

Barbour County Commission Meeting
May 5, 2025
5:00pm

DAVID STRAIT COMMISSION PRESIDENT, JEDD SCHOLA COMMISSIONER, BOB RICHARDSON
COMMISSIONER, LAURIE AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK, SHANA FREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Keith Knight, Thomas Wright, Kim Lewis, Rhett Dusenbury, Derick A. Spencer, Allison Kennedy, JoLynn Powers, Kelly Benner, Ian Tallman, Brett Carpenter, Bernard Gillis, Drew Phillips, Dylan Harper, Suzanna Skidmore, Brandi Pickens, SJ Badgett, Justin Bomer, Corey Brandon, Joseph J. Strait, Natasha Kosowsly, Aaron Bostel, Ed Larry, Sheila Riggs, Bob Wilkins, Dotty Parsons, Peggy Poling

David Strait called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and led the pledge.

On a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson, meeting minutes from April 18, 2025 were approved. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

Final Settlements were presented and approved on a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola. 3/0

PATRICIA ANN COCHRAN, WILLIAM LARRY WEAVER

A budget revision was presented for consideration. The General County revision allocates revenue surplus to offset the Law Enforcement budget and increase the regional jail budget; moves funds out of contingencies; accounts for the Lipitor settlement funds; includes PRO Officer, EMPG and SWAT equipment grants and transfer of funds to the Rainy-Day fund. It also accounts for Coal bed methane funds and budgeting these funds to the libraries.

Coal Severance revision allocates surplus revenues and projected unused expenses and moves funds out of contingencies to increase the regional jail budget and transfer of funds to the Rainy-Day fund.

The revisions were approved on a motion by Bob Richardson, seconded by David Strait. 3/0

Ideas for use of the Lipitor Settlement funds were discussed.

Invoices were presented.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola the Assessor's request for consent to hire Allison Kennedy was approved. 3/0

A proclamation was presented to proclaim May 9 as Childcare Provider Appreciation.

Sheriff Carpenter presented the 2024 Delinquency Tax list. The list was accepted on a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson. 3/0

Following discussion, the Law Enforcement Utilitac cruiser quote revision was tabled.

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JoLynn Powers presented information about the United Way hygiene drive and requested permission to designate the courthouse as a collection location. The campaign will be active from June 15 to August 15.

Kelly Benner explained services provided at Barbour County Adult Education and presented an MOU for consideration. On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola, the MOU was approved and signed. 3/0

Barbour OEM/911 provided an update.

Aaron Bostel presented information about Barbour County ambulance service and the Barbour County Ambulance Authority. The county is scheduled to transition to a single ambulance service beginning May 15.

Bostel outlined current costs and projected operating expenses for the first three to five months. He explained that billing revenue would be delayed by sixty to ninety days and requested Commission funding for the Ambulance Authority during this initial period.

Commissioner Strait noted that one million dollars has been invested in this initiative, which included the purchase of four ambulances, a chase vehicle, and necessary equipment. Initial operating funds is the essential next step to ensuring the operations achieve success. He expressed gratitude to the EMS providers in attendance for their dedication throughout the lengthy process, acknowledging them as the backbone of operations.

Jedd Schola made a motion to transfer \$500,000.00 from the Rainy-Day fund to the Barbour County Ambulance Authority for operations, Bob Richardson seconded, passing unanimously. 3/0

Commissioner Strait reported that surplus funds are intended to be returned to the Rainy-Day fund to replenish this transfer.

Barbour County Animal Friends is providing assistance with dog adoptions from the county shelter. The County Commission approved a \$1,400.00 contribution from the Dog Warden budget following a motion by Jedd Schola and a second by David Strait. These funds will help cover the costs of spaying and neutering dogs adopted from the county shelter.

Belington Revitalization Committee submitted a funding request of \$5,000.00 to assist with their Music on the Square events. On a motion by Bob Richardson; second by David Strait, the request was approved. 3/0

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Barbour County Chamber of Commerce submitted a funding request of \$1,000.00 to assist with the Chamber Banquet hors d'oeuvres. On a motion by Jedd Schola; second by Bob Richardson, the request was approved. 3/0 Ed Larry also discussed the Chamber's initiative "Information: Barbour County"

Philippi Main Street submitted a funding request of \$2,500.00 to assist with Lurch Fest events. On a motion by David Strait; second by Bob Richardson, the request was approved. 3/0

Barbour County Young Life submitted a funding request of \$2,500.00 to assist with charter bus transportation expenses to camp. Twenty-six students from Barbour County will be attending. The request was approved from Opioid Settlement funds following a motion by David Strait and a second by Bob Richardson. 3/0

A change order was submitted for the Land and Water Conservation Fund dug out project. Change Order 1, in the amount of \$18,985.54, was approved as presented on a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by David Strait and will be paid from the Coal County Reallocation fund for community improvement. 3/0

Jedd Schola presented quotes from 84 Lumber, Lowes and LifeTite for the Farmer's Market building materials and reported that Builder Center's quote came in lower.

The floor was open for public comment by order of the sign-in sheet.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2025 at 9:00am.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm. 3/0

David W Strait, President

Barbour County
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk
Instrument 283055
05/16/2025 @ 11:25:41 AM
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
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