

A specially called meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Friday, January 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner David H. Cannon, and Commissioner Logan Mantz were present. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and called the meeting to order. President Eglinger stated the purpose of the special meeting was to interview candidates for the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA), to consider the process for hiring a Director for Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and to consider the transfer of money from the General Fund to the HCESA fee account.

President Eglinger proposed a committee for HSEM interviews to include Sheriff Sions, Captain Jamie Carter of 911, a volunteer fire fighter and a commissioner to conduct the interviews and recommend the structure of the position, (whether it will be a full-time or part-time position). Commissioner Cannon agreed to represent the Commission. Commissioner Mantz moved to refer the HSEM Director position to the committee as stated for interviews. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission regarding the full-time/part-time structure of the position. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A request for authorization to transfer funds from the General Fund to HCESA (fee account), for payroll, was posted on the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Mantz moved to transfer \$75,000 from the General Fund to the HCESA fee fund and to revisit the matter at the next meeting to consider future needs. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz moved that the Commission include a candidate in the evening's upcoming interviews who submitted an application after the posted deadline. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on a two to one majority with President Eglinger voting against the motion.

Commissioner Cannon moved that the Commission meeting go into executive session, (including the two designated HCESA Board members), to interview the candidates for the HCESA director position and possibly choose and make an offer to the successful candidate. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon then moved to amend the motion to remove the decision and offer to a candidate. Commissioner Mantz seconded the amendment to the motion which passed.

President Eglinger declared the meeting in executive session at 6:20 pm.

President Eglinger declared the meeting back in session at 8:52 and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken.

Commissioner Mantz moved that the Commission postpone any decisions on the current hiring of the HCESA Director while awaiting guidance from the Committee which will make recommendation on the HSEM position. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon moved to appoint Courtney Turner to act as interim director of HCESA and Hope Friis to continue as interim director of HSEM. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion which then passed. President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner David H. Cannon, and Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), were present. President Eglinger called on Pastor Ken Lake to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on January 14, 2025 and the minutes of the special meeting of January 17, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on the 14th as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed. Commissioner Cannon then moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 17 as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded this motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

The first scheduled agenda item was the selection of candidates to fill the Director roles of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) as well as the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA). Sheriff Nathan Sions presented the recommendation for the HSEM interview committee and stated that the nature of HSEM activities in Hampshire County would not require a full-time position. The sub-committee felt it would be most practical to combine the roles and they recommended candidate Darron Hamrick, Jr. to manage these two agencies. Commissioner Cannon moved to make a formal offer to Mr. Hamrick to fill these dual roles at a salary of \$70,000 with a start date of Monday, February 3, 2025. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chief Tax Deputy Jacqueline Wolford sent a letter stating that Brandi Haines has resigned from the Treasurer's Office with accrued vacation time of 3.25 days. Her last day was January 24. Commissioner Cannon moved to acknowledge Ms. Haines' resignation and to approve the payment of her due time. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Assessor Lacey Haines sent a letter requesting approval of a salary increase for Tammy Corbin due to an increase in duties. Assessor Haines stressed that sufficient funds are available in the Assessor's budget to accommodate the pay increase. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the salary request and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which passed.

Assessor Lacey Haines asked the Commission to send a letter to authorize the State Tax Department to adjust mineral values for a limited period in 2025. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the State Tax Commission to make adjustments to Hampshire County's mineral values until February 15, 2025. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which then passed. The President signed the letter to the State Tax Department approving this action.

Ta-Yare Meade, Teen Court Coordinator reported on some changes in the Teen Court Program as their relationship with Eastern Regional Family Resource Network (ERFRN) has been terminated. Ms. Meade asked the Commission to sign a new administrative order naming the County Clerk as fiscal agent for the Teen Court fund. This order is then to be signed by the Circuit Court Judge. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the President to sign the order at a later time, with the advice and consent of the Commission since Ms. Meade did not have the new order at that point. President Eglinger seconded the motion, but Commissioner Mantz stated that the posted agenda item did not support this action. Commissioner Cannon rescinded his motion and no action was taken. Ms. Meade will return to a future meeting.

Director Darren Taylor of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center requested a letter of support from the Commission for the grant package that is being prepared. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the President to sign the letter of support and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Seldon, President and Lieutenant of the Capon Springs Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad presented a request for help in upgrading the emergency medical life packs on their ambulances. The squad recently upgraded their ambulance service from basic life support (BLS) to advanced life support (ALS) and the state agency of certification requires more advanced equipment than they currently have. The current life pack units on the trucks are no longer supported by the manufacturer. Cost for a new unit will range between \$43,000 and \$49,000. A used unit which is certified by the manufacturer would cost \$17,000. President Seldon stated

that the squad has identified \$7,700 in their funds which are available for this purpose. Commissioner Cannon moved that the Commission contribute \$9,300 to help the squad to obtain a state approved life pack unit. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz then moved to task the county grant writer to research available grants that might help both county volunteer and HCESA squads with equipment procurement. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion which then passed.

Jacob Kirk presented citizen concerns regarding a group of proposed wind powered electric turbines that have been proposed to be built on private land in the Cacapon Springs area. The reported proposal includes about 18 – 25 windmills that may be nearly 700 feet tall and will significantly impact the views and scenery from many homes in the area. The Commission acknowledged Mr. Kirk's concerns and Commissioner Cannon moved that the County Commission issue a directive to the Planning Commission to investigate wind ordinances in the State of West Virginia and actively investigate the Planning Commission's recourse and to look for other examples for regulating wind in our state. President Eglinger seconded the motion and Commissioner Mantz asked that the motion be expanded to include options not confined to our state and Commissioner Cannon agreed to the modification of the motion. The motion passed.

The County's Attorney, Richard Gay, suggested the Commission document a decision in regard to proceeding with the certified question process to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in order to get a declaratory judgment regarding the Romney Housing Authority in relation to the Hampshire County Ambulance Ordinance. Commissioner Mantz stated he had some questions about the Ordinance for a future time, but that he would abstain from a vote on this question out of an abundance of caution because he was unsure of the relationship between the Romney Housing Authority and the Town of Romney. Commissioner Cannon moved to continue the action to pursue the declaratory judgment since the Commission has an opinion from the Attorney General and advice from counsel. President Eglinger seconded the motion. At this point Commissioner Mantz's connection was lost, but President Eglinger decided to proceed with the vote since Mantz had already stated his abstention. President Eglinger and Commissioner Cannon voted to proceed with the Romney Housing Authority question to the Supreme Court of Appeals. The vote passed with Commissioner Cannon and President Eglinger voting to proceed and Commissioner Mantz's stated abstention.

Commissioner Cannon then brought up a point of order stating that he wished to withdraw the motion from earlier in the meeting regarding the Teen Court administrative order. The Commissioner explained that rather than to rescind the motion, he could withdraw the motion with the permission of the individual who seconded the motion since no vote was taken. President Eglinger agreed and Commissioner Cannon's earlier motion was withdrawn rather than rescinded.

Commissioner Mantz was able to reestablish communications at this point and agreed with the action on the certified question to the State Supreme Court of Appeals.

Under the topic of board appointments and resignations, President Eglinger stated that the HCESA Board has requested that James Blocker be asked to step down from the Board as he has not been able to participate. Based on the recommendation of the HCESA Board, President Eglinger moved that the Commission write a letter asking Mr. Blocker to step down from the board. Commissioner Mantz stated he preferred to hold up on this action, but Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed with President Eglinger and Commissioner Cannon voting to send the letter and Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

The accounting department of the Clerk's office recommended that the Commission approve moving \$500,000 from General Fund to the HCESA fee account to cover HCESA payroll through April, at which time fee collections can be evaluated and applied. After some discussion, Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize moving \$175,000 to allow HCESA to pay employees for the next month and to provide an opportunity for HCESA management to explain the cost-cutting measures that are being enacted. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

HCESA fee exemption requests were presented upon review and recommendation of HCESA staff. Commissioner Mantz was not able to review the documentation. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the eleven (11) exemption requests that were recommended for

approval. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Cannon and Eglinger voting for the motion and Mantz abstaining for lack of information.

Commissioner Cannon then moved to deny two (2) exemption requests, ticket numbers 14299 and 6442 (for three years), as recommended. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Cannon and Eglinger voting for the motion and Mantz abstaining for lack of information.

Grant writer Rolf Ronken requested permission to advertise for bids in regard to the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant, which will be used to begin the upgrade of the wiring in the Courthouse. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize he advertisement and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah, Omps. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Cannon moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

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President Eglinger proposed a committee for HSEM interviews to include Sheriff Sions, Captain Jamie Carter of 911, a volunteer fire fighter and a commissioner to conduct the interviews and recommend the structure of the position, (whether it will be a full-time or part-time position). Commissioner Cannon agreed to represent the Commission. Commissioner Mantz moved to refer the HSEM Director position to the committee as stated for interviews. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission regarding the full-time/part-time structure of the position. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A request for authorization to transfer funds from the General Fund to HCESA (fee account), for payroll, was posted on the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Mantz moved to transfer \$75,000 from the General Fund to the HCESA fee fund and to revisit the matter at the next meeting to consider future needs. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz moved that the Commission include a candidate in the evening's upcoming interviews who submitted an application after the posted deadline. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on a two to one majority with President Eglinger voting against the motion.

Commissioner Cannon moved that the Commission meeting go into executive session, (including the two designated HCESA Board members), to interview the candidates for the HCESA director position and possibly choose and make an offer to the successful candidate. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon then moved to amend the motion to remove the decision and offer to a candidate. Commissioner Mantz seconded the amendment to the motion which passed.

President Eglinger declared the meeting in executive session at 6:20 pm.

President Eglinger declared the meeting back in session at 8:52 and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken.

Commissioner Mantz moved that the Commission postpone any decisions on the current hiring of the HCESA Director while awaiting guidance from the Committee which will make recommendation on the HSEM position. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Cannon moved to appoint Courtney Turner to act as interim director of HCESA and Hope Friis to continue as interim director of HSEM. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion which then passed. President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A special meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse as posted on December 23, 2024. Commissioners David H. Cannon, Brian W. Eglinger and Logan Mantz were present. Commissioner Cannon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Clerk Strite was asked to offer prayer. Commissioner Cannon then called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cannon nominated Commissioner Brian Eglinger to serve as President for the year of 2025. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion closing the nominations and the motion passed.

President Eglinger then assumed the President's seat and gavel and thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to lead the Commission.

Commissioner Mantz then moved to nominate Commissioner David Cannon as president pro tempore, or Vice-President for the calendar year of 2025 and President Eglinger seconded the motion which then passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Cannon and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

The Clerk presented a suggested list of regular meeting dates for the Hampshire County Commission for 2025. The Commission reviewed the suggested list with some discussion and adjustments and agreed on a regular meeting calendar for 2025, including the Board of Equalization and Review dates and times. Commissioner Cannon moved to adopt the calendar with a single meeting in July, and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed and the approved calendar for 2025 is attached as part of these minutes.

President Eglinger asked former President Cannon for a recommendation on the distribution of the various standing committees that the Commissioners routinely participate on by attending those meetings on a monthly or quarterly basis. The Commissioners discussed the various committees and President Eglinger moved to accept Commissioner Cannon's recommendation at this time, stating that changes can be made if situations change. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Mantz had requested an agenda item regarding the use of opioid settlement funds to help support an activity bus for after school transportation. Commissioner Mantz pointed out that structured youth activities are considered a valid form of drug use prevention and he reviewed costs associated with the activity buses, then moved to transfer \$10,000 to the Board of Education (BoE) from the opioid settlement distribution fund to be earmarked for afterschool transportation. A second was not forthcoming and Commissioner Cannon stated that an alternate proposal has been in development which includes the use of these funds in conjunction with a grant to convert the soon to be surplus BoE office building for use by the South Branch Valley Day Report Center and the Sheriff's office. Hampshire County's Opioid Settlement Distribution Fund balance is \$59,619.04 as of November 30, 2024. President Eglinger stated he would at least like to have more input and information from the BoE. Commissioner Cannon moved to continue this matter to the next agenda and to invite a BoE representative to discuss a long-term solution to fund the activities bus. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Eglinger and Cannon voting for the motion and Mantz voting in opposition.

President Eglinger offered a public comment period and Ms. Beth Reese presented information regarding outdoor classrooms.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner David H. Cannon and Commissioner Logan Mantz were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Rev. Ken Lake to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meetings of December 30, 2024 and January 2, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Cannon and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Cannon read a statement regarding his appointment to serve as Delegate for the 89th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates. This appointment will begin on February 12, 2025 and he plans to continue to serve as Commissioner until midnight on February 11, 2025.

