

Barbour County Commission Meeting

AUGUST 10, 2026

5:00pm

DAVID STRAIT COMMISSION PRESIDENT, JEDD SCHOLA COMMISSIONER, BOB RICHARDSON COMMISSIONER, PAMELA SPENCER, COUNTY CLERK, SHANA FREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Rhett Dusenbury, Kim Lewis, Wendy Madden, Brett Carpenter, Derick Spencer, Corey Brandon, Drew Phillips, Dylan Harper, Aaron Bostel

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

Following the recent flood events in Barbour County, Commissioner Schola recognized and expressed appreciation to the many individuals, agencies, organizations, volunteers, and community members who assisted with response and recovery efforts including Corey Brandon, Dylan Harper, Philippi, Belington and Junior Volunteer Fire Departments, Barbour County Ambulance Authority, Barbour County Health Department, Arden Community Center, Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church, Barbour County DOH, Barbour County Sheriff's Department, Dave & Melinda Strait, 911 Dispatch, Barbour Community Health, Broadus Hospital, Arch Coal, Allegheny-Met, all the residents of Arden, Boulder and Buckhannon River areas. Commissioner Strait also added Pastor Roger Fleming from the Galloway Area. Corey Brandon added Here & There Transit and Barbour County Board of Education and all the many people behind the scenes. Rhett Dusenbury also added Governor Morrissey and the WV National Guard.

Bob Richardson made a motion to approve minutes as presented from regular meeting July 17, special meetings on July 14, 24, and Emergency meetings on July 18, July 23, and August 7, 2026 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

LORI ANN THOMPSON, JAMES WENDELL RECTOR, ROBERT P GEHRMANN, LINDA KAY TENNEY, DAVID LEE TENNEY, VIRGIE OLIVE WILLIAMS, ROGER LYNN CHILDERS, WILBERT DALE PHILLIPS

County Clerk Laurie Austin's resignation was accepted in an Emergency Meeting on August 7, 2026. During the same meeting, Pamela Spencer was appointed as Interim County Clerk.

Sheriff Carpenter submitted a consent to hire of Chris Wilson for Courthouse Security. David Strait made a motion to approve; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

A discussion was held regarding WV Code 7-14-7a concerning vacation leave for Deputy Sheriffs. A recent revision to the statute provides the County Commission discretion to approve a vacation leave carryover of between a minimum 45 days and maximum 60 days. This item was tabled for further review.

Wendy Madden provided an update on Measles in Barbour County. There is currently 1 active case. Contact tracing has been conducted and established an exposure period through August 15 with the help of Randolph County Health Department. Approximately 80 individuals have been vaccinated. Individuals are encouraged to be vaccinated and if unvaccinated refrain from being in large crowds of people.

The Health Department provided vaccinations of Hep A, Hep B and Tetanus to anyone affected by flood waters with the assistance of Barbour Community Health.

She also requested assistance from county maintenance to remove landscaping. Commission requested her to provide a scope of the project to consider approval.

The Health Department will be at the fair for Education Day and Senior day.

Corey Brandon provided an update on the recent flood events. Damage assessments have been conducted, and the County is awaiting notification regarding any state or federal disaster declarations.

A discussion was held regarding emergency operations communications and the use of Starlink to address existing communication deficiencies. The purchase of three mobile business units was proposed, with one unit to be maintained in reserve for emergency deployment and kept in standby mode until needed. David Strait made a motion to approve the purchase of the Starlink package for OEM/911 and Emergency Services, including three units, installation by Fubar, and necessary hardware, in the amount of \$2,901.96, to be paid from EMPG funds. Jedd Schola seconded the motion.

A discussion was held regarding the need for truck bed enclosures and the benefits they would provide for the OEM and 911 vehicles, including protection and secure storage of equipment. Jedd Schola made a motion to approve the purchase of two truck bed enclosures for the OEM and 911 vehicles in the amount of \$13,983.94, to be paid from EMPG funds; Bob Richardson seconded the motion.

David Strait approved the OEM/911 CD renewal in the amount of \$33,647.15 for 26-weeks at 3.44% APR; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Dylan Harper also mentioned the Fairgrounds Security Camera project will go out to bid in the next week.

Aaron Bostel reported the new ambulance is scheduled for inspection and will be in operation soon.

Commissioner Strait and Richardson attended the Valley Link community meeting in Junior. No significant new information regarding the project was presented at the meeting.

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2026, beginning at 9:00am.

Barbour County
Pamela S. Spencer, Clerk
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COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
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