

HARRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Harrison County Commission

229 SOUTH 3RD STREET
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301
304-624-8500
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COMMISSIONERS
DAVID L. HINKLE
SUSAN J. THOMAS
PATSY TRECOST II

BK0094 PG0650

At the regular meeting of the County Commission of Harrison County held on Wednesday August 5, 2026, Commissioners Susan Thomas and David Hinkle were present. Commissioner Trecost was absent. Also present were John Spires, County Clerk and Laura Pysz-Laulis, County Administrator. Commissioner Thomas opened the meeting and said a prayer and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

1. **Public Comment Period**: Unanimous opposition to the transmission line.

10:05 A.M. --- Nuisance Property: Chad and Roberta Barnhart Case 25-0001 – 8052 Blair Ln Stonewood: Hinkle moved to allow two weeks to file the deed and thirty days to remediate. Commission concurred.

10:10 A.M. --- Nuisance Property: Blackrock Enterprises LLC c/o Michael L. Benedum Case 26-0024 – 1 lot 71.3 SQ PLS Jarvisville: Hinkle moved to allow thirty days to get property cleaned up and if not turn it over to legal. Commission concurred.

10:15 A.M. --- Proclamation – Harrison County Goes Purple for September 2026: Commissioner Thomas read and presented the proclamation that discussed recovery from substance abuse disorder. The Harrison County Commissioner hereby declares September 2026 as "Harrison County Goes Purple".

10:20 A.M. --- Special Funding Request from the West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival requesting $5,000 for their Festival that takes place in Clarksburg, WV on September 4th through September 6th: : Weege Vargo gave an overview of what the funds will be used for. Hinkle moved to approve a $5,000.00 donation. Commission concurred.

10:25 A.M. --- Special Funding Request from Johnstown Community Educational Outreach Service requesting $3,000 for their Annual Johnstown Fair that takes place on September 11th though September 12th : Hinkle moved to approve a $3,000.00 donation. Commission concurred.

10:30 A.M. --- Special Funding Request from the Town of Lost Creek requesting $24,450 for a Drainage Project: Representative from the Engineering firm spoke of funding request. The Commission will revisit in two weeks.

Harrison County
John R Spires, Clerk
Instrument 202600021498
09/09/2026 @ 12:44:43 PM
GENERAL ORDER
Book 94 @ Page 650
Pages Recorded 25

10:35 A.M. --- Special Funding Request from Healthy Harrison seeking $100,000 strengthen their request for $1 million from the WVFF for statewide expansion:

2. **Consent Agenda**: Hinkle moved to approve. Commission concurred.
3. **Payroll Change Notices:** Hinkle moved to approve A through N. Commission concurred.
   - **A.** Lori Thomas – Circuit Clerk – Rate Change – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **B.** Arch Benninger – Courthouse Security – New Hire – Effective August 6, 2026
   - **C.** John Walker – Transfer from Courthouse Security to Process – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **D.** Tyler Hall – Law Enforcement – Promoted to Sergeant – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **E.** Nicholas Fiber – Law Enforcement – New Hire – August 10, 2026
   - **F.** Ronald Burns – Law Enforcement – New Hire – August 10, 2026
   - **G.** Coty Singleton – Law Enforcement – Salary Line Transfer – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **H.** Aimee Gargus – WVU Extension Office – New Hire – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **I.** Jeff Kennedy – Courthouse Security – New Hire – Effective August 6, 2026
   - **J.** Melissa Stevens – Assessor – Merit Increase – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **K.** Steven Hathaway – Assessor – New Certification – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **L.** Jeff Hathaway – Assessor – New Certification – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **M.** Dan Dorsey – Assessor – New Certification – Effective August 10, 2026
   - **N.** Andrew Vernon – Law Enforcement – Resignation – Effective August 10, 2026
4. **Minutes and/ or Amended Minutes of Previous Meetings**: Hinkle moved to approve A through D as presented. Commission concurred.
   - **A.** Special Meeting Minutes for June 30, 2026 (Levy)
   - **B.** Special Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2026 at 9am
   - **C.** Commission Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2026
   - **D.** Special Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2026 at 3pm
5. **Requisitions --- Purchase Orders --- Invoices**: Hinkle moved to approve A through D. Commission concurred.
   - A. Greater Harrison PSD – ARPA - $499,838.70
   - B. Quotes
   - **C.** Vendor List of Payments
6. **Exonerations --- Corrective Tickets --- Joint Property Applications:** Hinkle moved to approve A, B and C. Commission concurred.
   - **A.** Exonerations
   - **B.** Corrective Tickets
   - **C.** Joint Property
7. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Consideration of Approval of a Project Fund Requisition for the payment of cost associated with the project to be financed from proceeds of the & Series 2008 A (Charles Pointe Project No. 2- North Land Bay Improvements): Hinkle

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moved to approve item 7A. Commissioner Thomas voted in favor. Commissioner Hinkle voted against. Motion failed.