Fiduciary Commissioner Jonathan G. Brill presented recommended orders regarding two individual claims against the Estate of Kenneth Paul Darnay. Fiduciary Commissioner Brill recapitulated both Orders which were titled, Order Permitting, In Part, and Denying, In Part, the Claim of Larry Krumrine and the Order Permitting, In Part, and Denying, In Part, the Claim of Shaffer Funeral Home. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve both Orders as presented and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed, with all three Commissioners voting in the affirmative.

The topic of a written notification of the intent of the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad to exercise the option to purchase the rescue squad building in Capon Bridge for the amount of \$9,500, as stated the lease agreement dated January 10, 1978, was included on the agenda and Commissioner Cannon reported on a conversation with Mr. Robbie Roach, Secretary/Treasurer of the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad, who stated the squad is simply exercising their option under the lease and are not seeking an advantage including rent. Commissioner Mantz confirmed the same conversation and suggested the Commission consider offering a lower price in an effort to stimulate and encourage volunteerism. After further discussion, President Eglinger moved to allow the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad to exercise their option to purchase the building at the contracted price of \$9,500. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Hampshire County Board of Education President, Ed Morgan introduced Capon Bridge Middle School Principal Jackie McCartney and Hampshire High School Athletics Director Trey Stewart to speak about and request the use of Opioid Settlement fund distributions to help provide an after-school activities bus, (or busses), for school students. The point was stressed that children who are involved in extra-curricular activities such as athletics, FFA, band, Harmony, tutoring or academic competitions are far less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, thus reducing drug and alcohol consumption. Hampshire High Principal Amy Haines also spoke to these points. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve an allocation of \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Education for the purpose of insuring the activity bus availability. The motion also stated there would be feed-back to the Commission regarding progress. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Darren Taylor, Director of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center (SBVDRC), and Sheriff Nathan Sions requested an allocation of the opioid settlement funds to be used for the relocation of the SBVDRC and the Sheriff's Department from their current locations to the recently vacated former Board of Education office building on School Street. A grant to aid in a renovation of this facility is reportedly pending and alternative uses of the fund were discussed. Commissioner Cannon moved to dedicate the full balance of the opioid fund, (balance now in excess of \$59,642), to facilitate the move to the old board of education building as requested. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Eglinger and Cannon voting for the motion and Mantz voting against.

Commissioner Cannon moved to continue to pay Hampshire County's match of \$20,000 for the SBVDRC grant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed and the President signed the MOU.

President Eglinger introduced the topic of selecting the Director of Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) and the Commissioners agreed to conduct the interviews with two members of the advisory board in attendance. It was suggested that a special meeting be called and that Friday would be an agreeable time and allow time for proper notice. President Eglinger moved to call a special meeting for the purpose of interviewing candidates at 6 pm pending candidate participation and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. Commissioner Mantz pointed out that the President has the authority to call the meeting with the concurrence of one other Commissioner and the President declared the vote unnecessary.

Alison Jewell, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Farmland Protection Board, presented requests for approval of easements on the McCauley Family Farm, owned by the McCauley Family LLC. The McCauley easement will protect 330 acres of farmland and woodland from development forever. This easement will be help by the Hampshire County Farmland Protection Board and the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the easement as presented and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Cannon moved that Jacqueline Graybill be appointed to serve on the Hampshire County Development Authority for a new term. President Eglinger seconded the motion and Commissioner Mantz voiced concerns regarding procedure. The motion passed on a two to one vote with Cannon and Eglinger voting for the motion and Mantz abstaining.

The annual renewal of the MOU between the Commission and the Region VIII Solid Waste Authority with regard to use of the Woodchuck Wood Chipper was presented. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the President to sign the MOU and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Official Budget Revision #3 to the General Fund (#1), was prepared by Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer and presented for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve Official Budget Revision #3 as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Cannon moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger noted that that the Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) Director position was advertised separately and has been a part-time position. The Commission agreed to proceed with the candidate interviews and determine how the position may best be structured at a later point.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner David H. Cannon and Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Rev. Ken Lake to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Cannon and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission. This being Commissioner Cannon's last meeting as a commissioner before beginning his appointment to serve as Delegate for the 89th District in the West Virginia House of Delegates. This appointment will begin on February 12, 2025.

JT Hott, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Development Authority (HCDA) and Rebecca Hott, President of the HCDA presented an update on the progress of the Authority and requested to use \$10,000 which had been previously approved as grant match funding, but was unneeded, to apply to the Capon Bridge Community Complex as the HCDA upgrades windows, doors, signage and painting on their portion of the building. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize the \$10,000 from the General Fund and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nick Carroll, Director of Hampshire County Parks and Recreation (HCP&R), presented a plan to upgrade the Capon Bridge Community Complex in coordination with JT Hott and the HCDA. They requested that the remaining Tribal Community Funds (LATCF) be divided between the two entities as they work cooperatively to repair and improve the facility. (The LATCF program was distributed fairly early in the covid period, but did not have the same restrictions that came with the American Recovery Plan (ARP) funds.) Commissioner Cannon moved to direct \$37,500 to be specified for the HCDA and the same amount for the Parks and Rec Department to use on the Capon Bridge Community Complex in their cooperative efforts to restore the facility and improve the usefulness for the community. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which then passed.

Glenn Archer presented a \$1,500 funding request for the Fourth Annual Cacapon Riverfest to be held June 20 – 21, 2025. It was unclear if this request had been previously committed for this fiscal year, so Commissioner Mantz moved to recommit the allocation of these funds for Riverfest in this fiscal year. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Requests were received by letter for funding for the Summer Harvest Festival and the Capon Bridge Founders Day Festival from the 2026 budget. Commissioner Mantz moved to table these requests until the budget workshop to be held in March. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Barbara Fortner of Telemon Corporation rescheduled her appointment.

President Eglinger stated that a new letter has been received from the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad stating that they are no longer interested in exercising their purchase option on the rescue squad building and stated that this will be included on the next agenda.

Assessor Lacey Haines sent a letter requesting approval to move Samantha Stadtmueller from the 406 budget to the 407 budget and to fill two vacant positions in her office by hiring Quianna Beyer and Jessica Anderson. Assessor Haines' letter included their start dates and pay rates. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the Assessor's actions as requested. Commissioner Mantz objected that the individuals to be hired were not named on the agenda and stated he would abstain from the vote for this reason. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Eglinger and Cannon voting for the motion and Mantz abstaining.

Carol Shaw of the Historic Landmarks Commission requested that Dan Oates and Eileen Johnson be appointed to replace two recently retired members of the Commission, Robert Smith and Alanna McGuinn. Commissioner Cannon moved to appoint Mr. Oates and Ms. Johnson as requested. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A letter of resignation from Amanda Barnes, Compliance Officer for the Planning Office was presented and Commissioner Cannon moved to accept the letter. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Glenn Delaplain, Vice-President of the Hampshire County Planning Commission presented a cell tower permit application for an equipment upgrade by AT&T at 1341 Ben's Knob Trail. Commissioner Cannon moved to approve the permit request as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. Commissioner Cannon and President Eglinger voted to approve the permit request and Commissioner Mantz abstained for lack of information.

Project Manager Matthew Hott presented information, including estimates to replace the roofs on the Annex building and the Old Jail building which recently suffered wind damage. Commissioner Cannon moved to authorize Mr. Hott to send out Requests for Proposal (RFP) on both roofs. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss the process for filling the soon-to-be-vacated term of Commissioner Cannon, who will step into his new role of Delegate for the 89th District in the West Virginia Legislature at the conclusion of this meeting. It was agreed that Commissioners Eglinger and Mantz would send a list of vetted names to the Clerk, acting as intermediary, who would then exchange the lists for consideration. President Eglinger then called a special meeting for Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm, to allow further discussion and find out if both Commissioners could agree on one or more candidates, or if it would be necessary to refer the nomination to the Republican Executive Committee.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) Director Darron Hamrick presented the cost-cutting plan for the balance of this fiscal year as requested at the last meeting. Mr. Hamrick stated he had evaluated the existing resources and applied some different scheduling techniques leading him to believe that the agency will need \$310,000 of funding from the Commission to complete the fiscal year. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the transfer of \$310,000 from the General Fund as needed. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Cannon moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Cannon moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A specially called meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger was present and Commissioner Logan Mantz was in attendance by remote connection. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and asked Clerk Strite to offer prayer. The President then called the meeting to order.

President Eglinger stated the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the necessity of filling the unexpired term on the Commission as soon as possible and to follow the procedures and authorization as stated in WV Code §3-10-7. The President also stated that the goal of the two Commissioners is to act quickly and responsibly in fulfilling this duty.

Each Commissioner had submitted to the Clerk a list of names they had vetted and considered to be good candidates. The Clerk had already shared these lists with the two Commissioners and it was determined that one of the Candidates could be considered by both Commissioners. It was agreed that the name of this individual should be posted for public notification and President Eglinger called for a special meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 pm to allow ample notice and consideration for possible action on appointing this candidate to the unexpired term on the Hampshire County Commission.

Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting and President Eglinger seconded the motion which passed. The President adjourned the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A specially called meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger was present and Commissioner Logan Mantz was in attendance by remote connection. President Eglinger asked Clerk Strite to offer prayer, then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The President then called the meeting to order.

President Eglinger stated the purpose of the special meeting was to provide public consideration of the nomination of Brian Brill to fill the unexpired term on the Commission which was vacated by Dave Cannon who was appointed to serve as Delegate for the 89th District in the West Virginia Legislature. Mr. Brill's nomination was posted for public notice on Friday, February 14th at 8:10 am.

Mr. Brill was invited to address the public as to why he would be a good fit for the role of Commissioner at this time. Mr. Brill responded with brief comments.

Commissioner Mantz moved to nominate Brian Brill to fill the vacancy on the Commission which resulted from Commissioner Cannon's appointment to the Legislature. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Oath of Office will be administered to Mr. Brill by Judge H. Charles Carl, III later this afternoon.

Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting and President Eglinger seconded the motion which then passed. President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on February 11, 2025 and the minutes of the two special meetings of February 13, 2025 and February 19, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes of all three meetings as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

President Eglinger presented the Commissioners with committee assignments for the various boards and committees that the Commission interacts with.

There were a few minutes before the first agenda appointment and President Eglinger introduced Rhett Dusenbury who is the Area Representative for Congressman Riley Moore of the Second Congressional District.

Barbara Fortner, representative of Telamon Corporation, spoke regarding the National Farmworkers Job Program and the benefits available for training and education for any type of farmworker. Ms. Fortner encouraged referrals of people who benefit from these programs.

Peggy and Len McMaster presented a summary of the last year's Founders Day Festival in Capon Bridge and introduced Shannon Hockensmith who has agreed to be the Festival Director. Ms. Hockensmith has already submitted a letter requesting funding for the upcoming event and the Commission tabled consideration of all festival requests until the budget work session.

The Capon Bridge Rescue Squad, Inc. (CBRS) had sent several communications regarding the exercise of an option to purchase the building that was included in the 1978 lease. The most recent letter from CBRS stated they were no longer interested in obtaining the building, but President Eglinger pointed out that the Town of Capon Bridge could have an option if the Rescue Squad is not involved. President Eglinger suggested a letter of clarification from the Commission to the Town stating the Commission's commitment to provide emergency medical service to Capon Bridge. Commissioner Mantz stated he has a conflict due to services he provides to the Town of Capon Bridge and that he will recuse himself from further discussion and voting on the matter. Commissioner Brill moved that the Commission draft a letter to the Town of Capon Bridge and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Brill and Eglinger voting in the affirmative and Mantz abstaining.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) fee exemption requests were presented upon review and recommendation of HCESA staff. Commissioner Mantz was able to review the documentation prior to the meeting. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the six (6) exemption requests that were recommended for approval. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Nathan Kesner had been listed on the agenda as a possible appointee to the HCESA Board and he introduced himself. He had previously sent a resume to the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved that Nathan Kesner be appointed to the HCESA Board and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Greg Rinker was also listed on the agenda as an appointee to the Parks and Recreation Board and he also spoke. Commissioner Brill moved to appoint Greg Rinker to the Parks and Rec Board. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Grant Writer Rolf Ronken and Project Manager Matthew Hott presented the one bid that was received before the published deadline for the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant electrical upgrade. The single bid from Metz Electric was for \$141,480 for the phase one electrical upgrade of the Courthouse. Commissioner Mantz moved that Hott and Ronken review the bid as submitted and return with a recommendation for proceeding. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Arts Council President Dale Brady requested \$1,500 for the Hampshire Highlands Art and Music Festival that they have scheduled for June 7, 2025. President Eglinger suggested that the Commission take the request under advisement for consideration during the budget meeting scheduled for March 14th. No other action was taken.

