Barbour County Commission Meeting
September 21, 2026
5:00pm

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

Kim Lewis, Rhett Dusenbury, Wendy Madden, Dave Rowan, Leana Crouse, Steve Price, Tracey Knotts, Bethany Lach, LeAnn Cleavenger, Kara Curtis, Arin, Mallory, Emma, Eli, Kelly A. Benner, Bob Wilkins, Drew Phillips, Dylan Harper, 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; 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

EDWIN LEE THORNE, GARY DELBERT MCCAULEY, ALICIA GUERRA MARTIN, OWEN CARMIN MARTIN JR., LARRY ALAN PHILLIPS, MICHAEL JOSEPH PHILLIPS, KATHRYN G. GRUBE, VIOLET C. DALTON, GLADYS L. STEERMAN, DANA ALLEN STEMPLE, DONNA MAY DAVIS, MARTIN H. ROGERS, RICHARD EARL MARTENY

Invoices were presented.

The National 4-H Proclamation was read and adopted, declaring October 4–10 as National 4-H Week.

The Barbour County Livestock Association provided a presentation on completed projects, projects of interest, and upcoming plans and grant opportunities. The Association will prepare estimates for installing a ceiling in the show barn and adding concrete between the barns and present the proposals to the Commission at a later date. The Association thanked the Commission for its continued support and efforts to improve the facilities, making them more accommodating for livestock activities while also creating opportunities for a wider variety of events.

Aaron Bostel provided an update on the Ambulance Authority, including staffing, training, fleet operations, grants, and financial matters. An EMT class is scheduled for October, with four drivers currently signed up. The fleet is currently operating at 100% capacity. A grant application has been submitted to the Tucker Community Foundation for equipment.

Bostel reported that financial deficiencies were discussed during the last Ambulance Authority Board meeting, including accounts payable and increased payroll expenses related to event shifts and holidays. Billing revenue remains unpredictable and dependent upon the volume and type of emergency calls. The Ambulance Authority Board expressed support for seeking financial assistance from the County Commission to address the gap. It was discussed to also schedule a work session with the Ambulance Authority Board and County Commission to review billing, expenses, call volume, and other financial information.

David Strait proposed reallocating Coal Severance funds previously reserved for the splash pad project to the Ambulance Authority and consider dedicating Coal Reallocation funds to fairground projects in their place. He further proposed adding an additional $25,000.00 from Coal Severance funds, for a total allocation of $100,000.00, to help address the current funding gap. He also suggested having a month-to-month gap analysis for further review.

David Strait made a motion to allocate $100,000.00 from Coal Severance to the Barbour County Ambulance Authority for operations; Bob Richardson seconded. 3/0

Kelly Benner explained services provided at Barbour / Taylor County Adult Education and presented an MOU for consideration. On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola, the MOU was approved and signed. 3/0

Dave Rowan talked about the Annie's Smiles program, active fundraisers and their mission. On a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Bob Richardson a $500.00 contribution to the "Annie's Christmas Wishes" initiative was approved. 3/0

Wendy Madden discussed the upcoming Wild, Wonderful & Healthy WV event on October 15. She also reported that Chelsea Reed was hired as the new public health nurse.

Upon request from Prosecutor Drew Phillips, the Commission entered into executive session at 6:50pm to receive a legal update regarding the Health Department on a motion by David Strait and seconded by Jedd Schola. 3/0

David Strait made a motion to resume Regular Session at 7:30pm; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Drew Phillips requested to table his budget revision request at this time.

The Barbour County Fairgrounds internet service was discussed and tabled pending additional information. The proposed Quonset Hut painting and installation of event building gutters were not pursued at this time.

David Strait made a motion to approve the submission of a grant application to the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority for a masonry repointing and cleaning project; Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

Sealed bids were opened for the Barbour County Fairgrounds Security Camera System Installation project. The bids were reviewed against the project scope upon opening. Cardinal Cabling submitted a bid of $97,000.00. Noltech submitted a bid of $410,000.00, with an additional $2,500.00 for alternate one, to include an additional camera. Following discussion, David Strait made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Cardinal Cabling. Jedd Schola seconded the motion. 3/0

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

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2026 at 9:00am.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Bob Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm. 3/0

Barbour County
Pamela S. Spencer, Clerk
Instrument 290146
10/23/2026 @ 03:49:01 PM
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
Book 29 @ Page 178
Pages Recorded 2