and a check would need written for \$4,500.00 right now to get them all caught up. Commissioner Kesling said this has been an ongoing problem and he thinks it is due to lack of communication between the parties. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the new tower lease agreement, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF VALLEY BUSINESS SYSTEMS SERVICE CONTRACT FOR 911 CENTER

Commissioner Kesling said there are two contracts that need signed for Valley Business Service for equipment used at the 911 Center. He said one is for \$1,991.94 and the other one is for \$764.62. Commissioner Barger moved to approve both service contracts with Valley Business Service, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CASTO QUOTE FOR WEES ANNEX

Commissioner Kesling said this is for the Heat and Air pumps at the Wees Annex which is maintained by Casto Technical. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the quote from Casto Technical for the Wees Annex, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REINSTATEMENT OF 4 SUSPENDED TICKETS TO BE LISTED WITH THE 2025 DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY TAXES

Commissioner Kesling said this is something that the WV State Auditor's Office is requesting we do. It is to reinstate 4 suspended tickets. Commissioner Barger moved to approve reinstatement of 4 suspended tax tickets, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION ON CONSTRUCTION OF COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission currently leases the front portion of this building. He said last year they did a study with Silling and Associates of what we need for the next 20-25 years. He said they took care of Michael Parkers office by moving it into another building. He said they have been looking at different options. He said they can't afford to build a new building. He said they can't expand the Wees Annex because there isn't enough room behind it. He said they decided to lease this whole building and move the Sheriff's Tax Office, Assessor's Office and Sheriffs Law Enforcement Office here. He said they still want to renovate the Old Jail and they are continuing to work on Grants for that. He said if we Lease this whole building from Jeff Kiess he would do the renovations and use the architect designs from Silling and Associates. Commissioner Kesling said they spoke to the Sheriff and Assessor and they had a few changes in design so they will have to re-draw up new plans. He said the ultimate goal was to bring the Magistrate's Offices over to the Cain Annex so they would be on the same side of the street and people would not have to cross the road back and forth. He said the Magistrates did not agree and want to stay where they are. He said they next option is to move the Community Corrections Office and Probation Office over to the Cain Annex to get them off the 2nd Floor. He said this is something they will have to do in Phases and the first step is to move the Offices over here. Deputy Bryan Talkington said currently where they are they have no more desk space. He said this would give them more room. He said the evidence room is in tight quarters now. He said this would bring the Sheriff's Office all back together now like it used to be. He said it is hard for them to take people they arrest up the elevator and this would be much better. He said they can pull up to the garage door and take the prisoners out in a secured area. He said they can also search the vehicles in the garage. Commissioner Siler said he knows the Assessor's Office is tight in space also and this would make it more convenient for the tax payers and citizens. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the signing of Letter of Intent for the Courthouse Expansion Project, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY BOARD RE-APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Kesling said the Commission received a letter from Clark Martin asking to be re-appointed to the Randolph County Solid Waste Authority Board. He said Clark is an advocate and hard worker for the Solid Waste Authority and he would be glad to re-appoint him. Commissioner Barger moved to re-appoint Clark Martin to the Randolph County Solid Waste Authority Board for a four- year term beginning on July 1, 2026 and ending on June 30, 2030. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (7) final settlements, as submitted on the following estates:

Vera Lucille Barb

Howard W. Bennett

William Gail Conrad

Barbara Joan Riggelman

Gary Lynn Smith

Christopher Ryan Tackett

Cheryl Ann Wheeler-Thomas

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$4,000.00 for a pass-through grant for the American Legion. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

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

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

ZONING LETTERS:

Commissioner Barger moved to approve a Zoning Letter request from Samantha Ryan for a property on Harrison Avenue. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

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: _____