Commissioner Mantz observed Chief Darron Hamrick of HCESA in the audience and asked if he might give a report on the progress and activities of his new administration to date. Mr. Hamrick reported on various efforts and where he sees encouraging progress in the department.

President Eglinger had put the Health Department Mobile Unit building on the agenda for the purpose of getting approval to retain Attorney Richard Gay should complications arise. Commissioner Mantz moved to request Attorney Gay to represent the County and to retain his services if he would be willing to help. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commission agreed to schedule the Budget Workshop with the Department Heads at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 14, 2025. The Clerk will make arrangements.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah Omps. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Planning Commission Office (Account # 439) requested to move \$14,500 within the approved 2025 budget from Contracted Services (line 230) to Professional Services (line 223). Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sheriff Sions also requested to have a line-item budget adjustment approved in the Law Enforcement Budget (#700). The request was to move \$5,710 from Uniforms (line 345) to Capital Outlay (line 259). Commissioner Brill moved to approve this request as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger offered an opportunity for public comment and Mr. Rolf Ronken asked to present some information regarding recycling. Mr. Ronken is the President of the Recycling Committee and actively manages the County Recycling Center. Rolf stated that the County had reached a milestone by having hauled the 100th recycling container to Penn-Mar Recycling. The operation is currently moving about 15 full bins a month.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Not being time for the first scheduled agenda item, Clerk Strite discussed projected revenue numbers and levy rates in preparation for the upcoming budget workshop with the Department Heads. Assessment valuations are such that a roll-back of the levy rate will be necessary and a hearing will be required to increase the levy rate to the previous level, should the Commission find it necessary to do so. Advertisement of two weeks is necessary to notify the public of the time and location.

Deborah Fleming of the Shenandoah Chapter of the American Red Cross came with Chapter Chairman Josh Mongold to present information regarding the Chapter's activities and request the Commission to approve a Proclamation declaring March as American Red Cross month. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Proclamation and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which passed.

Tina Ladd, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (HCCVB) and Peggy McMaster, President of the HCCVB presented a report of their activities and a request for funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The HCCVB receives fifty percent of the Hotel/ Motel Tax distribution plus \$30,000 of supplement to pay for a director as required for CVB certification through the state. This request will be included with the budget considerations.

Project Manager Matthew Hott and Grant Writer Rolf Ronken had been tasked with reviewing the bid from Metz Electric which was submitted in response to a request for bid in conjunction with the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Grant. Mr. Hott reported that the costs associated with the bid of \$141,480 are in line and considered reasonable for the scope of work. Mr. Ronken reported on aspects of the grant process and Commissioner Mantz asked for a recommendation to the Commission in regard to proceeding. Mr. Hott responded that if the Commission wishes to upgrade the electrical systems in the building, this is a good opportunity with \$100,000 of grant funding and he recommended moving forward. Commissioner Mantz moved to proceed with the project including the application of the \$100,000 in grant funds. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) Chief D. J. Hamrick along with Training Officer Courtney Turner was invited to give a report on the current activities of the HCESA. A brief report was presented.

Rolf Ronken, President of the Hampshire County Planning Commission presented a cell tower permit application for an equipment upgrade by Hardy Cellular at 1341 Ben's Knob Trail. Commissioner Mantz questioned if it is necessary for a cell tower upgrade permit request to come before the Commission, as the Telecommunications Ordinance does not assign approval authority to the Commission on upgrade requests. The Commissioners agreed that they would appreciate being made aware of changes on cell towers, but that an administrative review would simplify the process. The Commission asked Mr. Ronken to have the Planning Commission review that ordinance and recommend a way forward.

The Clerk failed to scan the next four documents to Commissioner Mantz prior to the meeting. The Commissioner was unable to review these documents and therefore abstained from the next four actions pertaining to them.

The Treasurer's Office sent a request to the Commission to establish a bank account known as General County Planning Credit Card Account as part of the General County Fund (fund 001). This will allow the Planning Office to accept credit card and electronic payments for services to taxpayers. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Order establishing the fund

as requested. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with Eglinger and Brill voting in favor and Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

Sheriff and 911 Director Nathan Sions requested consent for the appointment of Logan Simpson to the position of full-time 911 dispatcher effective January 24, 2025. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Sheriff's request as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Eglinger and Brill voting in favor and Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

Sheriff and Treasurer Nathan Sions requested the consent for the appointment of Hannah Parker and Danelle R. Smith to the position(s) of Tax Deputy. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request from the Sheriff and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Eglinger and Brill voting in favor and Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

Sheriff and Treasurer Sions requested consent to increase Tax Deputy McKeenzie Nelson's monthly pay effective immediately. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Eglinger and Brill voting in favor and Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The grant from the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in support of the police resource officer (PRO) in the schools, was approved in the amount of \$30,000 and the agreements and contract were presented for approval and signature. Communication was lost with Commissioner Mantz at this point and President Eglinger stated that a quorum was still present. Commissioner Brill moved to approve and sign the grant documents and terms as set forth. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with the two Commissioners voting in the affirmative.

Darren Taylor, Director of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center sent a grant application titled Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant & Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) which will support activities in the Day Report Centers. The COSSAP application is due April 4, 2025 and is for the amount of \$208,291. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the President to sign the grant application. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present although Commissioner Mantz had been unable to make an electronic connection.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on March 11, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and Commissioner Brill reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

With no agenda items scheduled for a few minutes, the President asked for unscheduled routine items.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Hampshire County Development Authority had requested a letter approving a change of date for their audit contract. Commissioner Brill moved and President Eglinger seconded a motion to approve the change of date. The motion passed.

Sheriff and 911 Director Nathan Sions sent a letter stating that Zachary Wilkins resigned as a 911 Dispatcher effective February 26, 2025. Commissioner Brill moved to acknowledge the resignation and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented a short explanation of the reasons for the levy rate rollback, (to 14.03 cents per \$100 of assessed value of Class I property), and the decision by the Commission to hold a public hearing concerning the consideration to increase the levy rate to 14.30 cents per \$100 of assessed Class I property. At 6:15 pm, Commissioner Brill moved to open the public hearing as advertised and President Eglinger seconded the motion which passed. Mrs. Jill Parker addressed concerns regarding the possible rate increase. After several minutes no one else requested to speak and Commissioner Brill moved to close the public hearing. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented a balanced budget, (levy estimate), based on earlier direction from the Commission, as prepared by Clerk's Deputies Bethany Billmeyer and Holly Bailey. Commissioner Brian Brill moved to approve the 2025-2026 Levy Estimate, based on the rollback levy rate of 14.03 cents per \$100 assessed valuation of Class I property. President Eglinger seconded the motion. The proposed budget was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The 2025-2026 Levy Estimate will be submitted for review by the West Virginia State Auditor's Office - Local Governments Division and published as a Class II legal advertisement in the local newspaper. The Commission will hold an official hearing in order to lay the levy on the third Tuesday in April 2025, as required in WV Code.

Project Manager Matthew Hott presented sealed bids that had been received in conjunction to the roof replacement proposals for the Extension (Old Jail) and Annex (Walter Davis Memorial Annex) buildings. Two bids were received prior to the deadline and upon opening it was determined that one bid was for the Extension Building and one was for the Annex.

Blackstone Roofing stated they would replace the flat roof on the Annex building for \$56,000 and Pownall Roofing presented a bid of \$12,805 to replace the entire standing seam roof on the Extension Building. Mr. Hott stated he felt these were fair bids from competent contractors and recommended the Commission proceed.

Commissioner Brill moved to approve the proposal from Blackstone to replace the roof on the Annex building for \$56,000. President Eglinger seconded the motion which passed.

Commissioner Brill moved to approve the proposal from Pownall Roofing to replace the standing seam roof on the Extension building for \$12,805. President Eglinger seconded the motion which passed.

Alison Jewell, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Farmland Preservation Board, presented a request for approval of a conservation easement on the Roeder Farm owned by Shane and Jenna Roeder located on Cumberland Road, (Rt. 28 N), near Romney. This easement

will protect 112.356 acres of farmland and woodland. Commissioner Brill moved that the Commission approve the Roeder easement as presented by Ms. Jewell. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Official budget revision #2 to the Coal Severance Fund (#2) was presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve official budget revision #2 to the Coal Severance Fund and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Official budget revision #4 to the General Fund (#1) was presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve Budget Revision #4 to the General Fund and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Clerk presented a request for approval of a fiduciary motion to replace Fred Ganoë, Jr., now deceased, as personal representative of the Fred Ganoë, Sr., estate. The motion included a request that the Commission issue an order for the Sheriff of Hampshire County, West Virginia to take into his possession, the estate and administer the same. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the motion and order to appoint the Sheriff to administer the estate of Fred Ganoë, Sr. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Clerk presented a request for approval of a fiduciary motion to replace Julie Montesinos-Salazar as personal representative of the Fred Ganoë, Jr., estate, upon her request. The motion included a request that the Commission issue an order for the Sheriff of Hampshire County, West Virginia to take into his possession, the estate and administer the same. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the motion and order to appoint the Sheriff to administer the estate of Fred Ganoë, Jr. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah Omps. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Darron Hamrick, Jr., Director of the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) presented updated bylaws as proposed by the HCESA Board. The Commissioners had been sent an electronic copy of the proposed bylaws beforehand and Commissioner Brill moved to approve the bylaws as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

In the meeting of February 25, 2025, the Commission had agreed to send a letter to the Town of Capon Bridge in regard to the ambulance station. The Capon Bridge Rescue Squad had stated they no longer had an interest in obtaining the building and the Commission communicated to the Town that the County intends to maintain emergency medical service (EMS) to Capon Bridge, but the Town might have an option to acquire the property under the initial agreement from 1978. Mr. Hamrick had discussed the matter with the Mayor of Capon Bridge and he reported that the Town's position is that they would like to have the right of first refusal if the County ceases to use the building for EMS purposes. Commissioner Brill moved to approve this arrangement and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Brill moved to ask a real estate attorney, preferably a member of Keaton Frazier, Milleson and Dante, if they would be willing, to draft a document clarifying this agreement. President Eglinger seconded the motion which passed.

President Eglinger opened the floor for public comment and Rhett Dusenbury of Congressman Riley Moore's office presented information regarding the Congressional Community Project Funding process for the fiscal year 2026.

The Clerk reminded the Commission of the request from the Hampshire County Arts Council for \$1500 for the Arts and Music Festival which was presented on February 25, 2025. The event is to be held on June 6, 2025 which is in this fiscal year and would not be dependent on next year's budget. President Eglinger moved to approve the \$1,500 request from the Hampshire County Arts Council for the Art and Music Festival. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, and the motion passed. President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

President Eglinger asked Delegate Rick Hillenbrand to speak regarding the recently concluded session of the West Virginia Legislature.

The Clerk had previously received written notice of approval, (without conditions), of the Levy Estimate for Hampshire County for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 from the WV State Auditor. The proposed Levy Estimate was advertised as required by law and posted on the Commission's meeting agenda as a Public Hearing in order to allow the public the opportunity for objection or to question the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. President Eglinger opened the public hearing and the Clerk read the proposed levy rates. After a reasonable amount of time when there were no comments offered, Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Levy Order which would assign the levy rates at 14.03¢/\$100 of assessed value for Class I property, 28.06¢/\$100 for Class II and 56.12¢/\$100 for Class III and IV properties for the Regular Current Expense Levy. The levy rates for the Fire Excess Levy will be set at 1.50¢/\$100 for Class I property, 3.00¢/\$100 for Class II and 6.00¢/\$100 for Class III and Class IV properties. The Library Excess Levy will be set at 0.60¢/\$100 of assessed value of Class I property, 1.20¢/\$100 for Class II property and 2.40¢/\$100 of assessed value of Class III and Class IV properties. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion to approve the levy rates as stated and to close the Public Hearing. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Clerk had scheduled a public hearing regarding the Notice of Petition for Discharge of Claims against the Estate of Maxwell Lynn Voit. This estate was opened February 16, 2011. One claim against the estate in the amount of \$1,922.33 was submitted during the claim period. The estate did not have funds to pay the claim and no further action was taken. The Hampshire County Commission adopted a policy to resolve insolvent estates with outstanding claims effective July 1, 2018. Based on the adopted policy, the Clerk sent a certified letter to the claimant on March 14, 2025 announcing the request to discharge the claim against this estate and inviting contact to the Clerk from the claimant. The letter was returned as undeliverable and unable to forward by the Postal Service. Commissioner Brill moved to open the public hearing to hear from any claimant. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed. There was no one representing the claimant to make objection and Commissioner Brill moved to order the estate be settled. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Town of Capon Bridge sent a request to be able to use the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) mass notification system, (Everbridge). Assistant Director Hope Friis stated that HSEM is in favor of this arrangement and Commissioner Mantz stated that his working relationship with the Town of Capon Bridge caused a conflict for him to participate in discussion or action on this topic and thus recused himself. Commissioner Brill moved to include Capon Bridge in the Everbridge mass notification system and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote in the affirmative from these two Commissioners and Commissioner Mantz abstained.

