

## Barbour County Commission Meeting

February 1, 2021

5:00 pm

SUSIE CVECHKO COMMISSION PRESIDENT, JAMIE CARPENTER COMMISSIONER, DAVID STRAIT COMMISSIONER, CONNIE KAUFMAN COUNTY CLERK, SHANA FREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

James Sandy, James Poling, Brett Carpenter, Derick Spencer, Kim Lewis, Cory Cox, Matt Lambert, Jessie Wilmer, Wesley Gray, Corey Brandon

Susie Cvechko called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to COVID-19 circumstances, the commission meeting was held via conference call.

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by David Strait, the January 15, 2021 meeting minutes were approved. 3/0

Exonerations were presented.

On a motion by David Strait and seconded by Jamie Carpenter, five (5) final settlements were approved. 3/0

STEVEN DEAN WEGMAN, DONALD LEE ZIRKLE, EDWARD JOSEPH SERBACK, MACEL LOUISE HARRIS, ROBERT PATRICK COLE

Tammy Narog submitted the Barbour / Taylor Community Corrections grant budget totaling \$326,584.00 for FY 21-22 and requested \$55,200.00 in local match from each county. This is an increase of \$5,200.00. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Susie Cvechko this request was approved. 3/0

Commissioner Cvechko read the proposed Declaration of Oath and Reaffirmation of the People's Bill of Rights and Constitutions of West Virginia and the United States. On a motion by David Strait and seconded by Jamie Carpenter. The resolution passed unanimously. All commissioners are in support of the seconded amendment and fully support the Constitution. 3/0

A resolution opposing any and all efforts by the WV Legislature to adopt policies and laws that alter the calculations of the ad valorem tax assessments that would reduce county budgets was adopted on a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by David Strait and passed unanimously. This resolution is a matter of supporting Barbour County, our schools, our emergency services, our seniors and our families. The resolution will be forwarded to the County Commission Association. 3/0

A discussion was held regarding a lease agreement with Shentel to install beam fixed wireless equipment on the tower located at 185 Antenna Drive. It is anticipated to provide internet service to approximately 499 underserved homes. On a motion by David Strait and seconded by Jamie Carpenter, this agreement was approved. The commission has a continued effort to improve connectivity issues within the county and feel this is a step in the right direction. 3/0

February 1, 2021

Page 2

Discussion was held on Sheriff's Department Cruisers. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by David Strait, the purchase of a 2021 Dodge Truck from Elkins Dodge in the amount of approximately \$31,600.00 and equipment installation at approximately \$6,500.00 was approved. This purchase will be from the County Commission Capital Projects fund. 3/0

Sheriff Carpenter gave a report on the Civil Service testing. Two of nine applicants showed up and no one passed the physical fitness test.

Sheriff Carpenter requested to appoint James Sandy as the Barbour County Humane Officer. Discussion was held regarding policy and procedures. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by David Strait this was approved. 3/0

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Susie Cvechko, it was approved to pursue applying for a grant for Law Enforcement Ballistic Vests. 3/0

James Sandy provided the animal control report. Discussion was held regarding the animal chip reader. On a motion by David Strait and seconded by Jamie Carpenter, the DataMars OmniMax was approved in the amount of \$325.00. 3/0

Derick Spencer presented a consent to hire for Chasity McBee as a fulltime Front Counter Clerk and Mapping Assistant and Phil Ferguson as a parttime-as needed Field Assistant. He also noted a change of titles for Rebecca Shumway- Deputy Assessor and Heather Plum- Field Data Collector.

A discussion was also held regarding Chasity McBee assisting with Elections in 2022. This will be revisited in January 2022 to evaluate need and availability.

Deep Freeze Meats submitted a request to install a sign on the Fairgrounds property along Rt. 250. It was determined that privately owned businesses could not place advertisement on county property.

Corey Brandon reviewed the Community Vaccination plan. If someone is interested in volunteering at one of these events, they can contact the OEM office at 304-457-5686 or the Barbour County Health Department.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Fire Department representatives requested a meeting with the Commission at a later date to discuss concerns and procedures.

Cory Cox reported that dispatch had 1,332 calls for services in January and noted that there was an increase in severity of calls in January.

OEM reported 48 active COVID-19 cases as of meeting time.

A discussion was held regarding GIS projects that are pending with Region VII Planning and Development Council.

February 1, 2021

Page 3

Discussion was held on the Rainy Day CDs that are up for renewal. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by Susie Cvechko, the Rainy Day CDs will be moved from Premier Bank to BC Bank for a 12-month term at a rate of 0.30%. The CDs are in the amount of \$436,175.16 and 108,182.17. Eight banks were contacted for current rates. 3/0

A discussion was held regarding Animal Friends. They are requesting consideration to increase their contributions by \$1,000. They are currently allocated \$500 / month and paid quarterly. It was recommended that they submit a Grants Funds Application and will be discussed at a later date.

Tree trimming services was tabled until the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Shana Frey requested an approval to submit a 6-month time extension request for the 17<sup>th</sup> Cycle Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority grant. On a motion by Susie Cvechko and seconded by Jamie Carpenter, this was approved.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm on a motion by Susie Cvechko and seconded by Jamie Carpenter.

