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 15th day of October, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commission President, David Kesling and Commissioner Cris Siler and Commissioner Kenna Barger, all present

Meeting called to order by Commission President Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brianna Jackson appeared before the Commission to speak under public comment. Jackson wanted to speak on the issues of hate crimes and harassment. Commission President Kesling told Miss Jackson that her issue was not an item listed for agenda business today, as required to speak on during public comment.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on October 1, 2026, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

Johanna Lehman with Helvetia Restoration appeared before the Commission to speak on the recent project restorations of the Pavillion and to shelter the stage used for the past 110 years for the Fair. Lehman stated they just received funding with the help of Senators Morris and Hamilton as well as Delegate Jonathan Kyle. The project has also been receiving individual donations; however, they are just shy of $10,000 for the project goal. Asking the Commission if there is any available funding they would be gracious. Commission President Kesling stated the State has provided funding for the project and the County is being used as a pass through to provide the money.

Zach Judy, Randolph County Humane Officer reported to the Commission his calls and rescues since the previous meeting on October 1, 2026. Judy stated since the last meeting he has responded to 22 calls, 6 for cats, 15 for dogs being 22 dogs total and 1 horse. Judy has taken 2 calls to the shelter including 4 dogs and 1 cat. In addition to that he has taken 3 deceased animals to the shelter. No transfers. Judy has issued 5 citations and 3 warnings.

County Clerk, Karla Mahanes reported to the Commission with upcoming Election information. Clerk Mahanes stated that October 16, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Courthouse Lobby the Clerk's Office would hold the Public Testing of the voting machines. This is open to the public and anyone can attend and utilize the voting machines. Mahanes also stated that Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 Early Voting would begin. Early Voting will run thru October the 31st, 2026. The Early Voting locations will be at the County Commission Annex and The Russell Memorial Library in Miller. The hours of operation being Monday thru Friday 8:00 am – 4:30pm and the two Saturdays from 9:00am – 5:00pm. Clerk Mahanes also let the Commission know that any voter that could not make it to the polls on Election Day or during Early Voting, whether that be to advanced age, medical reasons, personal or business travel could request and Absentee Ballot. Applications for those are being accepted thru October 28, 2026. The Clerk's Office has sent out 115 absentee ballots as of meeting day. The Primary Election a total of 64 ballots had been issued.

Richard Cox, CSO appeared before the Commission. CSO Cox stated for the month of September they scanned a total of 2,834 individuals. Of those scans they collected 285 knives, no guns, 13 pepper sprays and 3 misc. items. They received a total of 59 inmates in their custody and served 156 papers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commission President Kesling stated the next County Commission meeting will be held on November 5, 2026 at 1:30. In addition the Courthouse and Facilities will be CLOSED on November 3, 2026 for Election Day.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM MEALS ON WHEELS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY PROGRAM

Rhonda Coffman from Meals on Wheels of Randolph County appeared before the Commission. Randolph County Meals on Wheels has been serving the community since January of 1973. Mrs. Coffman stated the 1st year they serviced 9 clients. They are now at 55 clients; they are not at max capacity. 2 years ago, Coffman stated they almost had to fold due to lack of funds, when they were serving almost 90 clients. At that time the program was funding all the meals. This forced them to have to start charging clients a small fee for meals. $4.00 being the highest they collect and $1.00 being the least amount. This caused a loss of clients within the organization. Even still the program is struggling. Davis Medical supplies all the meals for the program at a cost of $3.20 per meal, then program then has additional spending requirements for mailing out invoices for the meal, costing over a $1000.00 a month. The $4.00 clients still don't cover the costs required per client. Mrs. Coffman stated volunteers give them countless hours. They wouldn't exist without the help of them. Coffman stated the program was appreciative of the $5,000.00 the Commission had provided earlier in the budgeted year, but today they are still short and would like for the Commission to consider additional funding. Mrs. Coffman provided the Commission with a chart displaying the number of clients and the costs and expenses for the program. Over the last 7 years the Commission has consistently provided the same amount of funding with no increase. Commission President Kesling asked Mrs. Coffman, what is the area in which you service? Mrs. Coffman stated it is 5 miles radius from the hospital. They provide services to Highland Park area, Crystal Springs area, Elkins area, Chenoweth Creek, but not much farther than that. The 5-mile radius was established in the beginning Charter and by laws for the organization. Commission President Kesling also questioned as the what the City of Elkins has provided and if the program had approached them for a donation. Program Director Coffman, stated the City of Elkins did not provide a donation to the program, stating it was not in their budget to do so. Commissioner Barger, questioned the capacity determination. Who determines the max capacity for the program. Coffman responded stating the capacity is determined by the hospital. They determine how many meals they can prepare between their breakfast service and lunch service for the patients in the hospital. The hospital can fix up to 100 meals. However, the fee being assessed on the meals has dropped the number of clients on the program. Commissioner Barger is concerned with the radius of service and wondering if the Program could address the Charter and expand the service area. This is a Commission for the entire County and they would like to see the service area be able to meet the needs of individuals in the Coalton/Norton area, Beverly area and beyond. Coffman, stated they have had an interest from the Coalton / Norton area and do have volunteers who are willing to serve those areas however, the Charter rules in place at the moment prohibit it. Commissioner Barger would love to see the program move forward and expand, especially since volunteers are willing to help. She asked for them to take it back to their board and ask for the expansion to be put in place, and she would support the funding request. She fully supports the program and feels it's a great asset to the residents in the community but would ultimately like a broader area served before she can commit to the funding. Commission President Kesling looking at the budget for the remainder of the year for the organization, proposed the Commission could help with the $2,625 shortage and then when they have budget meetings for the upcoming year, they could look at increasing the amount they provide. Commission Siler stated he was in favor of providing an even $3,000.00 to the program to cover any short comings they may have over the $2,625 requested. Commission President Kesling moved to approve the funding request to Meals on Wheels of Randolph County Program in the amount of $2,625 dollars to be taken out of Courthouse Contractual. Commission President Kesling – I, Commissioner Siler – I, Commissioner Barger – nay – motion passed.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NEW HIRE FOR ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Assessor Lance Marcum, appeared before the Commission and submitted the name of Jacob Vandevender for the new appraiser position in his office. Mr. Vandevender is currently employed by the county as a CSO. The start date for Mr. Vandevender would be October 26, 2026 with a starting wage of $13.85 per hour, requiring no background or probationary period. Commissioner Barger moved to approve the new hire of Jacob Vandevender to the Assessor's Office. All yes- motion passed unanimously.

