

Barbour County Commission Meeting  
January 16, 2026  
9:00am

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

Ira Mayle, Marjorie George, Kem Lewis, Scott Gillis, Joseph Barcus, Brett Carpenter, Drew Phillips, Aaron Bostel, Sandra Marfield, Tabatha Mullins

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

David Strait made a motion to approve the January 5, 2026 meeting minutes as presented; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

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

DONALD L. WILLIAMSON, JAMES W. WOODFORD

David Strait approved a cancelled order for presumed lost check #56158 in the amount of \$105.74; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Sandra Marfield and Tabatha Mullins presented a proclamation to declare January as National Human Trafficking Awareness and Stalking Awareness Month.

Chief Deputy Scott Gillis presented the Sheriff's Department 2025 year-end activity report. He reviewed call-taking operations, specialized units, and the roles of multi-duty officers. During 2025, the Sheriff's Department handled a total of 8,112 calls for service, including 185 motor vehicle crashes, 347 criminal cases, 532 misdemeanor and felony case reports, and 524 animal-related cases.

He also reported on the Mountain Region Drug & Violent Crime Task Force activities, which included sixteen controlled buys and search warrants. Seized evidence included 771 grams of methamphetamine, 6.75 pounds of liquid methamphetamine, and nine grams of fentanyl. The Task Force provided assistance on more than 20 additional investigations, including ATF cases, child pornography, and asset forfeiture cases that are pending.

Jody Carpenter requested consent to hire Mikki Jones for the WVU Extension administrative assistant position. David Strait made a motion to approve this request; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

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As a result of the approved holiday schedule during the January 5, 2026 meeting, the Employee Handbook required a revision to not observe additional holiday proclamations designated by the Governor of West Virginia. Following discussion, Jedd Schola made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook revision; seconded by David Strait. 3/0

Barbour OEM/911/EMS had nothing to report.

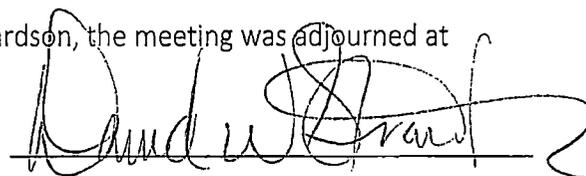
Following discussion, the two location options for the America250 mural is in Belington on the Golden Rule building and on the back side of the John Lloyd Entertainment stage. The theme at each location was discussed. A request for proposal will be sent to the respondents detailing this information and responses will be reviewed at the February 20, 2026 meeting.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026 at 5:00pm.

The Board of Review and Equalization hearings begin on January 30.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07am. 3/0



David W Strait, President

**FEB 02 2026**

Barbour County  
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk  
Instrument 287033  
02/03/2026 @ 10:37:28 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
Book 29 @ Page 69  
Pages Recorded 2