

AT A COUNTY COMMISSION HELD FOR PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AT THE COURTHOUSE, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: CARL HEVENER, ROGER DAHMER AND JIMMIE BENNETT

OTHERS PRESENT: ELISE WHITE, COUNTY CLERK; KAREN PITSENBARGER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; RICK GILLESPIE, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR; APRIL MALLOW, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY; DIANA MITCHELL, 911 DIRECTOR; STEPHEN SMOOT, THE PENDLETON TIMES; SHERRY MONGOLD, SRRDA DIRECTOR; MIKE CRITES, WILLIAM OURS, & GREG GREENWALT, HARDY COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING; DOUG PIXLER; SUZANNE PARK; ANNIE HUMES; JENNIFER TAYLOR-IDE; DR. SEEGAR; BOB HORAN, MAYOR OF FRANKLIN; MICHELLE CONNOR; DANITA ALT; ROY BOWERS; DIANA SMITH; JOHNNY COOK; JOE CALTRIDER; MARIA MILLER; CLINTON BOWERS; KRYSTLE NAYLOR; MIKE ALT

Commissioner Dahmer led those present in prayer. Commissioner Hevener called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the March 4, 2025 meeting, on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, were unanimously approved.

The Commission heard from Attorney Danita Alt, counsel for Roy Bowers and Diana Bowers Smith and Attorney Joe Caltrider, counsel for Maria Bowers Miller and Clinton Bowers regarding controversy over the appraisal filed in the Clinton Ann Bowers Estate. Fiduciary Commissioner M. Zelene Harman was unable to attend, but submitted a written statement and recommendations to the Commission.

After reviewing all documents, Commissioner Dahmer motioned to accept the recommendation of the Fiduciary Commissioner for the parties to proceed to the Circuit Court for resolution. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion, with Commissioner Hevener confirming agreement. Attorney Alt and Attorney Caltrider accepted the decision of the Commission.

Greg Greenwalt, William Ours and Mike Crites, representing the Hardy County Committee on Aging, discussed with the Commission the lack of a dialysis center serving the area. The previous center was moved to Keyser, WV. They are in talks with a potential company that would come in and set up a dialysis center that would serve the local and surrounding areas. They were requesting contributions towards the first year of rent and possible remodeling to help encourage the company to move to the area. Hardy County has already committed funds along with a letter of support. They will also be talking with the Grant County Commission and the Town of Moorefield and Petersburg.

The Commission tabled any decisions until the next meeting to obtain additional information.

Bob Horan, Mayor of Franklin, asked the Commission to form a committee, of which the Town would be willing to be a part of, to discuss the Mon Forest grant for the WVU Land Use Law Clinic to help develop a comprehensive plan for the County.

Michelle Connor, the Town's Mon Forest representative, added that the comprehensive plan could help attract resources to the County and has nothing to do with the wind turbine issue. Jennifer Taylor-Ide reaffirmed the interest in the relationship of the Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County and a comprehensive plan, not just because of the wind turbines, but also due to the potential of the plan of being able to promote the County's resources.

The Commission agreed to invite the Town to the meeting when it is scheduled.

Maintenance: Mon Power was installing the street light across from the Courthouse during the meeting. This will provide some much-needed lighting at night.

Rick Gillespie, Emergency Management Coordinator, mentioned that part of the 911 Next Gen equipment had been delivered.

He also stated that he and Commissioner Hevener had met with representatives regarding the National Radio Quiet Zone last week and felt optimistic that they were heading in the right direction.

Mr. Gillespie announced that the Elk Mountain traffic camera was now in service and has been added to the County's traffic camera website page.

Sherry Mongold, Director of the Seneca Rocks Regional Development Authority, stated the Authority had been approved by the West Virginia EDA for their LED grant in the amount of \$83,000. The County Commission had previously approved a \$41,500 match.

Karen Pitsenbarger, County Administrator, reported that they are reviewing the contract with Lantz and expect to sign by the end of the week.

Commissioner Dahmer read a response from Clearway Energy regarding the Commission's request for information on Liberty Gap Wind Force plans. They stated there are many unknowns at this time and are working with federal agencies to understand some of the impacts of current changes in the government. They will share information when they receive it and are willing to discuss the project with the Commission and the residents of the County if the project moves forward.

Mike Alt reported that there is some movement in the State Legislature to obtain monies for the EMS Salary Enhancement fund.