Becky Yokom and Susan Knibiehly, Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Community Action presented a request that the Commission adopt a proclamation making the month of May, Eastern Community Action month in Hampshire County. The proclamation was read and

Commissioner Brill moved to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger gave a review of the change order requests that had been received from The Region Eight Development Council in regard to the Health Facility. These had been arranged without additional cost to the County taxpayers, but all the Commissioners agreed that they felt that contractors need to be more respectful of the public funds.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) sent a line-item budget request to move approved funds in the current budget, (711), to upgrade the gas detection meters on the emergency hazmat truck. Commissioner Brill moved to approve moving \$4,000 from the travel budget line (40-214) and \$2,500 from the maintenance and repair line (40-217), to materials and supplies (55-341), for a total of \$6,500 to purchase the safety equipment. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Salli Martin, Field Auditor for the West Virginia State Auditor's Office, Chief Inspector's Division, presented the exit interview for the Audits of County operations for the years ending 2023 and 2024. The audits are posted on the Auditor's website.

Commissioner Mantz had circulated a proposed ordinance updating the original "Planning Committee" Ordinance adopted by the County Commission in 1986. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to refer this to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation with the review of outside counsel if that is deemed preferable.

Matthew Hott, Project Manager for the County, requested permission to advertise for plumbing and restroom improvements for the Capon Bridge Community Complex on behalf of the Development Authority. The Development Authority has the funding to accomplish the project. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize Mr. Hott to proceed with the advertisement on behalf of the Development Authority. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which passed.

Commissioner Mantz suggested that bid openings may be most efficiently handled by scheduling a time outside of a County Commission meeting, allowing for Mr. Hott and a committee to provide a scheduled public bid opening and to have time for review of bid and submitted materials, prior to a presentation to the Commission.

Commissioner Mantz excused himself from the meeting at this point.

Project Manager Hott had been approached to advertise for bids to replace the roof on the old Board of Education Office. The South Branch Valley Day Report Center and the Sheriff's Office have expressed interest in sharing this space for new, better and bigger office spaces and there has been some grant money awarded for this purpose. The Commissioners have concerns that the Board of Education will need to demolish the old school buildings before completing the trade with the Development Authority, as agreed, in return for the old hospital demolition and the land where the South Branch Elementary was built. The Commissioners agreed to wait to allow time for further discussion with the interested parties.

President Eglinger allowed time for public comment, but no one spoke.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by telephone connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on April 15, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sherri Unger represented the Romney Christian Ministerial Association in presenting the request that the Commission approve a Proclamation for a Day of Prayer in Hampshire County on Thursday, May 1, 2025. The Clerk read the proclamation and Commissioner Brill moved to adopt and sign the Proclamation for a Day of Prayer in Hampshire County. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed. The event will be held at Memorial Park at the Town Hall.

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Carroll and Development Authority Director J. T. Hott presented information regarding upgrades that Parks and Rec have planned for Green Spring Park and Camp Walker, utilizing Development Authority low interest financing in the amount of about \$50,000. Mr. Carrol stated that the focus will primarily be on increasing the utilization of the Green Spring Park and Camp Walker by offering a few primitive camping options and upgrading or adding playground features at selected sites. There was discussion regarding the Commission funding the project rather than the Development Authority. It was suggested that this may be a possibility after closer analysis of upcoming budgets and future planning. All were in agreement that this is a good project and direction for the parks. No further action occurred.

A right of way agreement was presented for the Central Hampshire Public Service District to redirect the public water line around the new emergency services building on Sunrise Boulevard. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the right of way and authorize the President to sign the document. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah Omps. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger offered an opportunity for public comment and Mark Haines spoke regarding a planned educational meeting for education about the proposed power line project that has been proposed by NextEra Energy. The meeting is planned for May 14th at the Capon Bridge Community Complex from 7 – 9 pm.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners as prepared by Deputy Clerks Bethany Billmeyer and Holly Bailey. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was not in attendance but the President declared a quorum was present and business could be conducted. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger and Commissioner Brill reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

President Eglinger asked the Clerk if there was unscheduled business for consideration before the first appointment.

Sheriff Sions requested the Commission to update an annual request that Hampshire County be considered for designation as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Inclusion in HIDTA is beneficial to the law enforcement community by coordinating Federal, State and Local agencies to combat the infiltration of drugs into the lives of our citizens. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the HIDTA letter and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheriff Sions sent a letter advising the Commission that he had hired Sarah Sherman to the position of Tax Deputy and requested consent from the Commission. Commissioner Brill moved to give the consent of the Commission regarding the appointment of Ms. Sherman to the tax office. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Hampshire County Historic Landmarks Commission (HCHLC) had sent an email requesting to be on the agenda to request consent to move their normal meeting location from the Courthouse and to rent space in Taggart Hall. This will allow greater flexibility in scheduling and better storage facilities. The Clerk had overlooked scheduling this on the agenda. The HCHLC also requested approval to utilize \$2,100 of funds allocated in the 2024-25 budget for rent and utilities to be paid to the Fort Mill Ridge Foundation. This could be considered a line-item-budget revision, but the budgeted use of the funds was not specified in the levy estimate when the funding was approved. President Eglinger moved to approve the move by the HCHLC and to approve the new plan to use the funds. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Project Manager Matthew Hott presented a contract from Blackstone Roofing to replace the roof on the Walter C. Davis Memorial Building, also known as the Courthouse Annex. Blackstone had previously been awarded the bid to replace the roof, but the contract had not yet been signed. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the President to sign the contract as presented by Blackstone and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next agenda item was the request from Sheriff Sions to transfer a surplus 2010 Ford Explorer to the Town of Romney Water Department as a no cost intergovernmental transfer. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the transfer and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Glenn Delaplain and Hunter Thorne members of the Planning Commission reported that the Planning Commission had reviewed and approved the Ordinance that had been sent to them by the Commission at the last meeting. The Planning Commission had recommended that the Ordinance be reviewed by outside Counsel before approval by the County Commission. President Eglinger moved to approve the Ordinance pending the review of outside Counsel and to post the document to commence the first reading with the intent to hold a public hearing. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger offer a public comment period but no one spoke.

President Eglinger stated he wished to amend his previous motion in regard to sending the Planning Ordinance to outside Counsel, in order to be specific and add that the attorney is to be Richard Gay of Berkley Springs who has done some work for the Planning Commission. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion to amend and the motion passed.

Stephanie Hoover of Mountain Heart Community Services which is headquartered in Elkins, presented information regarding the value of child care providers who nurture young children and requested that the Commission adopt a proclamation declaring May 9, 2025 as Provider Appreciation Day in Hampshire County. President Eglinger read the Proclamation and Commissioner Brill moved to adopt the Proclamation as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The items on the agenda had not taken as long as projected and the remaining topic was the discussion and decision regarding the retention of outside counsel to advise the County on courses of action available in regard to pending energy transmission projects. Each Commissioner offered discussion realizing the benefit of guidance and also cautious regarding the possible costs that could be accumulated in a legal battle. Commissioner Brill moved to seek outside legal services in regard to dealing with the energy transmission interests with the caveat that a good idea of the associated fees be developed and to return for future consideration. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Both Delegate Rick Hillenbrand and Senator Darren Thorne were present and were offered an opportunity to comment, but both declined. The Commissioners noted their appreciation of the representatives attendance and availability for the citizens of the County.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous with two (2) voting in the affirmative and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by telephone connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on May 14, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Sheriff Sions sent a letter requesting the consent of the Commission in regard to the appointment of Daniel Weister to the position of deputy sheriff, effective May 14, 2025. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request of the Sheriff and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz stated that he might have to step away from the meeting and asked that the topic of opposition to the proposed regional transmission lines might be moved to a more immediate position in the agenda.

President Eglinger stated that the topic scheduled for 6:45 would be discussed at this point. Commissioner Mantz had sent a proposed resolution, by email, to the Commissioners for review and consideration. The proposed resolution was discussed and it was suggested that one point might be interpreted as a stronger commitment from the Commission, in defending land owner rights, than could be reasonably promised. All three Commissioners stated a consensus on this point. Commissioner Mantz was called away at this point and left the meeting at 6:20 pm. Commissioner Brill moved to adopt the resolution with the exception of point number two (2) of the draft which had been presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed. The approved resolution will be posted as soon as it can be completed and signed.

Nick Carroll, Director of the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation Department, presented a request for approval of the Maintenance Staff to help with the 17th Annual South Branch Valley Bluegrass Festival setup. This usually entails Thursday afternoon and Friday before the festival and may involve a few hours on the following Monday. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Maintenance Staff's involvement with the festival preparation and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The topic scheduled for 6:15 regarding the possible sale of the Health Center building was discussed at 6:28 pm. President Eglinger stated that the entity which now owns the right to operate the Hampshire Health Center, has contacted the Commission and has asked to buy the building from the Commission for a value roughly equivalent to the value remaining on the original lease. Further information has been vague beyond this point. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed by consensus to notify the interested party and inform them that the Commission would prefer to continue to operate under the terms of the existing lease.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah Omps. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chief Darron Hamrick of the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) had an urgent topic for consideration but, was not able to get the item on the agenda in the prescribed time frame. The Commission has posted a Special meeting to consider the topic of improvements to the Springfield Rescue Squad Station to be held at 9:00 am on Friday, May 30. Chief Hamrick was invited to speak to the details of the request and stated that after advertising and contacting four contractors, HCESA had received one bid to upgrade the facility to accommodate 24-hour staffing. The proposed upgrades include two bunk rooms, a shower and washer/dryer hookups to be installed for the amount of \$7,681.00. The work is to be completed prior to July 3, 2025. No further action was taken at this time.

President Eglinger offered a public comment period and Mr. Jimbo Lough offered compliments regarding the Hampshire County Development Authority's program named Hampshire on the Horizon. He stated that those involved have done a good job with the program.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners as prepared by Deputy Clerks Bethany Billmeyer and Holly Bailey. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous by those in attendance at the time.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A specially called meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 9:00 am in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger was present, Commissioner Logan Mantz was in attendance by remote connection and Commissioner Brian Brill was also present. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

President Eglinger stated the purpose of the special meeting was to consider and possibly approve and upgrade to the Springfield Rescue Squad Building, at the request of the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA).

Courtney Turner represented HCESA and stated that the requested upgrades are needed to meet the needs of rescue squad crews which will be stationed in the Springfield station on a 24-hour basis, beginning in July. Four bids were requested but only one bid for the work was submitted by the deadline.

K & C Construction of Capon Bridge, WV submitted a bid of \$7,681.00 to construct two bunk rooms, install a shower and a washer/dryer hookup, to be completed by July 3, 2025.

Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the construction as requested and to approve the bid for \$7,681 from K & C Construction, to be paid from the HCESA No-Fee fund. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2025 and the special meeting of May 30, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Mantz and Commissioner Brill reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

President Eglinger asked the Clerk if there was unscheduled business for consideration before the first appointment.

