

## Barbour County Commission Meeting

February 16, 2024

9:00am

JAMIE CARPENTER COMMISSION PRESIDENT, DAVID STRAIT COMMISSIONER, JEDD SCHOLA COMMISSIONER, LAURIE AUSTIN COUNTY CLERK, SHANA FREY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Kim Lewis, Angie Pase, Daniel Cooper, Tim Wotring, Bob Richardson, Dylan Harper, Dylan Oliveto, Raymond Alth, Samantha Marshall, Mary Ellen Sparks, Carol Delcol, Brett Carpenter, Jennifer Burner, Bill Harris, Kelsey J. Gross, Judy Buckner Larry, Elaine Benson, Jody Carpenter, Corey Brandon, Derek Hart

Jamie Carpenter called the meeting to order at 9:05am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola the February 5, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved. 3/0

Laurie Austin reported on the Geraldine Wright estate. The attorney is revising the settlement documents and will forward a copy to the County Clerk and Executrix.

Tim Wotring provided an update on the LEAD 5 Broadband Project. He explained the permitting process once he received the notice to proceed. They are 76% complete with pole inventory and permitting. Project construction is expected to begin within 60 days. Project completion will be approximately 12-16 months after the start of construction. The total project cost is \$7.1 million with a county commission match of \$351,000.00 and Prodigy match of \$373,000.00.

They are also finalizing a storage site at the Belington Industrial Park.

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait the release of match funds in the amount of \$351,000.00 was approved unanimously from the Coal Reallocation Fund and will be passed through the Barbour County Economic Development Authority. 3/0

The Prosecuting Attorney presented an in-house budget revision to reallocate salary line-item funds to purchase technological upgrades. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by Jedd Schola, this request was approved. 3/0

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, the purchase of two tablets from the Prosecuting Attorney's Investigative Account was approved. 3/0

Jennifer Burner discussed the financial status of the Barbour County Health Department. Due to the gap of grant reimbursements and various other situations, she is requesting approval to withdraw their CD from Freedom Bank. Following discussion, David Strait made a motion to allow the Barbour County Health Department to withdraw their CD from Freedom bank, Jedd Schola seconded. 3/0

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Further discussion was held regarding their Harm Reduction program. Implementation of a syringe program will allow the Health Department to be certified in harm reduction and will make them eligible for additional grant funding, including West Virginia First opioid funds. Once they gather data and are more prepared to begin the program, a letter of support will be requested from the County Commission.

Bill Harris also discussed additional programs they plan to implement.

The Sheriff's Department requested an in-house budget revision to reallocate funds from the capital outlay and insurance line items to increase Deputy Hazard Pay. On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola this request was approved. 3/0

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, a resolution to submit an application to the USDA Community Facilities grant program for one cruiser was approved. 3/0

Jody Carpenter, Barbour Extension Service, presented a five-year lease agreement with Hart Office. On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, the lease agreement was approved. 3/0

He reported the Barbour Extension Agent position became vacant at the end of 2023 and is unsure of WVU's plans to hire. To keep up with programming, he is increasing the Program Assistant hours from twenty to thirty hours per week. The additional cost will be absorbed in their current budget. He reported that he is currently serving three counties in his role.

He also submitted a request to reappoint Cecil Holbert to the Camp Barbour board. On a motion by David Strait, seconded by Jedd Schola, the reappointment was approved. 3/0

A discussion was held regarding Ambulance Service in Barbour County and conversations held with the WV State EMS Director. On a motion by Jedd Schola, seconded by Jamie Carpenter, an Ambulance Authority will be established per WV Code 7-5-4. Documentation will be prepared by legal counsel and presented at an upcoming meeting. 3/0

Belington EMS requested an addendum to the MOU and Management agreement to exempt their remodeling expenses. An addendum will be presented for review.

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by David Strait, a subsidy of \$10,000 from General Funds was approved to Barbour County EMS for the purpose of payroll. It was noted that the Commission has taken control of the accounts at Barbour County EMS through the MOU and has full access. 3/0

On a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by Jedd Schola, a budget revision was approved to move dedicated ARP funds for Barbour County Ambulance Service to the General County fund 3/0

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Judy Larry presented Philippi Public Library's 2024-25 budget consideration request of \$20,000. She discussed services, staffing, expenses and funding needs. The commission will take the information provided and take the request into consideration.

She also presented a funding request for a book return. This item will be presented on the next meeting.

David Cooper and Angela Pase presented statistics and information on the Tucker Community Foundation Run For It program. Over the last five years, eight Barbour County teams have benefitted from the Run For It program. Since 2013, an investment of \$37,500 has resulted in a return of \$399,568. Their request of \$3,500 will be taken into consideration.

Barbour OEM/911 reported on the severance of the Fiber line near Philippi Inn and its effects. At the time of the meeting, they did not have an estimated repair time.

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2024 at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am on a motion by Jamie Carpenter, seconded by Jedd Schola.  
3/0

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Jamie Carpenter, President

Barbour County  
Laurie L. Austin, Clerk  
Instrument 278396  
03/05/2024 @ 08:40:58 AM  
COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES  
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