WEST VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the Raleigh County Commission held on the 8th day of May, 2026 in the Commission Courtroom thereof:

CALL TO ORDER

President Duckworth called the meeting to Order at 10:00 am.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was opened with the invocation by Pastor RD Tolliver; Cornerstone Freewill Baptist Church; Crab Orchard, WV and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

4.1 EXONERATIONS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve 5 exonerations, 2 cancellation and 2 refunds for personal property; and 3 exonerations, 9 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)

4.2 BUDGET REVISIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the in-house budget revision of the County Clerk in the amount of $4,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously
(SEE EXHIBIT B)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the in-house budget revision of the Law Enforcement office for the reimbursement of services in the amount $130,294.00. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT C)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the in-house budget revision of the Coal Severance fund, this is not an increase, this is moving $57,500.00 out of other buildings line. The amount of $7,500.00 into the Humane Society and $50,000.00 into Social Services. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously
(SEE EXHIBIT D)

4.3 OPEN BIDS FOR DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS GRANT (DLAP GRANT)

The bids to demolish and dispose of trash and debris for 15 projects of the Property Safety Agency were opened and referred to Detlef Ulfers for review and recommendation. In the event the company with the lowest bid cannot proceed the next lowest bidder will fill the position.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,500.00 by Mountain Haus Properties, Inc for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB588 at 178 Cobbs Street. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,500.00 by Mountain Haus Properties, Inc for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB687 at 428 Bailey Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,000.00 by Empire Salvage for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB720 at 1150 Beechview Road, Maple Fork. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $10,000.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB721 and AB722 at 106 and 108 Ballard Street, Midway. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $4,700.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB760 at 516 Sycamore Road, Colcord. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,500.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB762 at 4436 Coal River Road, Arnet. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $12,500.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB781 and AB785 at 230, 231, 235, 237 Kirk Street, Mabscott. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $10,500.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB782, AB792, and AB798 at 109, 110, and 111 Simpson Street, Mabscott. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,750.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB784 at 401 Ridge Street, Mabscott. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $2,750.00 by Tom's Tear Down & Take Away for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB786 at 3334 Coal River Road. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $4,500.00 by Empire Salvage for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB787 at 4169 Coal River Road. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $6,895.00 by League Builders & Consultants for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB790 at 1457 Peachtree Road. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $8,650.00 by ACE Everything for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB793 at 225 Laurel Road, Pemberton. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $14,998.00 by Whitten Construction for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB795 at 5934 Harper Road, Surveyor. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the bid of $4,000.00 by Empire Salvage for the demolition and disposal of all structures for AB797 at 134 Loggins Street, Glen White. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT E)

4.4 NEW EMPLOYEE – RALEIGH COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY; LUKE KEATON-ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

Commissioner Epling made a motion to accept the hiring of Luke Keaton as Assistant Prosecutor for the Raleigh County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT F)

4.5 APPROVAL OF OPIOID RESOLUTION

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the Opioid resolution as read. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT G)

4.6 CONSIDERATION OF A ROAD CLOSING ON FRONT STREET, 705 FEET ADJACENT TO 11/35/22 AND 11/353/53 IN PEMBERTON

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the road closure of 705 feet of Front Street, Pemberton. This property is owned by Mr. White on both sides. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT H)

4.7 CONSIDERATION OF THE CREATION OF A LAND REUSE FUND

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve funds for The Creation of a Land Reuse Agency in the amount of $25,000.00 to help purchase delinquent property from tax sales. This will help to put dilapidated property back onto the tax rolls. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT I)

4.8 CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT TO ACADEMY OF CAREERS AND TECHNOLOGY STATE MEDALIST

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve a Grant in the amount of $10,000.00 to Academy of Careers and Technology to support the State Medalist. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT J)

4.9 CONSIDERATION OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY GRANT APPLICATION TO CONTINUE THE SECURITY CAMERA UPGRADE IN THE RALEIGH COUNTY JUDICIAL ANNEX IN THE AMOUNT OF $53,703.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the Courthouse Security Grant Application in the amount of $53,703.00 in continuation of the security camera upgrade in the Raleigh County Judicial Annex. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT K)

4.10 APPROVAL OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY GRANT RESOLUTION

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the Courthouse Security Grant Resolution as read. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT L)

4.11 CONSIDERATION OF A TEN COMMANDMENTS MONUMENT AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Out of 3 bids gathered; Egnor Monument located in Crab Orchard was the lowest bid of $24,300.00. Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve Egnor Monument's bid in the amount of $24,300.00 for the Ten Commandments Monument at the Sherriff's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT M)