The Planning Commission sent a letter announcing that they had selected Jarrett Hott as the new Planning Office Compliance Officer along with the starting salary for the position and Mr. Hott's official start date of June 12, 2025. Commissioner Brian Brill moved to give the Commission's consent to the selection of the Planning Commission and to approve the hiring of Jarrett Hott as Hampshire County's new Compliance Officer. Commissioner Logan Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sheriff Nathan Sions sent a letter requesting the approval of his appointment of Rachel Timbrook to serve as Deputy 911 Director due to the approaching retirement of Captain Jamie Carter. Sheriff Sions also included that Ms. Timbrook's promotion is to include a salary increase which will be effective immediately. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Sheriff's request for approval of the promotion of Rachel Timbrook including the requested salary increase. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Alison Jewell, Director of the Hampshire County Farmland Protection Board (HCFPB), sent an email requesting that David Parker be reappointed as the Conservation District representative for his second term commencing July 1, 2025. Commissioner Brill moved to reappoint David Parker to the HCFPB as the Conservation District representative. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A public hearing to probate the will of John A. Dillinger, Jr. in solemn form had been scheduled and Attorney Kevin Judy had served notice on all interested parties. Attorney Judy stated that the original will appears to have been lost, but it was understood by all parties that it had not been intentionally destroyed by the decedent. No objection was either received or presented before or during the hearing and Commissioner Mantz moved to admit the copy of John A Dillinger, Jr.'s will to probate. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The next topic discussed was regarding forming alliances with like local governments in opposition to the electrical transmission lines that are proposed to be constructed across Hampshire County. Commissioner Mantz volunteered to draft a letter for review by the Commission and Commissioner Brill agreed to be the point of contact in discussions with leaders on other Commissions. Commissioner Mantz moved that the Hampshire County Commission draft a letter inviting other adjoining and similarly affected local governments in a collaborative effort opposing the currently proposed construction and paths of these lines. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. These had not been forwarded to Commissioner Mantz for his review and he recused himself from the discussion and vote. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed with two votes in favor of the exonerations and none against.

Assessor Lacey Haines sent the certification pages for the tax books for tax year 2024, for signature by the Commission. The valuations had been previously reviewed and approved by the Commission while sitting as Board of Equalization and Review. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the Commission to sign the certification pages as requested by the Assessor and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Region 8 Planning and Development Council requested the Commission to approve a change order in the amount of \$21,467 and Grant Amendments #4 and 5 to allow the completion of site preparation work for the mobile lab garage at the 911 Center on Jersey Mountain. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize the President to sign the Grant Amendments and the change order document. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Development Authority (HCDA) Director JT Hott was able to join the meeting via electronic connection and a discussion commenced, as scheduled, regarding the revolving loan fund which the HCDA administers as a means to encourage infrastructure projects. Director Hott stated that he had reviewed HCDA minutes back to 2002 and was unable to find documentation of guidelines on the revolving loan fund. The Commissioners seemed to agree that the goal should be to allow any application involving infrastructure development and Mr. Hott volunteered to draft guidelines and invited infrastructure partners to participate. Mr. Hott left the meeting at this point.

Mr. Rolf Ronken, Chair of the Hampshire County Planning Commission, presented Ordinance PC-2025, that has been recommended by the Planning Commission for approval of the County Commission. This document will adopt the 2022 West Virginia Building Code for Hampshire County. The Commissioners agreed that a public hearing would not be required in regard to this particular ordinance. The Planning Commission does intend to hold a public training on the 2022 Building Code. Commissioner Brill moved to approve and accept Ordinance PC-2025 as approved and presented by the Planning Commission and that it will be effective as of this date. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Augusta Volunteer Rescue Squad (AVRS) has applied for a building permit to construct a building on the County owned property which houses the AVRS. Mr. Ronken stated that the application is in order, but the Commission, as landowner, needs to give approval of the construction/renovation. Commissioner Brill moved to give permission to the AVRS to proceed with construction of the building as requested. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) and Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Director Darron Hamrick presented an update of the agreement between County Medical Director, Dr. Charles Bess and the Commission. The only changes to the existing agreement were to reflect the current date and current Commission President. Dr. Bess had already signed the agreement. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the updated agreement and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Director Hamrick continued, as scheduled, with a report on the progress of the operations of HCESA and stated that the financial position of the agency is much better than what was projected in February.

Director Hamrick presented a request to purchase a used, four-wheel drive ambulance and related pieces of medical equipment for \$50,000 from Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire Company. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the purchase of the ambulance and equipment and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Hamrick also requested to move funds within the approved HSEM budget to purchase a new drone. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the line-item budget revision and the purchase of the drone. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Clerk presented a resolution in compliance with WV Code §7-6-1, designating the Bank of Romney and FNB Bank as county depositories for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the designation and authorize the President to sign the resolution. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sheriff and Treasurer of Hampshire County, Nathan J. Sions, requested approval of the Hampshire County Delinquent List for Tax Year 2024 as of May 1, 2025. Commissioner Brian Brill moved to approve the Delinquent Tax List and Commissioner Logan Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz had requested that a discussion of the West Virginia Open Meetings Act be placed on the agenda and he then recommended a resolution stating the policy of the Hampshire County Commission that all appointed boards be made aware of the Open Meetings Act and observe these procedures in public meetings. Resources are available

through the Ethics Commission website and can be distributed to the various boards. Commissioner Mantz then moved to adopt this resolution and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger offered a period of public comment, but no one spoke.

Line-item budget adjustments were presented from several offices.

Circuit Clerk Sonja Embrey requested approval to move \$6,000 from line 403-459 (Equipment) and move \$4,000 to line 403-221 (Training) and \$2,000 to line 403-219 (Building and Equipment).

Sheriff and Treasurer Nathan Sions requested to move \$1,662 from line 404-459 (Capital Outlay), and place \$1,409 to line 404-220 (Advertising) and \$253 to line 404-230 (Contracted Service).

In a second letter and also involving the Treasurer's budget (404), the Sheriff requested to move \$2,083 from line 404-215 (Maintenance & Repair – Equipment), \$188 from line 404-219 (Building and Equipment – Rental), \$4,979 from line 404-221 (Training), and \$300 from line 404-223 (Professional Service) to line 404-341 (Materials/Supplies). Total transferred to 404-341 is \$7,550.

The Planning Office requested to move \$10,000 from line 439-103 (Salaries and Wages) and to move \$3,800 from line 439-219 (Printing) with \$12,000 of these funds to be moved to line 439-223 (Professional Services), \$800 to be moved to line 439-216 (Maintenance and Repairs Equipment), \$500 to be moved to 439-219 (Buildings and Equipment Rent) and \$500 to be moved to line 439-220 (Advertising).

Commissioner Brill moved to approve these requests to move these funds within the Circuit Clerk's, Treasurer's and Planning Office's approved 2025 budget. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Official Budget Revision #5 to the General Fund (#1) was presented as prepared by Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer. Commissioner Mantz stated he was unable to find this attachment in his meeting documents and recused himself from the decision. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Official Budget Revision #5 to the General Fund and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Brill and Eglinger voting in the affirmative and Mantz abstaining from this vote.

Official Budget Revision #3 to the Coal Severance Fund (#2) was presented as prepared by Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer. Commissioner Mantz also recused himself from this consideration because the attachment was unavailable. Commissioner Brill moved to approve Official Budget Revision #3 to the Coal Severance Fund (#2) and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Brill and Eglinger voting in the affirmative and Mantz abstaining from this vote.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed with all three voting in the affirmative.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous with the exception of those otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by electronic, video connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on June 10, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

The President asked to address unscheduled business before the scheduled items began.

The Sheriff and Treasurer Nathan Sions requested action regarding an expired certificate of deposit held in the E911 account in the amount of \$21,397.33. His recommendation was to close the expired CD, (which earned 3.5%), and open a new 9-month CD at the rate of 4.15%. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Treasurer's recommendation and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) grant application in the amount of \$150,000 was presented by the Recycling Committee. The application is due July and the proceeds will be used to improve Hampshire County's program and facility. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the grant application and authorize the President to sign the document. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Recycling Committee sent a request that Mr. Ricky Lang be hired to a full-time position as Recycling Manager beginning July 10, 2025. The position was advertised in accordance with the Employee Policy Manual. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request of the Recycling Committee and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Region 8 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) request for payment (RFP) # 21 was presented for signature and President Eglinger signed the RFP. CDBG RFPs were approved for signature in a previous meeting.

The Commissioners had scheduled a discussion of process and priorities in considering a possible sale of the County owned Health Center, (long term care), building. The it was agreed the public interest is the priority and that a commercial appraisal, survey of community stakeholders and analysis of the most prudent investment options for the proceeds are necessary steps in the consideration of any credible proposal. The WV Treasurer's Office Board of Treasury Investments (BTI) offers services to governments in regard to investment options. Commissioner Mantz moved for the Hampshire County Commission to commission a commercial appraisal of the subject property and to investigate the options and resources that BTI may offer in arranging a possible sale in confirmation with outside counsel as to the correct process in setting up a sale if that is the decision of the Commission after review of the findings. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Animal Shelter Director Patsy Weakley recently submitted a letter stating she is retiring and recommended Crystal Connelley to replace her. The Clerk stated that the job was posted on June 19 on the County website and will be advertised in the newspaper for two publications and with the last date for submission on July 7 at 10 am. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the appointment of Crystal Connelly to the position of Interim Animal Control Director. Commissioner Mantz amended the motion on the floor by stating that the advertisement for the Director position should be open for between 3 and 4 weeks to allow for more candidates to apply. Commissioner Brill seconded the amendment. President Eglinger then stated that the motion under consideration had become to appoint Crystal Connelly as Interim Director of the Animal Shelter and to extend the application period and related advertisement to allow for between three and four weeks. The motion as amended passed.

The Planning Commission sent a letter stating they had voted to recommend a pay raise for Rebecca Lewis due it an increased level of duties. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the recommended pay raise and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jackie Graybill and JT Hott presented information related to the newly re-established Hampshire County Chamber of Commerce and requested \$2,500 for startup costs. The Commission asked if they have established a slate of officers and filed organizational paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office, establishing them as a public entity. This has not yet been accomplished. Commissioner Mantz stated he favors support after formal organizational establishment and President Eglinger asked for reports on progress and achievements. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize funds in a manner that legally works. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The transfer of all parties' interests in the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad building has been in the process and the attorney has completed the document and is awaiting signatures. Some question has arisen as to who is authorized to sign in regard to the Capon Bridge Rescue Squad. Commissioner Brill moved to send a letter to contract the signer and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 2-0 vote with Commissioner Mantz being conflicted from consideration and abstaining as he had served as Counsel for a party with an interest in the matter.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement as prepared by Deputy Clerk Deborah Omps. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The County Commission and the Planning Commission had been working to complete a new Ordinance for the governance and operation of the Planning Commission. The current Ordinance and bylaws were approved when the office was established in 1986. In the meeting of May 13, 2025, the Commission had reviewed the proposed ordinance and returned it to the Planning Commission for review by Attorney Richard Gay. The Planning Commission has approved the document, including Attorney Gay's recommendations, and requested approval by the Hampshire County Commission. Commissioner Brill moved that the Planning Commission Ordinance be approved as recommended by the Planning Commission and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz asked the Commission to authorize the expense of a Comprehensive Plan Proposal from WVU Land Use and Sustainable Development Clinic in the event that the Planning Commission should choose to pursue this option which, he believes would result in a more detailed Comprehensive Plan than the current vendor that is under consideration. He felt that if the Commission would agree to pay the \$20-28,000 cost, it might be their preferable alternative. Commissioners Eglinger and Brill stated they would prefer to wait for the Planning Commission to bring a request for funding for whatever option they judge to be in the best interest of Hampshire County.

President Eglinger nominated Julie Frazier to a new term on the Hampshire County Public Library Board. The new term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

President Eglinger nominated Willim J. (Joe) Milleson, Jr. to a new term on the Hampshire County Building Commission. The new term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2030.

President Eglinger nominated Eileen Johnson to a new term on the Hampshire County Historic Landmarks Commission. The new term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger nominated Jean Shoemaker to a new term on the Hampshire County Historic Landmarks Commission. The new term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Brill nominated Megan Fuller to a new term on the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation Board. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Brill nominated Jim Alkire to a new term on the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation Board. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Brill nominated Greg Rinker to a new term on the Hampshire County Parks and Recreation Board. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Leonard McMaster to a new term on the Hampshire County Development Authority. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Jason Hicks to a new term on the Hampshire County Development Authority. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Brian Hott to a new term on the Hampshire County Development Authority. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated John Hicks, Sr. to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Matthew G. Hott to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Duane "Punkin" Oates to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Jacqueline McCartney to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz nominated Sherry Coleman to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The nomination did not receive a second and President Eglinger declared the nomination failed for lack of second.

Commissioner Brian Brill nominated Rolf Ronken to a new term on the Hampshire County Planning Commission. The term will run from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed 2 – 1, with affirmative votes from Eglinger and Brill and a nay from Mantz.

