

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 17th day of September, 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 September 3, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Erin Golden, Director of North Central Community Corrections appeared before the Commission and gave a report as of September 17, 2026. Golden stated they currently have 122 members on the program at this time and have saved the county \$386,426.64 in jail bills so far, this fiscal year.

Zach Judy, Randolph County Humane Officer reported that he has had 12 calls since the last Commission Meeting on 09/03/2026. 4 cats, 7 dogs, & 1 pig. Judy stated of those 7 calls for dogs it ended up being 26 total dogs. Judy released 13 dogs to the shelter, 1 transferred to Tucker County Animal Shelter, 1 cat passed away from injuries. 2 citations issued in the City of Elkins, 4 warnings within the County and City.

Kenny Hamrick with the Randolph County Court Security reported on the activity for the month of August. He said they scanned 4,472 individuals and seized 311 knives, 2 guns, 4 pepper sprays, and 47 vapes. Hamrick stated the had 55 total inmates transferred, and the process server served 139 papers.

911/OEM Director Mike Miller appeared before the Commission. Miller reported they are still dealing with issues from the recent power outage from the lightening storm. Miller also stated some of the doors in the building aren't closing properly and need to be looked at by maintenance. The EPA reached out to him and is wanting to do some air monitoring in the county. They are also still currently waiting on rain gauges to arrive for the county as well. Mentioned to be aware in the coming weeks with the Forest Festival coming up and the bike race starting Saturday.

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the Commission. Sheriff reported the gold Dodge car that previously belonged to Community Corrections was involved in an accident over the weekend. The newest Sheriff Deputy was driving the vehicle back and forth from the academy and an individual crossed the center line and hit him. No injuries. Sheriff Elbon also reported that Deputy Burns started back 09/04 has had 6-7 accident reports, he is still riding along with another Deputy at the moment. Sheriff will have a hearing on 09/24 to get him certified, then he will complete a stint at the academy for a couple weeks following. Sheriff Elbon, after being questioned by Commissioner Kesling, stated 3 new cruisers are almost ready to roll out, with 3 more to follow closely behind.

Commissioner Kesling reported on the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fee. Commissioner Kesling read aloud the Ordinance and the Legislative Authority in regards to the new Service Fee after ongoing meetings with the Randolph County EMS, The State Attorney General, Prosecutor Michael Parker, and attorneys at Spillman, Thomas, & Battle and lastly the State Tax Commissioners. Commission Kesling stated there was no action being taken today, this was just to make the public aware and the Commission being transparent. (See attached copy of Ordinance)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next County Commission meeting will be held on Thursday October 1, 2026 at 1:30 pm. Commissioner Kesling also announced all Courthouse Offices and buildings will be closed on Friday, October 2nd, 2026- Forest Festival Friday.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL FUNDING REQUEST

Heidi Bray, Executive Director of the Mountain State Forest Festival, appeared before the Commission. Bray stated the first event for the Forest Festival will begin on Saturday, September 5, 2026. That event being Woody's Great Gravel Adventure (bike race at Stuart Park). Last year the event had 66 participants, this year they have 83 registered, one being from Paris France. Bray thanked the Commission for having her today. From the funds provided by the Commission in 2025 they were able to purchase 120 new Festival Flags. Those being, State of WV flags, US Flags, & the Leaf Logo flags, costing around \$6,500.00. All new flags are out on the city streets. Bray also stated, in 2025 they restructured the Band Field Show to a Band Spectacular. This was done to encourage high school bands to participate in the parade and field performance with no pressure of judging, just straight performance. Last year each band was given \$400.00, this year it will be increased to \$600. 00 per band. Up to 12 bands committed to the parade, the most in several years. Bray mentioned the 2026 Distinguished Guest Dinner would host magician & hypnotist Jason Christopher. Some new events are Tennis and Pickleball Tournament in the City Park. The Pumpkin Run, Chili Cook-Off, and Irish Bowling will all be located downtown Saturday, September 26th. Also new this year is the Drone Show. That will take place on Saturday, October 3 @ 8pm above the Town Square in Downtown Elkins. The end of Festival Week, will end with Poker Run on October 17th. Bray, respectfully requested \$10,000.00 in funding to help off set cost with events, and hoping in the year to come to purchase new folding chairs for events like opening and closing ceremonies, and hoping to purchase new chairs for Coronation Day as well. Estimated price for 150 chairs and storage container is \$7,000.00. Commissioner Kesling, commented on the flags around town and asked if the public could purchase those, Executive Director Bray stated that house flags and garden flags can be purchased at a cost of \$40 for house and \$20 for garden flag. They can be purchased at the Forest Festival Office or The Delmonte. Commissioner Barger stated the new chairs would be a great addition to the events. She stated they have beautiful events and that should be reflected in the chairs that guest and participants can sit in. Commissioner Barger will be the Commissioner to give the welcome speech at this years Forest Festival, as well. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Mountain State Forest Festival in the amount of \$10, 000.00, \$5,000.00 to come out of the Forest Festival budgeted line and \$5,000.00 to come out of Hotel /Motel tax fund. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Kesling stated the Commission received a letter from the Randolph County Development Authority Executive Director, Robbie L. Morris, Jr. This letter was in reference to money that is budgeted each year by the Randolph County Commission, for the economic development of the county. This year the budgeted and requested amount was for \$65,000.00. \$45,000.00 of that money coming from the Development Authority line and \$20, 000.00 out of the Community Development line. Commissioner Barger moved to approved the funding request from the Randolph County Development Authority in the amount of \$65,000.00. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELKINS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING REQUEST FOR THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL FIREMAN'S PARADE.

