

Barbour County Commission Meeting
September 19, 2025
9:00am

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

Kim Lewis, H. David Talbott, Hallee McLain, Cierra Skidmore, Larry Seckman, Krissy Michael, Drew Phillips, Dylan Harper, Corey Brandon, Katie Wolpert, Sheila Riggs, Hunter B. Mullens, Ron Andro, Dana Gould

David Strait called the meeting to order at 9:05am and led the pledge.

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

NOBLE BERNARD MARSH, LOUISE JUNE MARSH, LINDA KAY COLEMAN, EARL JUNIOR MILLER, VIRGINIA H. PROUDFOOT, JUDITH ANN DEAN, JOHN THOMAS REYNOLDS JR., MARY JANE ROBINSON

Invoices were presented.

David Strait made a motion to appoint Rhonda Robinson to the Barbour County Ambulance Authority board; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Hunter Mullens presented a \$45,368.75 check from Opioid Settlement funds.

Jedd Schola made a motion to appoint Commission President, David Strait, to sign any and all necessary documents of verification in the discovery process of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager litigation; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Ron Andro and Dana Gould provided an update on the Vandalia Health System to dispel concerns that Broaddus Hospital will have negative impacts from the Big Beautiful Bill. It was discussed during the presentation that Broaddus Hospital was included in the North Carolina University study in error. Broaddus Hospital was pointed out due to a high number of Medicaid patients, however 95% of the census reside in the nursing home. No cuts to nursing home Medicaid payments are proposed in the Big Beautiful Bill. Broaddus Hospital was reported as profitable and is projected to continue to be. Vandalia Health Systems is financially strong and has a commitment to the Barbour County region and its residents.

Cierra Skidmore, People's Bank, presented their Workplace Banking program. Participation will be tabled for further discussion and received employee's input.

September 19, 2025

Page #2

Deputy Barcus provided an update at Barbour County Animal Control. He continues to work with Animal Friends, seeking volunteers and trying to move dogs out, however the facility is exceeding capacity. There are currently 47 dogs and some have been impounded for multiple years. He discussed recent issues of animals escaping and causing damage to poultry. Improvements have been made to the facility with the assistance of a FOHO grant to alleviate future occurrences. He suggested an additional helper would be beneficial. Further discussion will be held.

Sheila Riggs, Chief Sheriff Tax Deputy, provided the delinquent tax list to be published in the newspaper. Dave Strait made a motion to accept the list as presented; Jedd Schola seconded.

Wendy Madden provided a written update on the Barbour County Health Department. Contacts have been identified as being overcharging, resulting in monthly cost savings of \$2,500-\$3,000. By the end of September, bills are expected to be current. Staff is working diligently to ensure patient needs are met and prioritized. Hiring a Public Health Nurse is a priority.

Katie Wolpert reported the Belington Christmas Train will be delayed a year; however, a winter train is being scheduled. She requested a change in scope for the funds previously allocated for the Christmas Train to assist with preserving the old Mill Building for future use. The use of Coal Reallocation funds will be reviewed for eligibility with the new scope. It was advised to resubmit the request with the change of scope.

OEM/911 reported the City of Philippi located the waterline break below the Philippi EMS Squad and actively working to repair. Dylan reported that he has been working with the state to obtain the state bid contract on generators for Chestnut Ridge PSD.

They also introduced Krissy Michael, First Energy Representative.

Jody Carpenter attended training at Jacksons Mill and was unable to attend. He requested the Extension Office space to be tabled to further discuss options with the Tygart Valley Soil Conservation district. He will return with his findings.

A discussion was held on quotes for the Chestnut Ridge PSD generators. No decision has been made to purchase the generators or provide funding to the PSD for the generators. The action will be tabled until Chestnut Ridge PSD obtains additional quotes and explores state contract options before moving forward.

Commissioner Strait reported that Arch Recovery purchased the Mountaineer Inn.

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

September 19, 2025

Page #3

The Commissioners attended the Chamber event, "Information, Barbour County" and had a good attendance and conversation.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2025 beginning at 9:00am.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45am. 3/0

David W Strait, President

Barbour County
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk
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COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
Book 29 @ Page 32
Pages Recorded 3