

Berkeley County Commission Meeting
400 W. Stephen Street, Suite 205
Martinsburg, WV 25401

February 18, 2025
2:00 P.M.

Present:

G. Edgar Gochenour, President

R. Stephen Catlett, Vice President

James P. Whitacre, Commissioner

H. D. Boyd, Commissioner

John Hardy, Commissioner

Gary A. Wine, County Administrator

Aleah Tucker, Executive Assistant

Also Present: Anthony Delligatti, Legal Director; The Honorable Larry Hess, Assessor; John Streetts, Assessor's Office; Rhonda Loudan, Assessor's Office; Cody Legg, Assessor's Office; Chief Burnett, Sheriff's Office; Chief Young, Sheriff's Office; Brandy Sullivan, Sheriff's Office; Marsha Kelly, Sheriff's Office; Laura Hoffmaster, Senior Planner

Re: Call to Order

President Gochenour called the February 18, 2025, Berkeley County Commission meeting to Order at 2:01 P.M.

Re: Items from the Public

There was no public present.

Re: Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hardy motioned to approve the agenda. Vice President Catlett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Board of Review and Equalization Session #6

The Honorable Larry Hess, Assessor

Cody Legg, Assessor's Office presented a proposed change to the assessment roll for the year 2025. The proposed change was to parcel 01-11M-60, Owners David Ottey and Tamara Ottey to change to class 2 due to the property being remodeled.

Commissioner Whitacre motioned to approve the changes presented. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Honorable Larry Hess presented an update on a previously discussed property. Mr. Hess reported that he and Mr. Copenhaver have discussed and confirmed that Mr. Copenhaver's

property was put in Class 2 and Mr. Copenhaver will be exonerated for the other areas, which will be presented that the next Commission meeting.

Re: The Honorable Sheriff Rob Blair

The Honorable Sheriff Rob Blair presented the FY2025-26 budget for Law Enforcement, Tax Office, and Animal Control reviewing each line item. Sheriff Blair provided updates from the previous year as well as shared his vision for advancing the departments in the coming year.

Re: Randy Lilly, Emergency Services Director and Martin Roberts, Fire Chief

Randy Lilly, Emergency Services Director and Martin Roberts, Fire Chief presented the FY2025-26 budget for Emergency Management reviewing each line item.

Commissioner Whitacre left the meeting at 3PM

Re: Board of Review Applicant- Krutik Patel representing Menak Patel

The Honorable Larry Hess introduced Mr. Patel and explained that he would be representing three hotels on Foxcroft Avenue which are Golden Hotels LLC, Martinsburg Hotels LLC, and Martinsburg One Hotels LLC.

Anthony Delligatti, Legal Director swore Mr. Patel and John Streetts, Assessor's Office in at 3:08PM.

Mr. Patel opened with discussing Golden Hotels LLC. The property is assessed at \$11,463,900. The petitioner's dispute is that the property should be assessed at \$8,500,000, based on his own calculations. Mr. Patel stated that the only difference in his calculations compared to the Assessor's calculation is the local multiplier of 2.72, whereas Mr. Patel used 1.03. Mr. Delligatti asked clarifying questions about if the local multiplier Mr. Patel is using is the typical standard. Mr. Streetts presented the property. Mr. Streetts explained that each county must do their own multiplier studies to obtain the local modifier. Taking 16 samples into consideration, the multiplier was calculated at 2.72.

Mr. Delligatti stated that if an assessment is not being adjusted, a written order can be placed for all 3 properties. Since all three properties were only disputing the local modifier, all parties agreed to a written order.

Re: Brian Ross, Community Development Director

Brian Ross, Community Development Director presented the FY2025-26 budget for Building Inspections, Engineering, and Planning reviewing each line item.

Re: Items from the Public

There was no public present.

Re: Adjourn Sine Die

Commissioner Hardy motioned to Adjourn Sine Die at 4:00PM.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aleah Tucker". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Aleah Tucker, Executive Assistant