APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

MINUTES
PUTNAM COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR SESSION
August 25, 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 the orders as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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 August 11, 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 delete from payroll for Hillary Smith, Full-Time, Fiduciary Deputy, Department 411, effective August 21, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

2. An Order to add to payroll for Chelsea McAllister, Full-Time, Fiduciary Deputy, Department 411, $19.50/hourly, effective August 31, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

3. An Order to make a payroll change for Joshua Dehart, Full-Time to Part-Time, Paramedic, Department 715, $28.39/hourly – 12-hour shift, $19.57/hourly – 24-hour shift, effective August 22, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

4. An Order to delete from payroll for Ernesto Jaramillo, Full-Time, EMT, Department 715, effective August 16, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

5. An Order to make a payroll change for Hunter Childers, Part-Time to Full-Time, Custodian, Department 424, $12.50/hourly, effective August 17, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

6. An Order to add to payroll for Mckenzie Stewart, Part-Time, Kennel Tech, Department 716, $13.65/hourly, effective August 14, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

7. An Order to add to payroll for Aaron Moore, Part-Time, Kennel Tech, Department 716, $13.65/hourly, effective August 19, 2026, as presented by the Commission Secretary

8. An Order for the Clerk to issue increment checks per attached amended listing for increment pay to all full-time General County Fund (001) non-civil service employees for FY 2026-2026. The attached list is to replace the previous list recorded in Book 127 at Page 238 as presented by Commission Secretary

9. An Order to impose $200.00 per day on DAEA Case No. 2026-07 and such penalty shall accrue daily beginning August 11, 2026, as presented by Commission Secretary

10. An Order to impose $100.00 per day on DAEA Case No. 2025-38 and such penalty shall accrue daily beginning July 14, 2026, as presented by Commission Secretary

Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve payment of invoices and orders as presented.

1. An Order to issue a check from the Putnam County Community Criminal Justice Fund (#72) in the amount of $542.50 to Track Group

2. An Order to issue a check from the Putnam County Community Criminal Justice Fund (#72) in the amount of $1,459.00 to the State of WV Board of Risk and Insurance Mgmt.

3. An Order to issue a check from the Putnam County Community Criminal Justice Fund (#72) in the amount of $54.00 to QLABS (#160197)

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: Ira Lee Belcher, Anberklyn Edmonds, Veronnica Gayle Ervin, Ester Barbara Scoular, Nancy Gail Plants, Joan Maureen Rogers, Johnnie Coun Montague, Patrick James Altizer, Rebecca Ann Lippitt, Patricia Lynn Rogers, Mona Faye Booth, Bruce Edward Wilkes, Danny Ray Smith, Shirley M. Ann Collins, Gladys Thomas

Long Form Settlements: David Walter Deyerle

Partial Settlements /Annual Accounting: None

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, August 11, 2026 through August 25, 2026.

An Order to disburse $11.00 from the Fiduciary Special Fund to Brian Wood, Clerk for the recording fees of the Estate of Genevieve Eva Meadows.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:03 pm, Commissioner Ellis made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of a board interview as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 5:10 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 Sherry Otey to serve on the Putnam County Tourism Board, effective August 25, 2026, with a term to expire on June 30, 2029, as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to appoint Richard Boehm to serve on the Putnam County Board of Zoning Appeals, effective August 25, 2026, with a term to expire on January 1, 2027, as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PROCLAMATION

Larry Frye read the Proclamation for Putnam County Goes Purple – The Hope Dealer Project.

COMMISSION PRESIDENT ANDY SKIDMORE

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve Putnam County's Application for Opioid Settlement Funds as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TIM HANNA, COUNTY MANAGER

Tim Hanna reported that three bids were received for the Putnam County Recycling Bin Fencing Project:

- Ballard Fence Co. - $18,200.00
- BPI Inc. - $48,493.00
- CJ Hughes Construction - $37,562.00

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the low bid by Ballard Fence Co. pending staff review as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MELISSA SARGENT, SENIOR PLANNER

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to open public hearing regarding PCPC REZ 2026-04 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Marilyn Faust wanted to speak about data centers.

Bryan Martin asked who requested the rezoning of the property from Rural Residential to High-Density Commercial, noting that data centers are high density and asked what was being proposed for the site.

President Skidmore clarified that Valdeacourt Farms had requested the rezoning and stated that the applicant was not required to disclose its intended use of the property.

Mike Mosteller recommended that the issue be tabled and look at impacts both negative and positive and just slow things down a bit.

