

AT A COUNTY COMMISSION HELD FOR PENDLETON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, AT THE COURTHOUSE, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: CARL HEVENER, PRESIDENT, ROGER DAHMER, JIMMIE BENNETT

OTHERS PRESENT: ELISE WHITE, COUNTY CLERK; KAREN PITSENBARGER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; RICHARD GILLESPIE, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR; STEPHEN SMOOT, THE PENDLETON TIMES; LOIS CARR, POTOMAC VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT; MIKE WEAVER, PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Dahmer led those present in prayer. The Commission President invited all attending to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hevener called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 15, 2026 meeting, on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Hevener thanked all who organized and participated in the Ribbon Cutting presentation for the new annex.

Lois Carr, Potomac Valley Conservation District (PVCD) Supervisor, asked the Commission to adopt a resolution opposing transmission lines, solar farms, and data centers in the County. She expressed concern about the impact on farm lands and on water usage. She stated that the West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts had adopted this resolution.

Commissioner Hevener stated concerns about how the resolution may affect or cause possible problems in the future with electric usage. He also stated that he would fight these types of construction but is not comfortable signing a resolution against all of them at this time.

Commissioner Dahmer stated that none of them want to do anything to hurt the agriculture in this County, but do have concerns about this resolution.

Mrs. Carr also informed the Commission that due to the recent changes made by the WV Conservation District, the 713U agreement with PVCD will need to be voided. On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission approved to void this agreement. She also stated that because of these changes, the \$10,000 O&M funds the Commission provides annually, will be used towards agriculture enhancement and education solely in Pendleton County. On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission agreed to reallocate these funds.

Rick Gillespie, Emergency Services Coordinator, mentioned that Diana Mitchell, 911 Director, had inquired if they may need to hire another dispatcher as one of the part-time dispatchers is nearing the maximum number of hours they can work this year and they also have one full-time dispatcher who is currently on military leave. He indicated that there are not sufficient funds to hire an additional person.

Mr. Gillespie updated the Commission on the ongoing work at the General Services Center. One section of the roof is currently being replaced and some water damage had been discovered.

He also mentioned that the 2023 EMPG grant funds have been released and they hope to release the 2024 funds shortly. He inquired if those funds had been built into the OEM budget.

The OEM items in the storage sheds at the Community Building will need to be moved soon. He wondered if there would be space in the storage shed located at the High Street parking lot.

Additionally, Mr. Gillespie said that he had written a grant a few years ago through Homeland Security for license plate reader cameras to assist law enforcement in catching fugitives. He recently learned

that the \$49,000 grant had been awarded to the County. A decision will need to be made as to whether to accept the grant or not.

Elise White, County Clerk, informed the Commission about House Bill 4865 that allowed for juniors and seniors to be student election official trainees and be able to be appointed as an election official. The student must be of good standing and attending a public or private secondary educational institute or be home schooled, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, have written approval from a parent or legal guardian, and have written approval from the principal of the school if the appointment required the student to work on a day that school is in session. The Commission would need to establish a program that would allow the County to participate under this bill. On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the program was established.

The Commission reviewed an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of Real Estate and an Order Authorizing Conveyance of County Real Property to a Volunteer Fire Department. These documents would allow for the sale of the Pendleton County Community Building (PCCB) to the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. On motion of Commissioner Bennett, vote unanimous, and contingent upon adding a statement that the Rescue Squad has guaranteed housing at PCCB, the documents were approved.

On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission signed a Deed conveying the Pendleton County Courthouse back to the Pendleton County Commission from the Pendleton County Building Commission, as the Annex Project is complete.

On motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous, the Commission entered into Executive Session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss the Planning Commission. At 10:27 a.m. and on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, the Commission adjourned the Executive Session. No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Commission reviewed and approved the FY2026 Financial Statements for the County on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, vote unanimous.

The probation of the Last Will and Testament of **Donnie F. Vandevander, Sr., deceased;** proved by affidavits of attesting witnesses; The appointment of Donnie F. Vandevander, Jr. as Administrator CTA of the **Estate of Donnie F. Vandevander, Sr., deceased;** Bond was set at \$15,000.00. No surety was required.

The following settlements of accounts were this day presented to the Commission on motion of Commissioner Dahmer, unanimously approved and ordered recorded and filed:

Nicholas R. Eye, Executor of the **Estate of Betty Ruth Eye, deceased;** Report of Receipts, Disbursements and Distribution

Max Baer Miller, Jr., Administrator of the **Estate of Marla Zelene Harman, deceased;** Waiver of Final Settlement

Gena Marie Harper, Administratrix of the **Estate of Merlin Philip Harper, deceased;** Waiver of Final Settlement

Lucy Wimer, Executrix of the **Estate of Christopher Lee Wimer, deceased;** Affidavit and Waiver of Final Settlement

There were no exonerations.

ORDERED THAT THE FOLLOWING ALLOWANCES BE MADE PAYABLE OUT OF:

GENERAL COUNTY FUND:	Check Nos. 37067 – 37104	\$157,616.94
COAL SEVERANCE FUND:	Check Nos. 200369 - 200371	\$705.43
DOG FUND:	Check No. 481	\$86.40
JUSTICE FINES FUND:	Check No. 88	\$10,120.00
MAGISTRATE COURT FUND:	Check No. 300260	\$24.00
911 FUND:	Check Nos. 4711 - 4721	\$93,251.31
PARKS & RECREATION FUND:	Check Nos. 1694 - 1699	\$1,512.28
CLINTON HEDRICK CB FUND:	Check No. 1216	\$80.00
PENDLETON CO COMM BLDG FUND:	Check Nos. 1313 - 1316	\$1,503.71
PENDLETON CO BLDG COMM FUND:	Check No. 1081	\$8,345.00

ORDERED THAT COMMISSION DO ADJOURN ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BENNETT,
VOTE UNANIMOUS, UNTIL TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026.

President