Commissioner Kesling state the Commission received a letter from the Elkins Volunteer Fire Department, requesting assistance for the 88th annual Mountain State Forest Festival Fireman' parade. The Elkins Volunteer Fireman Department, provides an event after the fireman's parade for all participants. At this event they provide food and awards. The request for this year is in the amount of \$1,500.00 to help cover costs. Commissioner Siler moved to approve the funding request from the Elkins

Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Hotel / Motel tax fund. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO OPIOID ADVISORY BOARD

Commissioner Kesling stated there are 4 appointments to the board, each being a 2-year term. Existing members include Sheriff Elbon, Commissioner President Kesling, Commissioner Siler and Commission Barger and the 4 new appointments. The 4 new appointments as of September 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2028 are as follow: Roy Schneider, Kim Urban, Peggy Ross, and Kurt Gainer. Commissioner Barger moved to approve the 4 new Opioid Advisory Board appointments, Roy Schneider, Kim Urban, Peggy Ross and Kurt Gainer. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF WV COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY'S 24 CYCLE FUNDING APPLICATION RESOLUTION

Commissioner Kesling explained the county is applying for a \$125,000.00 grant with the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority. Grants are given out every year to counties to help with courthouse improvements. Commissioner Kesling stated we are looking for a grant to help restore and upgrade the old county jail. The roof has been replaced and cleaning has been done inside. The next step is getting money to update the electrical and fire alarm system. David Davis came out and gave a quote on updating those 2 items and upgrading the building. The estimated cost being \$174,900.00. The grant would cover \$125,000, making the county put up a match to meet the estimate. Once we get the grant the project will then be put out for bid. Today the Commission would be signing this resolution to apply for the grant. This would just be for the front section of the jail Commissioner Kesling stated, making this a new Commission Annex. Commissioner Siler moved to approved the application resolution for the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF POLLWORKERS SUBMITTED BY THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Interim County Clerk, Karla Mahanes appeared before the Commission. She presented to the Commission the list of poll workers for the upcoming General Election on November 3rd, 2026. The 2 lists were provided by the Republican and Democratic Executive Committees. Mahanes stated the Clerk's office is taking names for alternates or back up poll workers for the upcoming election as well. They currently have no alternate names for Democrat or Republican. Commissioner Siler moved to approved the poll workers from the Democrat Executive Committee, as submitted. All yes- Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Barger moved to approved the list of poll workers from the Republican Executive Committee, as submitted. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE FIRST READ OF THE PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE (ARTICLE VII)

OEM/911 Director Mike Miller appeared before the Commission to speak on this item. Miller stated, FEMA came in and complete their audit. They presented the OEM/911 with certain standards and updates to the withstanding Floodplain Ordinance. Commissioner Barger moved to approved the first read of the proposed text amendment to the Floodplain Ordinance, as submitted. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EMS FUNDING REQUEST FROM EMS FEES COLLECTED

Commissioner Kesling stated they were presented with 2 invoices to be paid from the money collected from the first EMS fee. He stated 1 invoice was for \$42,163.30 and the 2nd for \$2,126.07. Commissioner Barger questioned, since this is the first time we are being presented with invoices and we are going to be allocating the money, she requested they develop some process or procedure to know exactly how much information they have. For example, in this submission she would like to have more information, with redacted information such as social security numbers for items such as this invoice for payment of PEIA but it doesn't show which employees they are covering, how many employees, and which portions are being itemized out for the employer's portion vs. the employees' portion. Commissioner Barger stated she was fine with approving this under the contingency that the Commission receives more

information. Commissioners all agree. Commissioner Siler moved to approved the EMS funding request contingent on further information in regards to the PEIA payments. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SIGNAGE OF OJJDP GRANT FOR SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Sheriff Elbon appeared before the commission. Sheriff Elbon stated this was PRO Officer Grant. He said the money is there; the grant award is \$45,000.00. This is just a letter that needs the signature of the Commissioner Kesling ratified in order to proceed. Commissioner Barger moved to approved the signage of the OJJDP Grant as submitted. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the (4) final settlements, as submitted on the following estates:

Lawrence Basil Spencer

Howard Jacob Isner

Dale Barradell Updike

Donald R. Coberly

BUDGET REVISIONS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for miscellaneous revenue for the Sheriff in the amount of \$1,904.00. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Barger moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision, line adjustment for Dog Warden Uniforms and Travel. Supply line decrease / Uniform and Travel line increase in the amount of \$150.00, \$115.00 for uniforms and \$35.00 for travel. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision- for the camera system upgrade in the amount of \$4,500.00. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Barger moved to approve the In-House Budget Revision in the amount of \$44,575.00 from the contingency line to the EMS other Contribution Transfer Line. All yes- Motion passed unanimously.

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the division of property and erroneous assessments and refund order, as submitted All yes- Motion passed

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

ZONING LETTERS: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS: None

EMS FEE REFUNDS: 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: _____