

Barbour County Commission Meeting

July 6, 2026

5:00pm

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

Patty Saunders, Kim Lewis, Marjie George, Ira Mayle, Judy Edge, Dylan Harper, Drew Phillips, Marija Ilic, Rhett Dusenbury, Aaron Bostel

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

Bob Richardson made a motion to approve minutes as presented from June 18 and June 23 meetings; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

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

RAUBE MORRIS MCDANIEL, GARY CHARLES TALLMAN, ROBERT WOODLEY GOLDEN, DAVID ROY TALKINGTON, LUTHER DAVID FOSTER, RANDALL LEE DEVORES

Dylan Harper reported that the light at the Teter Lake boat dock has been installed. Commissioner David Strait expressed his appreciation to everyone who assisted in coordinating the project. He also reported that the AEDs at youth sports locations are currently being installed. Additionally, he and Corey Brandon are preparing grant applications for upcoming funding opportunities.

Aaron Bostel reported that he will be picking up the new ambulance and the July 4th event went well.

Commissioner Schola recognized dispatchers Sherry, Marissa, and Lindsey for their outstanding service and professionalism during the tragic fire in Junior.

Commissioner Schola made a motion to approve a \$1,000 contribution to the City of Philippi to provide the community with free weekend admission to the city pool; seconded by Bob Richardson. 3/0

Commissioner Richardson discussed a request from the Brownton Helping Hands to assist with purchasing a furnace. The request was tabled.

Judy Edge discussed the ongoing challenges facing the Century Sewer System, including elevated metal levels in the sludge. It is suspected that groundwater is infiltrating the system, although the exact source has not been identified. With a customer base of approximately 55 connections, the Century Volga Public Service District has limited revenue, making it impossible for customers to absorb the significant rate increase associated with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's suggested \$5 million project.

Ms. Edge explained that the sludge currently cannot be accepted at facilities due to the elevated metal content. As an alternative, the Century Volga Public Service District is proposing a maintenance plan that would involve pumping the tank more frequently to prevent metal concentrations from increasing. To implement this plan, the tank must first be completely pumped and then reestablished with acceptable sludge. The estimated cost of this initial effort is between \$10,000 and \$20,000, depending on the number of loads required to empty the tank.

Following discussion, David Strait made a motion to approve funding of up to \$20,000 from the Coal Reallocation Fund to assist the Century Volga Public Service District with its sewer system issues. The motion was seconded by Jedd Schola. 3/0

A discussion was held regarding the Land and Water Conservation Fund project for drainage improvements at the lower ball field. The Commission requested that an in-house cost analysis be prepared and presented for comparison with the bid received to determine whether completing the project using county personnel and equipment would be more cost-effective. It was noted that any work performed in-house would not be eligible for reimbursement under the grant. No action was taken.

A discussion was held regarding insulation at the event buildings. During a previous special meeting, approval was given for 3-inch insulation from Builder Center for the walls and 6-inch insulation from Lifetite for the ceiling. Following further review, it was determined that 6-inch insulation would be better suited for the walls, and adequate space is available for installation.

Upon motion by Bob Richardson, seconded by David Strait, the quote from Builder Center for the 3-inch insulation was rescinded, and the quote from Lifetite for all insulation materials was approved. 3/0

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

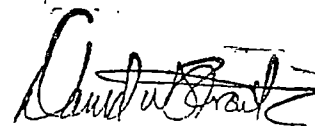
Commissioner Richardson thanked all those involved with the July 4th celebration planning.

Commissioner Strait reminded the Valley Link Open House is scheduled for July 15th from 4pm-7pm at the Philippi Middle School.

A community organized meeting to discuss the Valley Link project is being held on July 7 from 6pm-8pm at the Belington Fire Department.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2026 beginning at 9:00am.

On a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm. 3/0



Barbour County
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk
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COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
Book 29 @ Page 143
Pages Recorded 2