CONSER NEW HIRE FOR COURT SECURITY

Chief Deputy Brad Sharp appeared before the Commission to request the new hire of Christopher William Wilson, replacing Jacob Vandevender. Mrs. Wilson would begin employment on October 26, 2026 with a starting pay of $14.79 per hour. After a 90-day probation period his pay would be adjusted to $15.57 per hour. Mr. Wilson is also currently a member of the PEIA insurance program and the Sheriff is asking that during his probationary period there not be a lapse in coverage. Commissioner Siler move to the approve the new hire of Christopher William Wilson as the new Court Security Officer. All yes- motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AUDIT FIRM FOR THE FY26

Commissioner Siler spoke to this approval, being a member of the Audit Committee. The Committee met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 to review the submissions to the county placing a bid to perform the upcoming Audit. The County received 3 bids, and all candidates scored within a 1–2-point range. David Howell, CPA being the individual chosen by the Committee. Howell has performed audits for the County in the past with no issues. Commission President Kesling stated the county is required to do a yearly audit, in which they are up to date on. The cost for the Audit will be $30,500.00, which the Commission budgets for yearly. Commissioner Barger moved to approve David Howell to perform the upcoming audit for the county. All yes- motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF OPERATION GREEN LIGHT PROCLAMATION

Commission President Kesling announced the Courthouse will be lit up green in honor of all Servicemen and Women, honoring all Veterans. Randolph County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believed recognition should be granted. Project Greenlight will take place November the 4th thru November 11th. Commissioner Siler moved to approve Project Greenlight. All yes- motion passes unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ELKINS-RANDOLPH CVB FUNDING REQUEST

Anne Beardslee Executive Director at Elkins-Randolph County Tourism CVB submitted a letter to the Randolph County Commission. In the letter, Beardslee stated the CVB was working to increase tourism within the county and the target area. The funds would be used to fund the attendance of the American Bus Association and Travel Alliance Partners shows which has the potential to bring thousands of new individuals into Randolph County over the next three years. Commissioner Barger moved to approve the funding request in the amount of $5,285 to come from hotel / motel tax. All yes- motion passed unanimously.

FINAL SETTLEMENTS:

Commission Siler moved to approve the (3) final settlements, as submitted on the following estates:

Nancy Ann Knotts

O.B. Currence

Willard Lee Herron

BUDGET REVISIONS

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for 911 Dispatcher Training. Moving from EM 911 Misc Rev to the 911 Training in the amount of $425.00. All yes – motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Barger moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for Sheriff's Office in the amount of $6,150.00. Moving from wage line to Home Confinement Wages. All yes – motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision Sheriff's Office in the amount of $109.97. Moving from Equipment line to Equi/Computer Replacement line. All yes – motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Siler moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for the county from Courthouse Contractual Services to Animal Service Fees in the amount of $2,000.00. All yes – motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Barger moved to approve an In-House Budget Revision for the pass-through grant for Helvetia and American Legion Post 29 in the amount of $10,000. All yes – motion passed unanimously.

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner Siler moved to approve the refund and exonerations, as submitted All yes- Motion passed

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

ZONING LETTERS: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS: Commissioner Siler moved to approve the fire fee adjustments, as submitted. All yes- Motion passed

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: _____