Shirley Jones attended a Commission meeting in February 2023, where the County Commissioners voted 2-1 against rezoning a property from residential to C-2, citing traffic concerns. Then, on December 28, 2023, the Commissioners unanimously approved rezoning 35 acres to C-2, a highly commercial designation, allowing for 600 parking spaces and three shifts, which could mean as many as 1,800 vehicle trips on Route 35. I thought, wow, they wouldn't approve it then because of traffic concerns, but now they're approving it. Look at who owns the property. We all vote and that is the only power we have, and we need some new blood.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to close public hearing regarding PCPC REZ 2026-04 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PCPC REZ 2026-04 - Criteria #1 – Will the proposed amendment protect and promote the public health, safety, convenience, morals, and general welfare:

Commissioner Ellis voted yes stating: The Route 35 Corridor Plan and the Land Use Plan is why Route 35 was built to improve access throughout West Virginia to bring West Virginia into the future of the United States by improving transportation. The landowner has every right to apply for a rezoning.

Commissioner Pierson voted yes stating: A lot of the surrounding property is already zoned that way, so I don't really see a significant downside.

Commissioner Skidmore voted yes stating: This request is consistent with other properties along US 35, and the landowner has additional nearby property that is already zoned C-2. I do not believe we have a sufficient basis to deny his request to change the permitted use. I understand that we have had many discussions in these chambers regarding traffic concerns and the accidents that have occurred along US 35. We take these concerns seriously and will continue to work with and encourage the Department of Transportation to address those issues, but again we need justification to deny this application which I don’t believe we currently have.

PCPC REZ 2026-04 - 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: Yes, to all three plans. Route 35 was constructed to provide West Virginia with better access to broader markets and improve regional connectivity.

Commissioner Pierson voted yes stating: Obviously, with its location near US 35, I think it meets the objectives of the comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Skidmore voted yes stating: Given the frontage of the property is along US 35 it absolutely aligns with the US 35 Corridor Management Plan and the Teays Valley Land Use Plan, both of which were developed in the mid-1990s.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the PCPC REZ 2026-04 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TIM HANNA, COUNTY MANAGER

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve and authorize the Commission President to sign the FY27 HAVA Grant Contract as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve and authorize the Commission President to sign the 25th Cycle Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (CFIA) Grant Application as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LARRY FRYE, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commission Ellis made a motion to approve and authorize the Commission President to sign a letter of intent for the Fisher Ridge Waterline Extension Project as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve and authorize Tim Hanna to sign on behalf of the Commission the Non-Federal Sponsor's Self-Certification of Financial Capability for Decision Documents and Agreements as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TIM HANNA, COUNTY MANAGER

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the budget revision for Department 405 the Prosecutor's Office as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ellis made a motion to issue a check from the General County Fund (#001-713-4-59.0) in the amount of $25,000.00 made payable to Hurricane Fire Department for the County's portion of the Falcon Highway Roll Over Tanker Training Prop. 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 $2,262.50 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.

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 $2,015.00 payable to Recovery Point of Huntington, Inc. for Putnam County Beds for the month of July 2026 as presented. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

1. An order to issue a check from the TIF Fund (273-430-5-66.0) in the amount of $226,461.48 payable WesBanco Bank, Inc., Trustee for July 2026 TIF Revenue (Acct #108507771 Revenue Fund) – Trustee is to issue debt service payments for Putnam Bonds 2017AB

2. An order to issue a check from the TIF Fund (273-430-2-30.0) in the amount of $90,549.47 payable Benchmark Construction, Inc., for Pay Application #1 on the Valley Park Parking Lot Improvement Project for the Putnam County Parks and Recreation Commission

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Lacy and Joseph DeGroff discussed the resolution they presented to the Commission, which calls for data centers to be evaluated on factors beyond their financial impacts.

Marilyn Fox spoke about fire levy fees and fire department response times.

Janette Dominico, Melanie Lacy, Dr. Kyle McCausland, Cheryl Manypenny, Ellen Mills-Pauley, Alisha Raynes, Barbie Fronk, Christopher Potts, Alex Cole, Janie Miles, Ashley Armstrong, Becky Shore, Shirley Jones, Eddie May, and Heather Ranson spoke about West Virginia House Bill 2014 and expressed concerns about the potential impacts of data centers and Flock cameras on their communities, including flooding, property values, residents' health, and local wildlife.

A.J. Bird spoke about religion.

Mike Mosteller spoke about Kanawha County and Putnam County expenditures for opioid settlement funds.

ADJOURN

At 8:25 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 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, September 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Kimberling
Executive Assistant