

Barbour County Commission Meeting
July 18, 2025
9:00am

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

H. David Talbott, Ira Mayle, Aaron Bostel, Dylan Harper, Jennifer Burner, Danny Wagner, Bill Bowers, Ruston Seaman, Corey Brandon, Derick A. Spencer, Mykal Hoffman, Drew Phillips, Katie Wolpert, Jennifer Mellor, Stephanie Ross

David Strait called the meeting to order at 9:00am and led the pledge.

The second reading was held for the Barbour County Enhanced 911 Ordinance amendments. The amendment is to update fees imposed on local exchange service lines to finance the projected costs of capital improvement and maintenance costs of the Enhanced Emergency Telephone System and associated Emergency Dispatch Equipment - Residential from \$3.64 to \$4.01; Business from \$4.25 to \$5.00; Centrix from \$0.50 to \$0.90. The proposed amendment would be effective August 15, 2025.

Bob Richardson made a motion to approve minutes as presented; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

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

RICHARD LEE TIGHE

The Budget Revision 1 for FY26 was approved as presented on a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson. 3/0

Invoices were presented for approval.

During the July 15, 2025 Barbour County Ambulance Authority meeting, the board held an election of officers. A letter of recommendation was submitted to the County Commission to consider reappointing David Strait for President and Corey Brandon for Vice President. On a motion by Jedd Schola; seconded by Bob Richardson the recommendation was approved for a twelve-month term; David Strait abstained from voting. 2/0

David Taylor presented a Proclamation to declare September as Barbour County Goes Purple and was approved on a motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson. 3/0

Assessor Spencer submitted a consent to hire request to hire Mykal Hoffman and was approved on a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson. 3/0

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Jennifer Mellor, Kompan, provided a fitness trail presentation for the Barbour County Fairgrounds following an on-site visit. The commission will take recommendations into consideration.

Barbour OEM/911 discussed a recent lightning strike at the 911 building that damaged the voice logger recorder and two monitors. Equipment has been submitted on an insurance claim and ordered for replacement. Other damaged equipment was under warranty.

Homeland Security grants were awarded and accepted for Barbour County Sheriff's Department license plate reader system in the amount of \$29,200 and upgraded lighting at the Barbour County Fairgrounds in the amount of \$9,599.40.

Corey Brandon reported on correspondence from DOH District 7 regarding the closure of the Philippi Bypass for repairs. Traffic will be routed through Main Street. Communication will be provided to first responders, Board of Education and Here and There Transit.

Aaron Bostel reported on the Barbour County Ambulance Authority. He acknowledged Verle Brown's assistance for repairing the busted door jamb at the Belington station. He reported two full time Paramedics are scheduled to begin employment in August. Deposits now being received for Medicare billing. The Medicaid application is in process. A discussion was held on vehicles and which are inoperable.

Lynda Ware was not present to discuss the property beside the Belington station.

Stephanie Ross explained her situation and complaints. The commissioners made note of her concerns and will review. A follow up will be provided at the August 4 commission meeting.

Danny Wagner and Bill Bowers submitted a request for financial support for the Philip Barbour Hall of Fame to help cover costs of the banquet and plaques. Bob Richardson made a motion to contribute \$2,000.00. Jedd Schola made a motion to contribute \$2,500.00; Bob Richardson rescinded his motion and seconded to contribute \$2,500.00. 3/0

Katie Wolpert presented a funding request from the Belington Revitalization Committee for start-up costs of the Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad Christmas Train 'Elf Express'. The 2025 schedule will be one train on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in December; each carrying approximately 200 passengers. The project will contribute to the long-term economic benefit to the Belington Revitalization Committee, the City of Belington, and the Belington community overall. David Strait made a motion to approve the requested \$10,000.00 contribution by using Coal Reallocation funds; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

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Ruston Seaman presented a funding request of \$45,000 to support the New Vision Tiny Home Village for Women. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the status of the Tiny Home Village for Men and its progress to completion, data for its effectiveness and the method of application and eligibility to occupy a home. Minimal options are currently available for youth aging out of foster care and more specifically, for girls. Concerns were expressed about who would be responsible for monitoring progress, employment verification and drug testing.

Ruston also mentioned the Tiny Home Factory plan was submitted as an earmark request and included in Senator Capito's earmark package.

On a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by David Strait, \$20,000 was approved utilizing Coal Reallocation funds to cover the costs of site engineering and landscape architectural plans for the Tiny Home Village for Women. Bob Richardson did not vote in favor because the current project has not been finished and evaluated for success. 2/1

David Strait made a motion to submit a grant application for the Victims of Crime Advocate (VOCA) position in the amount of \$38,856.00; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson; the Records Management and Preservation grants for the Circuit Clerk and Prosecuting Attorney projects in the amount of \$6,877.00 were accepted. 3/0

David Strait made a motion to accept the agreement with Claytor Enterprises for FY25 financial statement preparation; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

A quote from Cardinal Cabling was presented to install security cameras at the County Animal Shelter in the amount of \$5,595.00. Bob Richardson made a motion to approve the quote with half paid from the Dog and Sheep fund and half from County Commission Capital Projects fund; David Strait seconded. 3/0

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

Commissioner Richardson reported that a survey was being conducted with an engineering company at the former Belington Sheetz location.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2025 beginning at 5:00pm.

On a motion by Jed Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47am. 3/0

David W Strait, President

Barbour County
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk
Instrument 284919
08/05/2025 @ 11:49:35 AM
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
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