APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

MINUTES
PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR SESSION
July 28, 2026

OPENING

Commissioners C. Brian Ellis, Douglas Pierson, and R. Andrew Skidmore were present when the 5:00 p.m. meeting convened in the old courtroom by County Commissioner R. Andrew Skidmore. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

BRIAN WOOD, COUNTY CLERK

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve invoices as reflected in the edit registers as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve July 14, 2026, Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COURT ORDERS APPROVED

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve and sign the following orders, personnel payroll changes and certifications as presented:

1. An Order to add to payroll for Hunter Childers, Part-Time, Custodian, Department 424, $12.50/hourly, effective July 13, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

2. An Order to add to payroll for Candyce Melton, Full-Time, Fiduciary Deputy, Department 411, $19.50/hourly, effective July 20, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

3. An Order to add to payroll for Hillary Smith, Full-Time, Fiduciary Deputy, Department 411, $19.50/hourly, effective July 20, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

4. An Order to add to payroll for Elise Simokat, Part-Time, EMT, Department 715, $20.89/hourly – 12-hour shift, $14.70/hourly – 24-hour shift, effective July 10,

2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

5. An Order to make a payroll change for Gwenn Fisher, Full-Time, Paramedic, Department 715, $28.39/hourly – 12-hour shift, $19.57/hourly – 24-hour shift, effective July 19, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

6. An Order to make a payroll change for Justin Maberry, Full-Time, Paramedic, Department 715, $28.39/hourly – 12-hour shift, $19.57/hourly – 24-hour shift, effective July 28, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

7. An Order to make a payroll change for Joshua Dehart, Full-Time, Paramedic, Department 715, $28.39/hourly – 12-hour shift, $19.57/hourly – 24-hour shift, effective July 24, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

8. An Order to delete from payroll for John Dyer, Part-Time, Kennel Tech, Department 716, effective July 27, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

9. An Order to add to payroll for Sara Smith, Full-Time, Kennel Lead, Department 716, $16.53/hourly, effective July 27, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

10. An Order to add to payroll for Alaina Allen, Part-Time, Kennel Tech, Department 716, $13.65/hourly, effective July 27, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

11. An Order to add to payroll for Neveah Vansickle, Part-Time, Kennel Tech, Department 716, $13.65/hourly, effective July 27, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ESTATE SETTLEMENTS

The Fiduciary Supervisor Mr. Frye presented the following documents to the Commission and recommended that they be approved as presented:

Short Form Settlements: Katherine Absten, Charles Rankin Asbury, John Millard Howard Bayliss, Jr., Sarah Ann Chelton, John Roger Davis, Jr., Norma Nadene Edwards, Joan Allen Engel, Bonnie Lee Frazier, Hollis Mack Harrison, Wendella Gale Jones, Judith Alice Larck, Clayton Richard Lovejoy, Dorothy “Dottie” Lee McAllister, Gretna Burns Forest Michels, Colleen Annette “Ann” Reel, Russell Leonard Watson

Long Form Settlements: None

Partial Settlements /Annual Accounting: Ralph O'Dell Bowling

Certificates of Completion: None

Report and Notice of Fiduciary Supervisor on Order to Show Cause Against Delinquent Or Unprogressed Estate (No Good Cause Shown):
None

An Order of "Appointment List" of Actions of Fiduciary Supervisor from, July 14, 2026, through July 28, 2026.

An order referring the Estate of Raynard Paul Watson, to Scott Tyree, Fiduciary Commissioner.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the documents and authorize the Commission President to sign all necessary documents as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

JASPER BALL, REGIONAL INTERGOVERMENTAL COUNCIL

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the resolution for payment as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:04 pm, Commissioner Ellis made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of board interviews as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 5:11 pm, Commissioner Ellis made a motion to come out of executive session and enter back into regular session as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to appoint Kristin Shaffer to serve on the Putnam County Library Board, effective July 28, 2026, with a term to expire on June 30, 2030, as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

KAITLYN STOWERS, ASSOCIATE PLANNER

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to open public hearing regarding PCPC REZ 2026-03 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to close public hearing regarding PCPC REZ 2026-03 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PCPC REZ 2026-03 - Criteria #1 – Will the proposed amendment protect and promote the public health, safety, convenience, morals, and general welfare:

Commissioner Ellis voted yes stating: Hayzlett Construction has been in business for many years and has been an important part of our local economy. Their intention to move their yard from Teays Valley near the golf course to a location near South Putnam Water would be a positive change.