President Eglinger nominated Tim Bennett to the Hampshire County Board of Appeals for the term that runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger nominated Jack Poore to the Hampshire County Board of Appeals for the term that runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger nominated Steven Oates to the Hampshire County Board of Appeals for the term that runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger offered an opportunity for public comment and Patti Anderson and Mayor Keadle spoke regarding the Romney Pool Project and their efforts to raise funds to complete the project. This matter had not been scheduled on the agenda and a return visit will be scheduled so the group can make a formal request.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners as prepared by Deputy Clerks Bethany Billmeyer and Holly Bailey. Clerk Strite pointed out that the money market account at Bank of Romney may need to be drawn upon to complete payment of invoices in the at the end of the fiscal year, but funding will be easily restored with the incoming tax receipts in the new fiscal year. The year-end surplus will be at or near budgeted projections and the use of the MMA had previously been authorized. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous except as noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz stated that he had not reviewed the minutes and recused himself from the consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 2 to 0 voice vote, with Commissioner Mantz abstaining.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent a single tax bill exoneration for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exoneration as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) fee exemption requests were presented upon review and recommendation of HCESA staff. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the five (5) exemption requests as presented, (none were recommended for denial). Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Sheriff and Treasurer Nathan J. Sions sent a letter informing the Commission that Jacqueline Wolford has retired from the Treasurer's Office as Chief Tax Deputy and he stated that she had accrued 3.5 vacation days and 22 unused sick days at the time of her retirement. Commissioner Brill moved to accept the memo and authorize the payment of her accrued benefits as appropriate. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's office sent a new certificate of deposit (CD) for signature which will renew the E911 CD as approved in the last meeting. President Eglinger signed the document as authorized in the June 24, 2025 meeting.

Town of Romney Mayor Beverly Keadle and "Sink the Pool" Committee Chair Patti Anderson presented a funding request to the Commission regarding partial funding of the proposed new swimming pool. Ms. Anderson stated that the engineering cost estimate for the design that has been selected for the pool, bathhouses and concession stands is \$1,100,000. The Sink the Pool Fund has received pledges of at least \$700,000, but commitment of the \$1,100,000 estimate sum is needed before the bidding process can commence. President Eglinger opened discussion by stating he would like to see the Commission be able to help in some way. Commissioner Mantz stated he highly endorses the pool project and request, but will recuse himself from a vote on the matter as he is still attorney for the Town of Romney. Commissioner Mantz continued by elaborating on the positive benefits of the proposal and possible ways the Commission could support the request. Commissioner Brill mentioned his long-time service in support of county wide recreational opportunities. President Eglinger stated that The Commission is limited to a lump sum contribution since they are not allowed to obligate future Commissions and future budgets. President Eglinger moved to ask the Clerk's office to review the budget and bring a recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed on a 2 to 0 voice vote with Commissioner Mantz abstaining. The Clerk suggested a response could be included in an upcoming special meeting that will be needed to complete the Official Budget Revision to the General Fund.

JT Hott, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Development Authority presented the qualified bids that were received in response to the advertisement and mandatory meeting for improvements to the bathrooms in the Capon Bridge Community Complex. The bids had been reviewed the previous day by Project Manager Matthew Hott and Clerk Strite. Matt Hott had reported that all three were qualified bids from reputable contractors. JT Hott reported that Capon Bridge Glass, LLC., submitted a bid of \$61,780. Genesis Services, Inc., submitted a bid of \$48,600 and Integrity Tile and Home, LLC., submitted a bid of \$51,338.97. The Commission agreed that the decision could be made by the Development Authority. The difference between the available funds the Development Authority has for this project and the low bid is about \$13,000. The Commission reminded JT Hott that they had previously agreed

that the Development Authority has discretion as to the use of the revolving loan fund, and that could easily cover the funding shortfall.

Romney Rescue Squad requested funding help for the repair of a coil on a cooling unit in the amount of \$1,600. L & T Electric recommended repair vs. replacement of the unit, and supplied the estimate. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the \$1,600 estimate and authorize L & T Electric to proceed with the repair. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commission agreed to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 in order to address the required Official Budget Revision #1 to transfer surplus funds into the 2025-2026 General Fund. The Commission will also consider the budgetary situation in relation to the Town of Romney's Sink the Pool Fund request. President Eglinger also plans to appoint a committee to conduct interviews for the Animal Control Director position when the application period is complete. The Clerk will post the notice and agenda on Thursday.

Official Budget Revision #1 to the Coal Severance Fund (#2), was presented to transfer remaining funds (surplus) from the FY 2024-2025 budget to the FY 2025-2026 budget. Commissioner Brill moved to approve Official Budget Revision #1 to the Coal Severance Fund (#2). Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as otherwise noted.

A special meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by remote connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. Commissioner Mantz was engaged through the application of virtual communications. President Eglinger stated that the required notice and posting of the special meeting had been accomplished. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of were not presented as this was a Special Meeting.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Mantz and Commissioner Brill gave abbreviated reports on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer had prepared the proposed Official Budget Revision #1 to the General Fund (#1). This action moves the unexpended (surplus) funds from the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the new fiscal year of 2025-2026. Clerk Strite reported that the expenditures had exceeded projections by \$119,789 and reductions were made in the Commission categories of the 2025-2026 budget to accommodate the adjustment. The connection with Commissioner Mantz was lost at this point. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Official Budget Revision #1 and President Eglinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with the two present Commissioners voting in the affirmative. Commissioner Mantz was not present at this point.

As the scheduled topic of the funding request presented by the Town of Romney and the Sink the Pool Committee at the last meeting was opened, Commissioner Mantz was able to reestablish communication with the meeting. President Eglinger asked Clerk Strite for his findings regarding the feasibility of meeting the request and the Clerk reported that over a million dollars had been drawn from the County's financial reserves in the last fiscal year alone causing these reserves to be pressured and diminished. Sheriff Sions was asked for his input as well and his observations were consistent with those of the Clerk. Commissioner Mantz stated he is supportive of the pool construction effort but must recuse himself because of a conflict of interest in that he represents the Town as their attorney. Commissioners Eglinger and Brill both complimented the volunteers on the very significant accomplishment of raising about \$700,000 of the \$1,100,00. Both Commissioners took time to explain the necessity of choosing between very worthy projects while allocating limited resources to sustain those most essential. Commissioner Brill moved to pledge \$30,000 to the Sink the Pool Fund payment to be made when the cost of \$1,100,000 is confirmed and construction is ready to proceed. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Animal Control Director position job description was placed on the agenda for discussion. The Commissioners agreed by consensus that the committee which President Eglinger had appointed for the review and recommendation of applicants could also make recommendations regarding the job description. The interview committee is President Eglinger, Sheriff Sions and Clerk Strite.

The Commission had received a letter from NextEra Energy regarding the construction of the MidAtlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) electricity transmission line. A letter had been drafted in response which states the Commission's opposition to the proposed project and offering more acceptable options for the construction through Hampshire County. Commissioner Brill moved that the Commission sign the letter and send that response to NextEra Energy. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commission had been contacted by an interested purchaser regarding the sale of the Hampshire Health Center. Several unexpected questions have developed and the Commission drafted a letter asking for clarification and updates. The Commission agreed by consensus to send the letter to the interested party and to place the matter on an upcoming agenda for additional discussion.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous with the exception of those otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, (by electronic, video connection), and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on July 8, 2025 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 15, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Sheriff Sions sent personnel letters giving notice of the hirings of David Connell to become a Deputy Sheriff effective August 25, 2025 and as E911 Director requesting consent for the appointment of Ericka Blaylock as E911 Dispatcher. Commissioner Brill moved that the Commission give consent to the Sheriff's hires for the Deputy position and the E911 Dispatcher position. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion which passed.

Commissioner Brill moved to approve the request from Assessor Lacey Haines to hire a part-time, temporary person to help with general duties through the month of August. They will be paid from the Assessor's line #406 of the Assessor's General County Fund. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the Assessor's request and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Commission had appointed a committee consisting of President Eglinger, Sheriff Sions and Clerk Strite to conduct the screening and interviews of applicants for the position of Animal Shelter Director. President Eglinger reported that the Committee had interviewed three very good candidates and made recommendation that the current interim Director, Crystal Connelly be offered the position of Hampshire County Animal Shelter Director. Commissioner Brill moved to offer Ms. Connelly the full-time position of Animal Shelter Director. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented a letter from Joseph Ratliff, Director of the WV Office of Emergency Management, which is part of the WV Department of Health. Mr. Ratliff's letter informed the Commission that Hampshire County has been approved to receive \$90,909.09 as part of a \$5 million legislative appropriation to support the purchase of equipment for agencies that provide 911 response within the counties. The letter included additional stipulations regarding expenditures and stated that each county must invoice the WV Office of Emergency Medical Services to receive the funds. The Commissioners were in agreement that the Clerk should proceed with submitting the required invoice.

Notice had been received that litigation against Purdue Pharma / The Sackler Family and another group of pharmaceutical companies has resulted in settlements in favor of local governmental entities. Hampshire County has been invited to join the settlement group and Clerk Strite suggested that the Commission name him as authorized agent to enroll Hampshire County in the actions. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize this activity and Commissioner Mantz asked to make the motion more specific stating that the Clerk be authorized to enroll the Commission in the settlement pools. Commissioner Brill agreed with the clarification and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Commission was notified that Genesis Healthcare has filed for bankruptcy protection, complicating the potential sale of the property and limiting the Commission's possible recourse in pursuing delinquent rent payments. Commissioner Mantz has studied the process and determined that the correct manner to notify the Bankruptcy Court of the delinquent rent(s) is to file a claim with the Court identifying the specific shortage. Commissioner Mantz had prepared a claim form and suggested that Clerk Strite be specified as the agent of the Commission in submitting the document. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize Clerk Strite to act as the agent of the Hampshire County Commission in this situation and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz felt it would be helpful to have a stake holder meeting to include those who would be impacted by the possible nursing home sale. The Clerk will set up a meeting.

Darren Taylor, Director of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center sent a quarterly schedule of payments for the grant from Justice and Community Services that funds the Center. Commissioner Brill moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the grant payment schedule and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lee Ann Wiiki, CEO of Lintu Solutions presented information regarding the launch of an apprenticeship program to train students to develop artificial intelligence (AI) platforms which could be applied in the County. In attendance with Ms. Wiiki was JT Hott, Director of the Development Authority and Lauren Arbaugh, Director of Workforce and Continuing Education at the Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College (EWVCTC), who will work closely with the program. EWVCTC is currently, the only college in the state of WV to offer AI training except for West Virginia University. Commissioner Mantz moved that the Commission provide funding as a grant to make sure Phase I of the apprenticeship program gets started in a timely manner in the amount of \$4600, with the stipulations that Hampshire County residents be the exclusive apprentices in this phase of the program, that funds be drawn monthly with invoices and receipts submitted for payment and that updates on the progress be due within sixty days. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Global Science and Technology (GST) sent the annual contract for renewal. Commissioner Brill moved that the Commission authorize President Eglinger to sign the contract for internet networking services and support. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County that have accumulated since the last regular meeting were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on August 12, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

The President asked to address unscheduled business before the scheduled items began.

The Sheriff's Settlement FYE June 30, 2025 was presented for approval. Commissioner Brill made a motion to approve the settlement, Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite stated that Circuit Clerk Sonja Embrey had sent a request to increase her budget by \$12,000 for training, but an Official Budget Revision still needed to be prepared showing the source of the funds and that will be prepared for a future meeting.

JT Hott, Executive Director of the Development Authority, presented a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which has been in development in regard to the transfer of the old Romney Elementary, old Middle School and old Board of Education office buildings including lands, to the Development Authority. A subsequent deed will be forthcoming which will complete the transfer. The Hampshire County Commission will then enter long-term lease with the Development Authority to use the old board office as office space for the Day Report Offices and the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Mantz moved to adopt, approve and sign the MOU as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz then moved that President Eglinger be authorized to sign the deed or transfer which is expected to be delivered shortly. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion which then passed.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) fee exemption requests were presented upon review and recommendation of HCESA staff. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the recommendations of the HCESA staff and to approve seven (7) exemption requests and to deny the two (2) as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Two public hearings had been erroneously scheduled to consider probate in solemn form procedures to admit copies of wills to probate. These will be rescheduled at a later date.

County Grant Writer Rolf Ronken presented a draft version of a grant application and resolution for funds for Phase II of the Courthouse electrification project. The application is to the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (CFIA) and is due before the next meeting of the Commission. Brian Brill moved to authorize the President to sign a letter of support for the grant. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize the President to sign the resolution for the grant application and other grant documents upon completion. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commission wanted to discuss collaborative efforts amongst area county leaders regarding transmission line projects. A consensus emerged among the Commissioners that Commissioner Brill will develop a regional meeting with other interested Commissioners and leaders in organizing efforts in opposition to the proposed transmission line paths across eastern West Virginia.