4.12 CONSIDERATION OF EASEMENTS WITH THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ON THE GLEN MORGAN BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 19

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the Easement to West Virginia Department of Transportation to access the Glen Morgan Bridge on Highway 19 for repairs as described by Carl Roop. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to accept the Resolution allowing Jay Quesenberry to sign on the Commissioners behalf. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT N)

4.13 RETAIN THE SERVICES OF MASON & BARRY, INC. FOR HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the services of Mason & Barry Inc. for the replacement of 2 compressors in the Judicial Annex building in the amount of $16,974.00. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT O)

4.14 CONSIDERATION OF DRAWDOWN NO. 6 ON THE HARPER/ECCLES SEWER PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $244,756.25 FOR THE CRAB ORCHARD/MACARTHUR PSD

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve Drawdown #6 in the amount of $244,756.25 on the Harper/Eccles Sewer Project for the Crab Orchard/Macarthur PSD. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT P)

4.15 CONSIDERATION OF DRAWDOWN NO. 26 ON THE PINEY VIEW/BATOFF MOUNTAIN SEWER PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $12,524.54 FOR THE NORTH BECKLEY PSD

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve Drawdown #26 in the amount of $12,524.54 on the Piney View/Batoff Mountain Sewer Project for the North Beckley PSD. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT Q)

4.16 CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT TO TRAP HILL LITTLE LEAGUE FOR $20,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Epling to approve the Grant in the amount of $20,000.00 to Trap Hill Little League for completion of the fields. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT R)

4.17 REPORT FROM KELLY GUNNOE FROM RALEIGH COUNTY UNITED FOR PREVENTION

Kelly with United for Prevention explained how they used a portion of the Opioid funding from the Commission to gather an assessment from a group of youth pertaining to what they are doing as far as substance use, extra-curricular activity and basic needs. These statistics allow them to focus on a solution in the areas that need attention.

EMERGENCY

Carl Roop Under an Emergency request, Judge Kirby obtained a third-party opinion of the appointment of the prosecuting attorney. For the record the opinion was received as good. For the record a contract with Jared Underwood and Steptoe & Johnson will be confirmed on the next meeting of May 19, 2026.

5 OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PARTIPATION

Curtis Yearego thanked the Commission for standing by WV Disability. Funding proposal for WV Disabled has been summited for review to Jay Quesenberry.

MINUTES

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the minutes of this Commission for the February 17, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Epling made a motion to approve the minutes of this Commission for the March 3, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.

VACATION ORDERS

Commissioner Epling moved to approve the Vacation Orders from April 21, 2026 to May 7, 2026 inclusive. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT S)

FINAL ACCOUNTINGS AND WAIVERS OF FINAL SETTLEMENT

None

BILLS, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEES

9.1 APPOINTMENT OF ROGER MAIN TO THE LAND REUSE AGENCY; EXPIRED 5/8/27

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Roger Main to the Land Reuse Agency; term expires 5/8/27. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT T)

9.2 APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPHINE MOORE TO THE LAND REUSE AGENCY; EXPIRES 5/8/27

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Josephine Moore to the Land Reuse Agency; term expires 5/8/27. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT U)

9.3 APPOINTMENT OF MOLLY WILLIAMS TO THE LAND REUSE AGENCY; EXPIRES 5/8/27

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Molly Williams to the Land Reuse Agency; term expires 5/8/27. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT V)

9.4 APPOINTMENT OF BARRY MILAM TO THE LAND REUSE AGENCY; EXPIRES 5/8/27

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Barry Milam to the Land Reuse Agency; term expires 5/8/27. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT W)

9.5 APPOINTMENT OF DETLEF ULFERS TO THE LAND REUSE AGENCY; EXPIRES 5/8/27

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Detlef Ulfers to the Land Reuse Agency; term expires 5/8/27. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously.
(SEE EXHIBIT X)

9.6 APPOINTMENT OF PAULA JONES TO THE SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA HOUSING AUTHORITY; EXPIRES 5/8/31

Commissioner Epling made a motion to appoint Paula Jones to the Southern West Virginia Housing Authority; term expires 5/8/31. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried unanimously. (SEE EXHIBIT Y)

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Epling moved to adjourn this meeting until the next regular scheduled meeting of this Commission on May 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Hall and motion carried.

Gregory Duckworth
President