WEST VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Raleigh County Commission held on the 1st day of July, 2025 at 10:00AM in the Commission Courtroom thereof:

CALL TO ORDER

President Duckworth called the meeting to Order.

-0-

ROLL CALL

Present: Greg Duckworth, President
Linda K. Epling, Commissioner
Daniel Hall, Commissioner
Carl Roop, County Attorney
Jay Quesenberry, County Administrator
Billy Michael, Assistant County Administrator

-0-

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was opened with the invocation by Dave Nichols, Pastor of White Oak Missionary Baptist Church; White Oak, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

-0-

EXONERATIONS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve 2 exonerations, 1 cancellation and 0 refunds for personal property; and 0 exonerations, 0 cancellations and 0 letters of correction for real property as presented today. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT A)

-0-

BUDGET REVISIONS

None

-0-

OPEN BIDS FOR DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS GRANT (DLAP GRANT)

The bids to demolish and dispose of the trash and debris for five projects of the Property Safety Agency were open and referred to Detlif Ulfers for review and recommendation. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $3,991.00 by Whitten Construction for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB641 at 361 Bailey Avenue, Beckley. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $6,895.00 by Whitten Construction for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB654 at 138 Pennington Avenue, Beckley. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $5,000.00 by Empire Salvage for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB711 at 153 Wilcox Valley Avenue Crab Orchard. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $5,500.00 by Tom's Tear Down and Take Away LLP for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB715 at 353 Slab Fork Road, Slab Fork. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $7,500.00 by Tom's Tear Down and Take Away LLP for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB720 at 101 Port Lane, 117 Port Lane, and 1395 Maple Fork Road. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT B)

-0-

RECOGNITION OF BILL PRITCHARD WITH 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RALEIGH COUNTY

The Commission presented Bill Pritchard with a plaque for his 35 years of service to Raleigh County.

-0-

NEW EMPLOYEE RALEIGH COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY- KAREN NICHOLS, LEGAL ASSISTANT

Upon the recommendation of Prosecuting Attorney Tom Truman, Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the hiring of Karen Nichols as a Legal Assistant for the Raleigh County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT C)

-0-

CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT FOR A STUDY FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON HARPER ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF $40,000.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve a Grant in the amount of $40,000.00 for the study of improving pedestrian safety on Harper Road from Dry Hill Road to Sunset Memorial Park. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and the motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT D)

-0-

CONSIDERATION OF REZONING 3.3 ACRES FROM R1 TO B1 AT 6404 HARPER ROAD IN SURVEYOR

On the recommendation of Planning and Zoning Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the Order on the Petition of Robert J. Bradford to rezone 3.3 acres at 6404 Harper Road from (R1) Rural/Residential to (B1) Commercial. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT E)

-0-

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF WEST VIRGINIA DRUNK DRIVING GRANT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $15,000.00

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the West Virginia Drunk Driving Grant in the amount of $15,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 to September 29, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and the motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT F)

-0-

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF PRESUMED AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATE OF VIRGIL LIGHT

Petition rescheduled for July 15, 2025 by Commissioner Duckworth.

-0-

UPDATE ON VISIT SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA STRADER

Lisa Strader, Executive Director of Visit Southern West Virginia, presented an annual report of the growth of tourism in West Virginia. Lake Stephens will be featured on the front Cover of the July 2025 issue of Southern WV magazine.

-0-

REPORT FROM GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT HOWELLS OF THE BRADLEY PSD

Scott Howells Bradley Public Service District General Manager gave an update on the West Raleigh Project.
(SEE EXHIBIT G)

-0-

OLD BUSINESS

RALEIGH COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT – PAUL FLANAGAN

Zach Dobbins, project accountant for the Raleigh County PSD, stated he is working with Crews and Associates regarding rate increases for funding projects in the Bolt and Airport areas. David Oreott, Raleigh County PSD customer agrees with the need of the project but disagrees with raising the rate schedule. He stated the fee should be adjusted by gallons per minute. Commissioner Duckworth stated this item of business will be taken under advisement at a later date.

-0-

HEARING OF DILAPIDATED/UNSAFE PROPERTIES- ORDERS TO OWNERS
AB634 ARNET DALE GRAHAM; 161 COBBS STREET; SPRAGUE

Commissioner Duckworth declared the hearings open for the dilapidated and unsafe properties.

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the Order for AB634 directing the Respondent, Arnet Dale Graham II, to remove the unsafe structures, cut overgrown vegetation and lawfully dispose of all the debris, junk and trash within 30 days of the entry of this Order. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT H)

AB261 MATTHEW HANBY; 436 BERMEISTER AVENUE; RALEIGH

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the Order for AB261 directing the Respondent, Matthew Hanby to demolish the unsafe structures, cut overgrown vegetation and lawfully dispose of all the debris, junk and trash within 15 days of the entry of this Order. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT I)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to close the hearings for the properties of AB634 and AB261. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

-0-

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BETH MAYS - Raleigh County Horseman's Association Board Member requested Grant funding for improvements.

SAMANTHA FARLEY - Raleigh County Horseman's Association Member asked for the Grant approval for the repairs and growth of the facility.

LINDA BULLOCK - Spay and Neutering Ordinance.

ROGER MAIN - Cobbs Street resident requested something to be done about the trash and animals on Cobbs Street, Sprague.

MIKE MCINTOSH - resident on Cobbs Street, Sprague complained of trash and animals in his yard.

GETITA HAIRSTON - Cobbs Street resident, requested assistance in the trash cleanup.

BILL ROOP - County Attorney suggested a 60day Order to remove the structures and debris in the area of 161 Cobbs Street, Sprague.

JAIME LEHMAN - Coordinator of Dolly Parton Imagination Library requested funding in the amount of $19,825.00.

-0-

MINUTES

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the June 3, 2025 minutes of this Commission. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

-0-

VACATION ORDERS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the Vacation Orders from June 17, 2025 to June 30, 2025, inclusive. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT J)

-0-

FINAL ACCOUNTINGS AND WAIVERS OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

There were no Objections and Exceptions of the Fiduciary Supervisor.

-0-

BILLS, COMMUNICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the reappointment of Jim Wood to the Raleigh County Planning and Zoning Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2028. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT K)

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the reappointment of Kevin Reedy to the Raleigh County Planning and Zoning Commission for the term expiring July 12, 2028. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion was carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT L)

-0-

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Epling moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular scheduled meeting of this Commission on July 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

s/s Gregory Duckworth
Gregory Duckworth
President

-000-