Commissioner Mantz spoke regarding the creation of a subcommittee consisting of mostly department heads working to reduce duplication and gain efficiencies, particularly in the area of purchasing. Participants initially suggested were the Clerk, Treasurer and Chief Hamrick of HCESA.

Estella Garber, Director of Hampshire County Pathways, presented a proclamation naming September as Recovery Month in Hampshire County. President Eglinger read the proposed proclamation and Commissioner Mantz moved that the Hampshire County Commission adopt the proclamation and make September to be Recovery Month in Hampshire County. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Brill had been working to find a commercial appraiser to determine a value on the Romney Health Center building. A request for proposal was prepared and circulated and one qualified appraiser surfaced. Cara Keys of Keys Valuation: Real Estate Appraisal Services, LLC submitted qualifications, insurance certification and an estimate to provide the appraisal for the amount of \$5,800 and complete the process within 30 days. Since the bid falls far below the level requiring additional bids and since this specialized service is unique in our area, it was decided to proceed. Commissioner Mantz moved to move forward with the appraisal by Keys Valuation and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Mantz reviewed the list of estates under consideration and stated he is still marginally representing one of the estates applying for settlement and needed to recuse himself from further consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. President Eglinger seconded the motion and the motion passed on a two to zero vote with Commissioner Mantz not voting on the motion.

The expense invoices of the County that have accumulated since the last regular meeting were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous except as noted, (specifically the estate action).

Respectfully submitted, Eric W Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of August 26, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The first agenda item was consideration of an engagement letter with Keys Valuation: Real Estate Appraisal Services to provide a determination of the current fair market value of the Hampshire Center located at 260 Sunrise Boulevard. Commissioner Brill presented a summary of the letter which states that Ms. Keys will provide a completed appraisal in eight days from date of receipt for the amount of \$5,800. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the commitment letter as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Commissioners signed the letter.

Commissioner Mantz reported that the Planning Office was recently confronted with an eminent change in the building inspection process as Middle Department Inspection Agency (MDIA), who has contracted the inspection services for the Office for several years, has stated they will no longer be providing this service. The Planning Board has decided to hire a temporary, part-time inspector to provide continuity of service while staff members obtain certifications. The move is expected to be revenue neutral but may require some budgetary adjustments.

The Commissioners were asked to consider some maintenance and cleaning concerns regarding the Judicial Center, including a deep cleaning of the floors, (carpets and tile), and windows. The Commissioners agreed to have Maintenance Supervisor Kenny McBride and Clerk Strite to investigate possible service providers and report back to the Commission with options to address these concerns.

Official Budget Revision #2 to the General Fund (#1) was presented as prepared by Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer as requested by Circuit Clerk Sonja Embrey. Circuit Clerk Embrey asked that an additional \$12,000 be added to her budget (#403) for training. This line item had been omitted in the initial budget request. The requested funds are being moved from the allocation for the Regional Jail Authority (704), reducing that budget from \$500,000 to \$488,000. Commissioner Logan Mantz moved that Official Budget Revision #2 to the General Fund (#1) be approved as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Official Budget Revision will be submitted to the Local Government Services (LGS) division of the Auditors Office for approval.

Chief DJ Hamrick offered a brief report of activities of the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA).

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Carroll offered an update of the activities of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. President Eglinger called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on September 9, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Hampshire County Assessor Lacey Haines sent one tax bill exoneration for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve this tax exoneration as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Friend Products had submitted a written bid to deliver coal for the courthouse at the price of \$200 per ton, plus they will furnish a conveyor and one man. The coal was delivered later than usual last year and it is estimated that two truckloads will suffice at about twenty tons. Commissioner Mantz moved to approved the purchase of coal from Friend's and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A public hearing to probate the will of Jacqueline M. Adams in solemn form had been scheduled and Attorney Kevin Judy had served notice on all interested parties. Attorney Judy stated that the original will appears to have been lost, but it was understood by all parties that it had not been intentionally destroyed by the decedent. No objection was either received or presented before or during the hearing and Commissioner Mantz moved to admit the copy of the will of Jacqueline M. Adams will to probate and to approve an order authorizing this action. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

A public hearing to probate the will of Elizabeth S. Mellon in solemn form had been scheduled and Attorney Kevin Judy had served notice on all interested parties. Attorney Judy stated that the original will appears to have been lost, but there is a dispute that the will was destroyed by the decedent, however Attorney Will Keaton stated to Attorney Judy that he consulted with the decedent in his office several years after a family member, (Ms. Sherri Schaefer) claims that it was destroyed. Ms. Schaefer could not attend this hearing because of work scheduling. The Commission agreed they would reschedule the hearing on the matter for 9:30 am on October 14, 2025 and Attorney Judy agreed to serve notice on all parties of the new hearing. No further action was taken.

The topic of beginning an investigation into possible alternative telecom providers for the County Courthouse Complex, including the Judicial Center, had been posted as an agenda item. Discussion among department heads and elected officials had occurred earlier and a committee of Commissioner Mantz, Circuit Clerk Sonja Embrey, County Clerk Eric Strite and GIS and IT Specialist Arron Cox had agreed to look into the options, pending the agreement of the Commission. The Commission agreed that this committee should proceed with the goals of establishing improved service and lower costs for the County.

President Eglinger offered a period of public comment and Delegate Rick Hillenbrand offered help with regard to the telecommunications effort, Jeff Johnson introduced himself as the new Director of Toys for Tots and stated the need for space and volunteers and Mark Haynes spoke regarding industrial green energy generation.

The expense invoices of the County that have accumulated since the last regular meeting were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous

A special meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger stated that the required notice and posting of the special meeting had been accomplished and that the purpose of the meeting was to consider letters of support for some youth related grants and matters concerning the Hampshire Health Center sale and the proposed electrical power transmission lines. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

Darren Taylor, Executive Director of the South Branch Valley Day Report Center (SBVDRC) presented information regarding a new grant application to the West Virginia First Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 for a Youth Services Division for Hampshire and Hardy Counties. Mr. Taylor stated that the need for prevention services for the youth demographic was quickly established, that there will be no match required and that the program should be self-sustaining through billings for services submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHR). Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the letter of support as presented and authorize the President to sign the same. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mr. Taylor continued his presentation with a second grant application, this one to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to help establish a Youth Mentoring Program. The request is for \$650,000 over a three-year period and only thirty-six of these grants will be awarded nationwide. Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize the President to sign this letter of support and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The municipalities of Romney and Capon Bridge were represented by Romney Mayor Beverly Keadle in presenting requests for letters of support for grant applications to the West Virginia First Foundation Youth Services Division, in support of the development of activities which encourage youth to develop interests and activities as an alternative to substance misuse. Commissioner Mantz stated he would recuse himself from consideration as he had written the grants for the municipalities. President Eglinger moved to authorize the President to sign the letters of support for the grants and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed on a two to zero vote with Commissioner Mantz recused from the vote.

Commissioner Brill advised the Commission that the appraisal of the nursing home building is expected and he will contact the appraiser to learn of progress.

Commissioner Brill updated the Commission on discussions with other Commissions affected by the Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL) proposed line of construction. To this point the communications between Commissions have been primarily by emails and Preston County is reported to have sent a letter to the Governor. Commissioner Mantz pointed out that This Commission has had no discussion on this topic, outside of a public commission meeting. The Commission agreed that a unified message from the impacted County Commissions could be important and meeting with other Commissions would be helpful. The Commission also agreed that letters from this Commission to the Governor and Public Service Commission (PSC) would be an important next step and Commissioner Mantz offered to develop the letter. President Eglinger moved to have Commissioner Mantz draft this letter for consideration at the next meeting and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous with the exception of those otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted, Eric W. Strite, Hampshire County Clerk

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2025 were presented for consideration along with the minutes of the Special Meeting held October 6, 2025. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Leah Kidner submitted her retirement letter and accrued leave as projected through her retirement date of January 30, 2026. Commissioner Mantz moved to accept Ms. Kidner's retirement proposal as submitted and thank her for her years of service. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Lee Ann Wiiki, CEO of Lintu Solutions introduced apprentice Deseree Guthrie and discussed the progress of the program to this point. Jordan Gray is the second apprentice but was unavailable for this meeting.

Attorney Kevin Judy had requested a public hearing to Probate in Solemn Form a copy of a will for the estate of Elizabeth S. Mellon. Mr. Judy provided documentation that notice had been served on all parties and the hearing proceeded. An argument was presented that the will had been destroyed, but the Commission concluded that there was no evidence of revocation of the will and Commissioner Mantz moved to adopt the will of Elizabeth S. Mellon in Solemn Form, as provided in WV Code §41-5-5. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Alex Morris had canceled his appointment to speak regarding a Little League practice facility, but Ronnie Cheeves asked the Commission to think about support for a facility on the grounds of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. No action was taken.

Rebecca Conrad, Executive Director of the Family Crisis Center, presented a request that the Commission adopt a Proclamation designating the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Hampshire County. President Eglinger read the Proclamation and Commissioner Mantz moved to adopt the Proclamation and authorize President Eglinger to sign the document. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commissioners had scheduled a discussion of several topics related to the Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link (MARL), including a survey of the community citizens and a way to have a meeting with other affected Commissions. Aaron Cox had prepared a survey for distribution to the citizens and this was discussed and refined. A suggestion was made to offer gift cards of up to \$50 each for a total of \$500, to encourage participation with a drawing to be held when the survey closes. Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize Mr. Cox to proceed by posting the refined survey and to include the incentive for participation pending the guidance of Prosecutor Miller. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Commissioners continued the discussion of how to coordinate a meeting with other Commissions and agreed that a digital letter which will include a link to an online poll of possible dates for a virtual meeting could be circulated. This agreement was by consensus.

The possible sale of Hampshire Health Center will move to next meeting.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Mantz moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger called on Clerk Eric Strite to offer prayer. The President led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on October 14, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger and the Commissioners reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Helene Kerns came with Bonnie Myers and Louisa Bridges to introduce themselves as the executive committee of the newly established, Hampshire County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), which is named the Catherine Parker Foreman Chapter of the DAR. In preparation for the American 250th Celebration, the National Society is encouraging local chapters to raise funds and install bronze Patriots Markers in local communities. The Catherine Parker Foreman Chapter is working to have a Patriots Marker prepared for placement on the Courthouse lawn, with the Commissioner's consent. Their goal is to set up and dedicate the marker on the 4th of July, 2026, (250th Celebration date). Commissioner Mantz moved that permission for placement be granted on the Courthouse lawn, unless a more appropriate location can be found. The motion continued that the President be authorized to sign any documentation the Chapter may need to proceed with the project. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Carol Shaw and Eileen Johnson of the Hampshire County Historical Landmarks Commission (HCHLC) requested that the Commission approve an Order activating the Hampshire County Historical Landmarks Registry. The Commission had some concerns regarding the coordination between the HCHLC and the Planning Office and agreed that it will be important for the entities to coordinate how a registry can be developed and maintained. Commissioner Mantz moved to proceed with the order with the caveat that the HCHLC members will work with the Planning Commission to implement the process. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Aaron Cox presented information regarding the repairs to the current telephone system in the Courthouse complex which has been deteriorating. Hardy Telecommunications has some used parts and are scheduled to come on Thursday to apply a fix of our system until a more permanent upgrade can be addressed.

President Eglinger offered a public comment period and Delegate Rick Hillenbrand brought forward a press release from the Governor announcing financial support for foodbanks and other programs that address food insecurity during the expected suspension of benefits during the federal shutdown.

Hampshire County Assessor Lacey Haines sent one tax bill exoneration for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve this tax exoneration as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) Director, Darren Hamrick sent a request that the penalty assessed to unpaid HCESA fees on October 1, 2025 be exempted for taxpayers that have filed an exemption form prior to October 1, 2025 and is currently in the review process. Mr. Hamrick also requested that forty-six tickets be modified to a Seasonal Camper fee. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve both requests Director Hamrock had presented, exempting the penalty fee on unpaid HCESA fees as of October 1 with exemption requests filed before October 1 and to change the forty-six (46) tickets to the season camper fee. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Objection to the settlement of the Estate of Kathleen Puhalla had been received prior to this hearing, The Statement of Receipts and Disbursements had been filed for settlement and forwarded to the beneficiaries. The Commissioners had been forwarded copies of all the estate documents including the objections. The Commissioners reviewed the information and agreed to move forward with the settlement of the estate as presented by the Executors. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the settlement and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger announced that the next topic would be consideration of the sale of the Hampshire Health Center building. Commissioner Mantz moved to take this topic into executive session as allowed under WV Code §6-9A-4 for discussion of contractual matters that are still in negotiation. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed at 7:33.