A. $16,627.07

8. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Consideration of Approval of a Project Fund Requisition for the payment of cost associated with the project to be financed from proceeds of the Series 2019 A&B Bonds issued for the Charles Pointe Economic Opportunity Development District.: Hinkle moved to approve 8A. Commissioner Thomas voted in favor. Commissioner Hinkle voted against. Motion failed.

   A. $7,196.00

9. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Consideration of Approval of a Project Fund Requisition for the payment of cost associated with the project to be financed from proceeds of the Series 2021 A & B (Development District No. 3 White Oaks Project No. 2): Hinkle moved to approve 9A. Commission concurred.

   A. 250.00

10. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Contract for Services with Total Assessment Solutions: Commissioner Thomas advised to place this item on the next agenda. There was no vote.
11. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Harrison County IT Department (Potential Executive session to consider matters arising from the appointment, employment, retirement, promotion, transfer, demotion, disciplining, resignation, discharge, dismissal or compensation of a public officer or employee, or prospective public officer or employee): Hinkle moved to enter into executive session. Commission concurred. Commissioners Thomas and Hinkle, along with Laura Pysz-Laulis and Trey Simmerman were present in executive session.
    Hinkle moved to enter into regular session. Commission concurred.
    Hinkle moved to approve a ten minute recess. Commission concurred.
    Hinkle moved to enter into regular session. Commission concurred.
12. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Hiring two IT interns: Hinkle moved to approve. Commission concurred.
13. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Employee Handbook: Hinkle moved to approve as presented. Commission concurred.
    https://www.harrisoncountywv.com/documents/forms/commission/employee-handbook.pdf
14. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Tearing down the Annex portion of the Courthouse: Hinkle moved to seek a cost to demo and scope of demolition. Commissioner Hinkle voted in favor. Commissioner Thomas voted against. Motion failed.
15. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Commission's Stance Valley Link Power Transmission Project: Thomas made a motion to oppose the transmission project and pass a resolution. Commission concurred.
16. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Approving the Grafton Tower Lease: This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

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17. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Pledging $500,000 to the Clarksburg Water Board to help with the Lumberport Water Systems: Hinkle moved to pledge $500,000.00 with half coming from each fiscal year. Commission concurred.
18. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Creating a Priority List for the Rail Trail Projects: There was discussion held on current progress and future goals. No action taken.
19. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Begin Process to Upgrade/Construct the Rail Trail from the VA to Hite Field: No action taken.
20. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Approving the By-Laws for the Rail Trail Committee that we are creating: Hinkle moved to add Shinnston, Clarksburg, Salem and Lost Creek and remove grants. Commission concurred.
21. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Ratifying vote re: WV - Model DS300 - ExpressPoll - EMS -- Sales Order Agreement: Hinkle moved to accept. Commission concurred.
22. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Request from the County Garage to Dispose of Excess Vehicles: Hinkle moved to direct the County Garage to dispose of excess vehicles. Commission concurred.
23. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Susan Morris' Resignation from Public Defender's Corporation Board of Directors: Hinkle moved to approve Susan Morris' resignation. Commission concurred.
24. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Appointing Elizabeth Gross to the Public Defender's Corporation Board of Directors: Hinkle moved to approve appointment. Commission concurred.
25. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Appointing a New Fiduciary Commissioner: Hinkle moved to table. Commission concurred.
26. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Letter to the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration: Hinkle moved to approve letter to the ABC. Commission concurred.
    - WVHotSpot.net LLC (dba Dola Dairy Mart)
      2978 Wallace Pike Street, Lumberport, WV 26386
27. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Resolution Authorizing the Filing of the Application for Fund from the West Virginia Department of Transportation FY 2026 Recreational Trail Program Grant: Hinkle moved to approve and affix the proper signatures. Commission concurred.
28. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Resolution Authorizing the Filing of the Application for US Department of Justice FY 2026 Bridging Immigration- Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide Program: Hinkle moved to approve the application. Commission concurred.
29. **Review—Discuss—Consider** Travel Request from 911 Employees to go to SIRN Conference at Camp Dawson, WV on September 27th through October 2nd
    A. Justin Norman
    B. Trevor Vance

    Hinkle moved to approve 29 A and B. Commission concurred.
30. **Administrator's Report**: Laura Pysz-Laulis advised that the sidewalks look good and gave a Shinnston Rail Trail update.
31. **Commissioner Comments – Questions**: Commissioner Hinkle asked of MOU for Rail Trail.

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Hinkle moved to adjourn. Commission concurred.

With no further business to come before the Commission, meeting adjourned.

Susan Thomas, President

09/02/2026
Date

BK0094 PG0654