

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

April 24, 2025
9:30 A.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

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator

Also Present: Anthony Delligatti, Legal Director; Tracie McCormick, Procurement Coordinator; The Honorable Anthony Petrucci, County Clerk; Jeff Mauzy, Deputy Legal Director

Re: Call to Order

President Gochenour called the April 24, 2025 Berkeley County Commission Meeting to Order at 9:35 A.M.

Re: Items from the Public

John Kidwell appeared before the Commission and asked the Commission to slow the building progress down in Berkeley County as the hospitals and schools and roads maintenance could not keep up. President Gochenour stated that Berkeley County has no authority over WVU East and they have not invested in Berkeley County, but they will be in the near future. Commissioner Hardy advised Mr. Kidwell to reach out to his local Delegates and Legislators as the Commission has no oversight on the roads and legally cannot stop the growth.

John Christiansen, President of the Eastern Panhandle Labor Counsel appeared before the Commission and stated that April 28, 2025 was Worker's Memorial Day to remember those who have lost their lives and requested a moment of silence.

Re: Agenda

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to approve the Agenda for the April 24, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting. Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Consent Agenda

1. Purchase Order Log

There were no questions regarding the Purchase Order Log.

2. Internal Budget Revisions

Gary Wine, County Administrator reviewed the two (2) internal budget revisions received.

3. Changes in Status

President Gochenour stated that a new hire recommendation was received from The Honorable Sheriff Rob Blair for Lia Darling as a Tax Office Director effective May 19, 2025 with an annual salary of \$95,000.

President Gochenour stated that a new hire recommendation was received from Tim Czaja, Community Corrections Director for Lesie Musgrove as a Peer Recovery Coach effective April 28, 2025 with an annual salary of \$43,135.

President Gochenour stated that a new hire recommendation was received from Mike Laing, Chief Court Marshal for James McBee as a Deputy Marshal I effective May 16, 2025 with an annual salary of \$39,017.

President Gochenour stated that a letter of resignation was received from Mike Laing, Chief Court Marshal for Rodney Kreps, Deputy Marshal effective May 1, 2025.

4. Approval of Minutes

There were no changes to the April 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. Vice President Catlett and Commissioner Boyd abstained due to absence. The motion carried.

5. Request to Apply for FY23 WV State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Programs (SLCGP)

President Gochenour stated that this was a state and local cybersecurity grant three (3) year program for a total request of \$31,756 with no grant match.

6. Request to be Approved as a Mobile Food Vendor from Papa's Chicken and Ribs for LE Community Day

Re: Consent Agenda Approval

Commissioner Whitacre made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the April 17, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting. Vice President Catlett seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Correction of Assessment Logs, Apportionment of Assessment Logs, Deconsolidation and Consolidation of Properties Applications – Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office had nothing to present this week.

Re: Board Meeting Reports

Commissioner Boyd reported that he had no board meetings this week.

Commissioner Hardy reported that he attended the Planning Commission meeting and it was a usual business meeting.

Commissioner Whitacre reported that he attended the EPTA meeting where they presented their Tri-Annual report to the federal government. He also reported that they are moving forward with the sale of the current building as their grant match. Commissioner Whitacre reported that they received their liability renewal from WV Corp and are working on updating their social media portion of their employee handbook. Commissioner Whitacre reported that he attended the Airport Authority meeting and upgrades are underway in phases for the jet traffic and other runways. He also stated that they are in need of volunteers to assist with parking at the Independence Day celebration on June 28.

Vice President Catlett stated that he and President Gochenour had lunch with Senator Helton, from Fayette County and thought that he had some great ideas and would be great support. Vice President Catlett reported that he attended the Public Service Sewer District board meeting and reported that projects are running well. He also reported that he attended the Public Service Stormwater board meeting where the permit continued to be delayed and they continued to appeal. Vice President Catlett reported that he attended the Senior Services meeting and the board members served dinner to the volunteers after the meeting. He also reported that he would be attending the Ambulance Authority meeting tonight where it would be Brandon Truman's first meeting as Director.

President Gochenour stated that he along with the Vice President Catlett had lunch with Senator Helton from Fayette County and felt that Senator Helton would be very supportive. He also reported that he and Anthony Delligatti, Legal Director participated in a zoom call regarding House Bill 2014 and will appear on WRNR radio program tomorrow along with Vice President Catlett. President Gochenour reported that he attended the Development Authority executive session meeting.

Re: Board and Commission Vacancies

Vice President Catlett made a motion to reappoint Amy Orndoff and Margie Bartles to the Senior Services board for a full term. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gochenour stated that a letter of resignation was received from James Moffitt for the BC Civil Service Commission.

President Gochenour stated that a new application was received from David Scott Wilson for the BC Civil Service Commission and requested to have him scheduled for an interview.

Re: Honorary County Commissioner

Commissioner Hardy introduced Diesel Byrne a student from South Middle School and swore him in as Honorary County Commissioner and presented him with a certificate. Mr. Byrne stated that he recently transferred to South Middle School from Musselman Middle School and planned to play professional football.

**Re: Gary Wine, County Administrator
State Budget Revision #08 Fund 001**

Gary Wine, County Administrator reviewed State Budget Revision #08 for Fund 001.

Commissioner Whitacre made a motion to approve State Budget Revision #08 for Fund 001. Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Executive Session – County Commission Personnel and Legal Matters

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to go into executive session for County Commission Personnel and Legal Matters at 10:30 A.M. Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gochenour declared the Commission out of executive session at 11:08 A.M.

Commissioner Whitacre made a motion to terminate employment of Nathaniel Robbins effective today. Commissioner Boyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Re: Recess

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to Recess the April 24, 2025 Berkeley County Commission meeting.



Submitted by: _____

Penny Shewell, Office Administrator