President Eglinger declared the meeting back in regular session at 8:07 pm and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken. The President did say the Commission will continue the process of the sale of the building.

Official budget revisions were prepared by Deputy Clerk Bethany Billmeyer for both the General Fund (#1) and the Coal Severance Fund (#2). Commissioner Brill moved that Official Budget Revision #_ for the General Fund (#1) and the Official Budget Revision # _ to the Coal Severance Fund (#2), be approved as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The expense invoices of the County that have accumulated since the last regular meeting were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed, Commissioner Brill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger, Commissioner Brill and Commissioner Mantz reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency (HCESA) fee exemption requests were presented for consideration after being reviewed by HCESA staff and a recommendation for action made on each. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the recommendations of the HCESA staff and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Steve Moreland, President of the Hampshire County Library Board told the Commission that the suspended ceiling in the Romney Library suffered a partial collapse and they have been advised that the entire ceiling will need to be replaced. The lowest estimate of the two received was \$196,000 from Garber Construction. The contractor agreed to work during hours that the library will be closed. The Library Board is looking for funding and asked that the Commission consider supporting with at least half the cost. The Commission agreed to help as much as possible including possible grant funding.

Leroy James, Director of the Hospice of the Panhandle presented a proclamation declaring November 2025 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Mr. James read the proclamation and Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The West Virginia Department of Health and Emergency Medical Services Department had notified the County that a grant of \$90,909.09 would be sent to Hampshire County with specific requirements for use by the Emergency Services Agencies in our County and to be controlled and distributed by the Commission. Deputy Clerk Billmeyer prepared Official Budget Revision #4 to the General Fund (#1) to establish the line item where these funds will be managed. Commissioner Brill moved to approve Official Budget Revision #4 to the General Fund as presented and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

HCESA Director Hamrick recommended that the distribution be made evenly between the four transporting agencies in Hampshire County. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

While Mr. Hamrick was present, the Commission agreed to consider the order regarding HCESA exemption authority from a later position on the agenda. The proposed order provides for the HCESA staff to review exemption requests and approve or deny the request after review. The party requesting the exemption will be able to appeal the decision of the HCESA staff to the Commission for review. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the order as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Hamrick discussed his ideas for some restructuring of the HCESA and Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) leadership, but no action was taken.

The Hampshire and Hardy County Commissioners, Assessors, Clerks and mappers met to discuss a process to re-establish and clarify the common county line which was surveyed in 1888. Several points in the twenty-seven-mile line have been lost and there is some confusion as to the precise location of the boundary. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was produced agreeing to use County Surveyors and modern global positioning technology to identify the surveyed points of this line. President Eglinger read the MOU and it was stressed that this will be a retracement of the approved survey. Landowners will be notified of activity in relation to their property and the cost is to be split between the two counties. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the MOU as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

JT Hott, Executive Director of the Hampshire County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) presented the annual Local Economic Development (LED) resolution, committing financial support to the HCEDA. This year's LED commits \$100,000 (and up to \$150,000 if available), to the HCEDA. Commissioner Mantz moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Hott presented a MOU regarding the sale of mobile units (classrooms) on the recently transferred property formerly known as the Romney Elementary School. Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the document and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Hott presented information regarding workforce development opportunities with three classes being offered beginning 2026 for welding, carpentry and electrical skills.

Two bids had been received in response to an advertisement to replace the roof on the future Sheriff's office and Day Report Center. The bids were from Hite Roofing and Blackstone Roofing. The Commissioners reviewed the bids and announced that Hite Roofing submitted a bid of \$134,000 and Blackstone Roofing submitted a bid of \$133,000. The Commissioners felt the bids were identical in scope of work and Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the lower bid from Blackstone and to allocate all available Opioid Settlement Funds and that the Commission is to fund the balance. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Tamitha Wilkins, Director of the Hampshire County Board of Health and Derrick Haggerty, Sanitarian, presented proposed changes to administrative rules and a Hampshire County Public Health and Sanitarian Ordinance. Commissioner Mantz moved to post the new rules and Ordinance on the Health Departments website and the County website and to invite public comment at a hearing to be held during the next Commission meeting at 9:30 am on December 16, 2025. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Region 8 Development Council requested that two documents be signed in regard to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Health Facility project. The first was a request for funds and the second a statement of substantial completion. Ms. Wilkins agreed that signing both was appropriate at this time and Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize the President to sign the CDBG documents. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The possible sale of the Hampshire Health Center has been an ongoing topic and was on the agenda in an unscheduled position, (housekeeping). Commissioner Mantz offered a recap of the situation to date, explaining that an apparently qualified buyer has expressed an interest to purchase the property at an appropriate value but any sale process will need to include an opportunity for competitive bidding. Commissioner Mantz has spoken to Kenneth Barton of Steptoe and Johnson to guide the Commission and facilitate the sale process, should that develop. Commissioner Mantz moved to retain Mr. Burton and the firm of Steptoe and Johnson. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

A letter had been drafted requesting an Attorney General opinion regarding possible contributions by the Commission to support farm preservation and emergency services scholarship programs. Commissioner Brill moved to request Prosecutor Miller to proceed with a letter on the Commission's behalf. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Town of Capon Bridge requested the appointment of Tim Reese as their representative to sit on the Hampshire County Development Authority. Commissioner Mantz spoke in support of the appointment. Commissioners Eglinger and Brill stated they could not support the appointment of Mr. Reese to the Development Authority. President Eglinger called for a vote and Commissioner Mantz voted in favor of the appointment of Mr. Reese while Commissioner Brill and President Eglinger voted against, so the appointment failed 1-2.

Deputy Clerk Billmeyer prepared Official Budget Revision #5 to the General Fund (#1), for consideration. After review, Commissioner Brill moved to approve Official Budget Revision #5 and Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come

before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Mantz moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Note: all actions were approved by a voice vote and all were unanimous, except as noted.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.

A regular meeting of the Hampshire County Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Hampshire County Courthouse. President Brian W. Eglinger, Commissioner Logan Mantz, and Commissioner Brian Brill were present. President Eglinger asked Clerk Eric Strite to pray before the meeting. President Eglinger led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and then called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2025 were presented for consideration. Commissioner Mantz moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Eglinger stated he had nothing to report that would not be covered in the agenda topics and yielded his time to Mr. Rhett Dusenbery who represents Congressman Riley Moore. Mr. Dusenbery extended greetings from the Congressman and offered to help as needed.

Commissioners Mantz and Brill reported on the various meetings and events in which they have attended, participated and represented the Commission since the last meeting of the Commission.

Grant writer Rolf Ronken was away for training and asked the Clerk to present the contract and resolution for the recently awarded Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (CFIA) grant. This grant will be used for lighting upgrades to the Courthouse and is a phase II piece to the recently completed CFIA grant which installed new power and wiring in the building. Commissioner Mantz moved to authorize President Eglinger to sign the necessary documents and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tax Assessor Lacey Haines sent tax bill exonerations for consideration. Commissioner Brill moved to approve the tax exonerations as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Assessor Haines sent a letter introducing a new flyover to upgrade and update the parcel viewer and mapping applications. She has most of the funding in her resources, but would like some assistance. This came as a letter and was not a posted agenda item so no action was taken, but it may be revisited at a future meeting.

The Clerk suggested to the Commission that there may be uncertainty regarding the State Holiday schedule after Christmas and New Year's Day and this may impact the first available day for the Commission to meet for the purpose of selecting a new President and setting a calendar of meeting dates for the year of 2026. The Commission agreed by consensus to meet on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 9 am for the purpose of selecting a President and setting the calendar.

Members of the Hampshire County Library Board, Steve Moreland and Nancy Meade presented a request to run a library levy on the Primary Election ballot which will be held on May 12, 2026. There was some discussion regarding the levy rates and the Clerk will assist in the preparation of a levy order for approval by the Commission in January of 2026.

A Public Hearing was scheduled and advertised in regard to the Hampshire County Board of Health Ordinance that was proposed at the last Commission meeting. President Eglinger opened the Public Hearing and invited the public to make comment. Director Wilkins stated that her office had not received any feedback in response to the advertisement. No one commented in the hearing and President Eglinger closed the public hearing. Commissioner Mantz moved to adopt the Ordinance as published and Commissioner Brill seconded the motion. The motion passed. Commissioner Mantz suggested a coordination between the Health Department and the Prosecutor to iron out enforcement matters.

The Central Hampshire Public Service District (CHPSD), represented by Duanne "Punkin" Oates, Treasurer, David Coyle, Chair and Derrick Staggs, General Manager, presented a request for help in purchasing a mini-excavator for the department. The CHPSD stated their case for owning instead of renting or hiring a machine and stated that they would work cooperatively with the County Maintenance staff on projects. Commissioner Brill moved to award \$20,000 to the CHPSD to help them obtain favorable terms to lease/own a Cat 304 min-excavator. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

In the November 18, 2025 meeting, the Commission voted to retain the services of Mr. Kenneth Barton of Steptoe and Johnson to act as General Counsel to the Commission in the process of the possible sale of the Hampshire Health Center facility. Attorney Barton came to discuss how the offering might proceed. Mr. Barton stated the Commission is correct in their

understanding that a sale must occur in an auction process which could involve an agent facilitating the auction, (for a substantial fee), or could be publicized and handled in a more traditional auction setting by the Commission. Commissioner Mantz stated that in accordance with WV Code § 7-3-3, he moved that the President of the County Commission be authorized to sell Hampshire Center to the highest bidder in excess of \$11,700, under such terms and conditions that the President deems advisable. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed. The Commission agreed that Commissioner Mantz will continue to be the primary contact with Mr. Barton for the Commission.

President Eglinger asked for a motion to move the agenda topics on the agenda and Commissioner Mantz moved to have the Cacapon Neuter Trap Return (CNTR) representatives give their presentation before the topic previously scheduled. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Marie O'Hagan, Director of the Cacapon Neuter Trap Return (CTNR) gave an overview of the problem of the feral cat population in Hampshire County and told of their efforts to help alleviate this situation, which has addressed four-hundred (400) cats in Hampshire County so far this year. Documentation of Community support was also presented. Director O'Hagan is hoping for an annual contribution which could help with a match of up to \$10,000 from WV Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Mantz began a motion which he later withdrew as discussion continued and the Commission agreed to continue consideration of support as more information is developed.

The topic of OEM (Office of Emergency Management) Software rollout and administrative review was introduced and President Eglinger suggested that executive session be considered due to possible personnel issues. Commissioner Brill moved to go into executive session and President Eglinger seconded the motion. Commissioner Brill and President Eglinger voted for the motion and Commissioner Mantz voted nay.

The Commission adjourned to executive session at 10:40 and returned at 11:27 am and stated that no decisions were made and no actions taken.

Commissioner Mantz stated that there had been complications involved in the software rollout and the Commission has an obligation to all employees to provide a correct review of concerns and processes. Commissioner Mantz then moved to request that the HCESA (Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency) Board review allegations on rollout concerns and other situations and report back to the Commission with findings of fact. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Clerk Strite presented those estates that had applied for final settlement by Report of Receipts and Disbursements or Affidavit & Waiver of Final Settlement. Commissioner Brill moved to approve those estates that applied for Final Settlement, and all probate orders, fiduciary appointments, orders and qualifications and all fiduciary bonds which have come before the Clerk in the vacation of the Commission since its last regular meeting. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Brill reported that Marie Sowers had resigned from the Parks and Recreation Board after serving ten years on that board. The Parks and Recreation Board had recommended Marsha Sowers to replace her and the Commissioner Brill then nominated Marsha Sowers to fill the unexpired term of Marie Sowers. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

President Eglinger offered the public an opportunity to speak. Tom Butcher of First Energy introduced himself and offered to help the Commission to work through any interactions with the local electricity provider.

Mr. Cole Roomsburg, who is employed with HCESA, as a Paramedic, spoke in support of the agency.

The expense invoices of the County were presented for review by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brill moved the invoices be paid as presented. Commissioner Mantz seconded the motion and the motion passed.

All scheduled business having been addressed; Commissioner Mantz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brill seconded the motion, the motion passed and President Eglinger declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Eric Strite, Hampshire County Clerk.