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Susie Cvechko, President

Barbour County  
Cornie L. Kaufman, Clerk  
Instrument 261831  
02/19/2021 @ 11:07:45 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
Book 28 @ Page 175  
Pages Recorded 3



## RESOLUTION

*In a matter of supporting Barbour County, Our Schools, Our Emergency Services, Our Seniors  
and Our Families*

At a regular session of the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia, held at the Courthouse thereof on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021, the following resolution was made and entered:

## BE IT RESOLVED:

- I. The citizens of Barbour County are hardworking and resilient individuals who are productive members of society and deserve nothing but the absolute best operating government imaginable;
- II. Barbour County takes pride in providing the services its citizens have earned and deserve;
- III. Barbour County citizens rely heavily on the responsiveness and effectiveness of their local government and local government agencies to provide the services they need;
- IV. Barbour County, West Virginia, the United States and the world have faced unprecedented struggles as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped society;
- V. Citizens have earned the right for stability and predictability in how their communities are managed;
- VI. Counties and all government entities face great difficulty predicting budgets during unprecedented economic times like those we face now;
- VII. The citizens of Barbour County deserve safe communities, strong schools and reliable emergency services;
- VIII. Any statewide changes to ad valorem tax assessments must be carefully studied and managed;
- IX. Reduction in funding to counties for schools, emergency services, law enforcement, seniors and other important services would cripple local economies, harm our families and bring about devastating consequences;
- X. Further, adopting statewide ad valorem tax assessment policies that change predictability and reduce county services at any point is harmful; however, particularly during a global pandemic such changes would add unnecessary burdens on local communities across West Virginia at a time when workers have been displaced and our citizens are relying upon county services more than ever;
- XI. Senate bill 655 from the 2019 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature would have caused dramatic harm to counties and greatly hampered the ability to provide services that the citizens of Barbour County deserve and need;
- XII. We oppose any and all efforts by the West Virginia Legislature to adopt policies and laws that alter the calculations of the ad valorem tax assessments in a manner that reduces county budgets and the ability to serve our citizens;
- XIII. We further oppose any efforts, be it through rulemaking, regular legislation, or any other means, to resurrect the language of Senate Bill 655 from the 2019 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature; and,

XIV. We continue to support the citizens of Barbour County and will work hard every day to ensure their safety and harmony.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution having been moved by Jamie Carpenter and seconded by David Strait

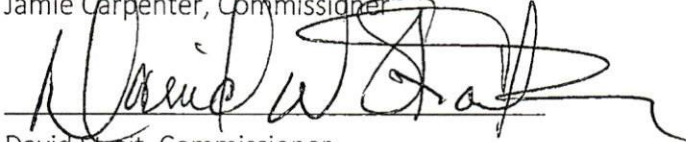
Whereby, Susie Cvechko, President declared said Resolution duly adopted and it is, therefore, ADJUDGED and ORDERED, that said Resolution be and the same is hereby adopted.



Susie Cvechko, President



Jamie Carpenter, Commissioner



David Strait, Commissioner

2-1-2021

Date

Barbour County  
Connie L. Kaufman, Clerk  
Instrument 261832  
02/19/2021 @ 11:07:46 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
Book 28 @ Page 176  
Pages Recorded 2

# Declaration of Oath and Reaffirmation of the People's Bill of Rights and Constitutions of West Virginia and the United States

**WHEREAS** Article III, Section 22 of the Constitution of West Virginia provides, "A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, and for lawful hunting and recreational use.", and

**WHEREAS** the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.", and

**WHEREAS** the right to bear arms is a natural and constitutional right pledged by all officials in West Virginia by their oath making a sanctuary unnecessary, and

**WHEREAS** the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia recognizes that federal and state laws are presumed constitutional until finally declared otherwise by a court of appropriate jurisdiction; and,

**WHEREAS** the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia in our support for our people's natural and constitutional rights chose to do so under our Oath to the West Virginia and United States Constitution and intend no way to denigrate or disrespect any prior action on this matter by others, and

**WHEREAS** the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia is concerned for the rights of the people to keep and bear arms and all the people's rights we have sworn to uphold.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia through our oath declare that we will preserve, protect and defend the United States Constitution and the West Virginia Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and that we will oppose all unconstitutional infringements upon all individual rights as therein required. We reaffirm the people's natural rights and our responsibility to protect them.

Be It Further Resolved, which the undersigned Clerk of the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia, hereby certifies that the resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on February 1, 2021 by the County Commission of Barbour County, West Virginia, with the following votes:

Commissioner Susie Cvechko, President

Commissioner Jamie Carpenter

Commissioner David Strait

Yes	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Susie Cvechko, Commission President

ATTEST:   
Connie Kaufman, County Clerk

Barbour County  
Connie L. Kaufman, Clerk  
Instrument 261833  
02/19/2021 @ 11:07:47 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
Book 28 @ Page 178  
Pages Recorded 1