Commissioner Pierson voted yes stating: I agree with Commissioner Ellis. Providing additional opportunities for the citizens of Putnam County is a good thing.

Commissioner Skidmore voted yes stating: I agree that the C-1 rezoning is appropriate. Being located within one mile of I-64 and just off the Route 34 corridor makes this an ideal location for commercial development.

PCPC REZ 2026-03 - Criteria #2 – Is the amendment consistent in achieving the objectives for the adopted Comprehensive Plan, US 35 Corridor Management Plan, and the Teays Valley Land Use Plan:

Commissioner Ellis voted yes stating: Being located only one mile from Interstate 64 and just off the old Route 34 corridor makes this an ideal location and makes things easier for everyone.

Commissioner Pierson voted yes stating: I agree with the proposed rezoning. Being in close proximity to U.S. Route 35, I would say the rezoning is consistent with and meets the intent of the County's Management Plan.

Commissioner Skidmore voted yes stating: I agree that the proposed C-1 rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan’s objective of directing commercial growth to establish growth corridors where infrastructure and development patterns already support additional commercial activity. It is consistent with the plan’s priority of promoting high-quality sight planning and community design.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the PCPC REZ 2026-03 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to dismiss DAEA Case No. 2025-18 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis amended his motion to dismiss DAEA Case No. 2025-28 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LARRY FRYE, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the Annexation without Election of partial property notice of 9903 Winfield Road, Winfield, WV, as identified in deed book 182 at page 331 into the Corporate Limits of the City of Winfield pursuant to WV Code 8-6-4 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the order to administratively close delinquent or unprogressed estates on the following: Err G. Atkinson, Ruby Bliss Balderson, Dencil D. Barnett, Ezra Franklin Bays, Hubert I. Beatty, Hazel Jane Howerton, Phyliss P. Rhule, Thomas M. Rhule as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis amended the motion to approve the order and authorize the Commission President to sign all necessary documents to administratively close delinquent or unprogressed estates on the following: Err G. Atkinson, Ruby Bliss Balderson, Dencil D. Barnett, Ezra Franklin Bays, Hubert I. Beatty, Hazel Jane Howerton, Phyliss P. Rhule, Thomas M. Rhule as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierson made a motion to suspend Putnam County Animal Shelter Board as presented. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TIM HANNA, COUNTY MANAGER

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the General County State Budget Revision #1 and authorize the Commission President to sign all necessary documents as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a check from the Putnam County Opioid Settlement Fund (#40-980-2-30.0) in the amount of $1,950.00 payable to Recovery Point of Huntington, Inc. for Putnam County Beds for the month of June 2026 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a check from the Dog Fund (#003-52230-716.0) in the amount of $1,255.00 payable to Silling Associates for Architectural Design Services for the Putnam County Animal Shelter's Kennel Canopy Project as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. An order to issue a check from the Putnam County Fire Levy Fund (027-713-2-19.0) in the amount of $215,452.32 made payable to the Community First National Bank for lease payment for Lease Number 83707 on 2024 and 2025 Saber Pumper Fire Trucks

2. An order to issue a check from the Putnam County Fire Levy Fund (027-713-2-19.0) in the amount of $155,941.91 made payable to First State Bank of Livingston for lease payments for Lease Numbers 300157856 and 300157872 on Sutphen Custom Pumper Fire Trucks

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the orders as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Harkleroad petitioned the Commission to make a public ban on flock cameras.

Karen Coria read excerpts from the Putnam County Democratic Executive Committee resolution concerning data centers and provided comments on the topic.

David Edwards discussed the opioid settlement funds expenditures and feels a greater portion of the funds should be directed toward recovery efforts.

Jessica Lacy, a lifelong Putnam County resident, spoke in opposition to data centers and the use of opioid settlement funds for flock cameras, advocating instead for directing those funds toward recovery efforts.

Nathan McComas wanted the money from the cruisers to be given back.

ADJOURN

At 5:47 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, having no further business, Commissioner Ellis made a motion and Commissioner Pierson seconded to adjourn the regular session of the County Commission until Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Kimberling
Executive Assistant