

Barbour County Commission Meeting  
November 21, 2025  
9:00am

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

Rhett Dusenbury, Mary M. Poling, Bill Renzelli, H. David Talbott, Dylan Harper, Kim Lewis, Ed. Thorne, Jason Collins, Corey Brandon, Marjorie George, Sam Mayle, Aaron Bostel, Sheila Riggs, Drew Phillips, Scott Gillis, Brett Carpenter, Joey Bolyard, Don Harris

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

Bob Richardson made a motion to approve the November 3, 2025 and November 17, 2025 meeting 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

TERRY OMAR STOLLINGS II, PATRICIA BENKHALIFA

Laurie Austin also discussed the Mary Lou Cross estate regarding a copy of a will and will require the President's signature.

She also reported that Beth Longo retracted her interest in becoming a Fiduciary Commissioner.

David Strait made a motion to reappoint Mary Poling to the Chestnut Ridge PSD board; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Jedd Schola made a motion to approve the Local Economic Development grant program resolution reflecting commitment of \$30,000 from the 2025-26 budget. 3/0

Invoices were presented.

Tony Edwards of NOAA recognized Barbour County as the 21st StormReady county in West Virginia, a five-year designation. The StormReady program promotes preparedness and encourages effective communication with communities ahead of severe weather events. Barbour County has taken proactive measures, including the use of Hyper-Reach and integrating the 911 Center with the National Weather Service, ensuring that any weather-related incidents are automatically reported. The designation benefits with extra points toward the community rating system on flood insurance. Signage will be displayed that Barbour County is StormReady County.

Sheriff Carpenter requested the Commission's support for the Shop with a Cop initiative. Jedd Schola made a motion to approve \$2,500.00; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

November 21, 2025

Page #2

The Barbour County Sheriff's Settlement was presented in accordance to WV Code 6-8-1. David Strait made a motion to approve the Sheriff Settlement as presented; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

David Strait made a motion to approve the distributions for the Sheriff Commission and Assessor Valuation; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

A discussion was held on the water filter replacement project for the City of Belington. Mayor Bolyard and Don Harris were present to share additional information. Following discussion, no motion was offered. The Commission requested additional information regarding potential delays if IJDC funding were to be sought.

The Chestnut Ridge PSD generator project was discussed. Following discussion, David Strait made a motion to approve funding for one portable/towable Generac generator in the amount of \$40,331.29, to be paid from Coal County Reallocation funds; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Bob Richardson made a motion to approve \$1,500.00 to the Philippi Christmas Committee; David Strait seconded. 3/0

Jedd Schola made a motion to approve \$500.00 to Philippi Youth Baseball for dug out repairs; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

No representatives were present to discuss tax concerns for Opportunity House. Commissioner Strait recommended the matter to be discussed with the WV State Auditor office.

Wendy Madden introduced the public health nurse, Shelby Stalnaker.

The Board of Health submitted a nomination to appoint Rich Mace to the board to represent small business. David Strait made a motion to approve the appointment; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Nothing to report for Barbour County Ambulance Authority or Barbour OEM.

Dylan Harper reported that an application was received from Collins Service Center requesting to be added to the 911 tow rotation. Discussion was held regarding the need, public safety considerations, and the existing tow rotation policy. Following discussion, it was determined that a committee would be established to review the current tow policy and recommend amendments. The committee will include representatives from Fire Departments, Law Enforcement, Tow Companies, 911, EMS, Dispatch, and the County Commission.

David Talbott provided comments on live streaming and offered suggestions for improvements.

During the March 15, 2024, commission meeting, a USDA public hearing was held regarding an application for funding for a law enforcement cruiser. Following a time lapse and the recent government shutdown, notice was received that USDA granted an award of \$11,300.00 toward a Law Enforcement cruiser.

November 21, 2025  
Page#3

Barbour County  
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk  
Instrument 286441  
12/02/2025 @ 08:57:02 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
Book 29 @ Page 49  
Pages Recorded 3

The following forms were presented for adoption and execution:

- a. Form RD 1940-1- Request for Obligation of Funds
- b. Form RD 1942-46- Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions
- c. Form RD 442-7- Operating Budget
- d. RD 3570-3- Community Facilities Grant Agreement
- e. Form RD 400-4- Assurance Agreement
- f. Form AD 1047- Certification Regarding Debarment- Primary
- g. Form AD 1049- Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace

On motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson all forms presented for the USDA Community Facilities grant have been adopted and approved for execution. 3/0

Bob Richardson reported that he had Triplett & Triplett to review the deed(s) of the Barbour County Fairgrounds. He is requesting approval to have a synopsis prepared, not to exceed \$400.00, that identifies restrictions within the deed(s) so that the grounds can be utilized to its fullest. Discussion was held. David Strait made a motion to approve; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Bob Richardson brought forth concerns regarding the condition of the One Room Schoolhouse that is located at the Barbour County Fairgrounds. Opportunities will be researched for preservation grants.

Laurie Austin discussed concerns and dissatisfaction regarding the sewer odor that occurs in the basement of the Courthouse. Discussion was held regarding measures being taken to isolate the issue and determining the next steps.

She also discussed the opening of the front doors of the courthouse. A discussion was held. The Commission requested a plan for opening the front door that meets approval and remains secure and it will be taken into consideration.

A discussion was held regarding a Purchasing Policy draft. The draft will be circulated to elected officials and departments for input and revisions.

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2025 beginning at 5:00pm.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51pm.  
3/0

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David W Strait, President