Commissioner Hevener has met with EMS personnel and others to discuss the lack of funding from Charleston. He stated that the County could help now, but would need to look at alternative funding for the future as the County could not feasibly provide these funds long-term.

Commissioner Dahmer made a motion, vote unanimous, to appropriate funds to cover the EMS Salary Enhancement monies the State had promised to fund, with the stipulation that if funds are received, they would be used to reimburse the County.

The Commission reviewed the budget for fiscal year 2026 for General County and Coal Severance. On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the budget was approved.

They reviewed the 911 budget for fiscal year 2026 and on motion of Commissioner Bennett, vote unanimous, the budget was approved.

The Commission reviewed the employee timesheets for the month of February.

On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission agreed to support the Music in Our Schools Program.

There were no fiduciary settlements or exonerations.

The following appointments of administrators, executors, etc., done by the County Clerk in vacation of the Commission were approved on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous.

United States of America

State of West Virginia



County of Pendleton, ss:

Clerk's Fiduciary Report

Estate from Monday, March 3, 2025, through Monday, March 17, 2025

The County Commission of Pendleton County this day proceeded to examine the report of the Clerk of the Commission of the Fiduciary and Probate matters had before her during the vacation of the Commission, and it appearing to the Commission that all of the proceedings had therefore ordered that the said report and matters thereto contained be and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed. Said report is in words and figures as follows, to -wit:

On, Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the following matters were disposed of in the presence of the Clerk:

More than 31 days since the date of death or the surviving spouse or heir, upon a motion, **VIVIAN L. RAINES** was appointed and qualified as ADMINISTRATRIX of the estate of **JERRY LACY RAINES**, deceased. Bond was 500.00.

On, Wednesday, March 12, 2025, the following matters were disposed of in the presence of the Clerk:

The last will and testament of **HAZEL L. SIMMONS**, deceased, was proved by the affidavit of the attesting witnesses and the same was admitted to probate and record.

DAVID PERRY SIMMONS, who was named in the last will and testament of **HAZEL L. SIMMONS**, deceased, as EXECUTOR thereof, qualified as such. No bond was required.

On, Thursday, March 13, 2025, the following matters were disposed of in the presence of the Clerk:

The last will and testament of **NELSON EDWIN THOMPSON**, deceased, was proved by the affidavit of the attesting witnesses and the same was admitted to probate and record.

PEGGY ELIZABETH THOMPSON, who was named in the last will and testament of **NELSON EDWIN THOMPSON**, deceased, as EXECUTRIX thereof, qualified as such. No bond was required.

The last will and testament of **LOLA GRAHAM**, deceased, was proved by the affidavit of the attesting witnesses and the same was admitted to probate and record.

JUDITH GRAHAM, who was named in the last will and testament of **LOLA GRAHAM**, deceased, as EXECUTRIX thereof, qualified as such. No bond was required.

On, Monday, March 17, 2025, the following matters were disposed of in the presence of the Clerk:

The last will and testament of **DEYERLE CONRAD REXRODE**, deceased, was proved by the affidavit of the attesting witnesses and the same was admitted to probate and record.

TAMARA LYNN PUFFENBERGER, who was named in the last will and testament of **DEYERLE CONRAD REXRODE**, deceased, as EXECUTRIX thereof, qualified as such. No bond was required.

Elise M. White

Monday, March 17, 2025

Elise M. White
Clerk of the Pendleton County Commission

Confirmed

ORDERED THAT THE FOLLOWING ALLOWANCES BE MADE PAYABLE OUT OF:

GENERAL COUNTY FUND:	Check Nos. 35609 – 35644	\$65,473.64
COAL SEVERANCE FUND:	Check Nos. 200287 – 200289	\$253.81
911 FUND:	Check Nos. 4408 – 4417	\$3,767.48
HOME CONFINEMENT FUND:	Check No. 356	\$126.00
PARKS & RECREATION FUND:	Check Nos. 1523 – 1526	\$94.05
CLINTON HEDRICK CB FUND:	Check No. 1180	\$64.61
PENDLETON CO COMM BLDG FUND:	Check Nos. 1269 - 1271	\$1,928.04

ORDERED THAT COMMISSION DO ADJOURN ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BENNETT,
VOTE UNANIMOUS, UNTIL TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025.

President