



COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
PACKET

August 21, 2025



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

124 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-3284 Fax: (304) 725-7916

Web: www.jeffersoncountywv.org

PRESIDENT

Pasha Majdi

COMMISSIONER

Jack Hefestay

COMMISSIONER

Cara Keys

COMMISSIONER

Mike Mood

COMMISSIONER

Steve Stolipher

MEETING AGENDA

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

Thursday, August 21, 2025

6:00 p.m.

County Commission Meeting Room

393 N. Lawrence Street, Charles Town, WV—please use East Entrance

Zoom Broadcast (live):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89753295735?pwd=Mzg5KL5Rxfvb9KLxMt0v8gFiXS8i6o.1>

Meeting ID: 897 5329 5735

Passcode: 772195

Public comments will be accepted in person or via email- info@jeffersoncountywv.org

I. Call to Order

II. Prayer – Moment of silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Pledge of Allegiance to the West Virginia Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag of West Virginia, which serves as a constant reminder that 'Mountaineers Are Always Free,' which stands as a symbol of her majestic mountains, fertile forests, rich veins of coal, and the pride of her people.

V. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes (pgs. 4-20)

- a. August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT

2. Approval of Accounts Payable:

- a. August 14, 2025 \$ 529,135.40
- b. August 21, 2025 \$ 419,735.17

3. Approval of Manual Checks:

- a. August 14, 2025 \$ 271,228.98
- b. August 21, 2025 \$ 70,478.70

4. Approval of Payroll:
 - a. August 15, 2025 **\$510,245.52**
5. Approval of Requisitions **(pg. 21)**
 - a. August 21, 2025 **\$ 60,039.92**

VI. Announcements

Please note:

- Draft minutes are included in the meeting packet. Draft meeting minutes are often also available separately online. See both here:
<https://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/find-it-fast/agendas-minutes-and-webcasts>
- Jefferson County Commission spending syncs with West Virginia Checkbook (<https://www.wvcheckbook.gov/>) daily. A complete list of publicly available information, and tutorials on using the site, are available online.

Report if there are changes in the agenda if applicable.

VII. Public Comment

To participate in public comment in person, please sign the public comment sign-in sheet located on the table in the back of the room. Please feel free to submit comments via email to info@jeffersoncountywv.org. Your name and any written comments submitted for the record will be included in the minutes.

VIII. Regular Agenda- It is expected that all items will include discussion and possible action

New Business

1. 6:10 pm Angela Banks, Assessor of Jefferson County **(pgs. 22-34)**
 - 1.1 Approval of taxpayers exonerations
 - 1.2 Approval of taxpayer request to consolidate 6 parcels down to 2 parcels
2. 6:15 pm Update on MARL and/or Valley Link (Keys) **(pg. 35)**
3. 6:30 pm Appointment of commission liaison to Charles Town Utility Board (Majdi)
4. 6:45 pm Roger Goodwin, chief county engineer at Department of Engineering Planning & Zoning **(pgs. 36-39)**
 - 4.1 Approval of West Virginia Department of Economic Development & Jefferson County Commission - Agreement/Contract Extension #4 for the Hill Top House Hotel Tourism Development District (TDD) project services.

- 5. 6:55 pm Jessica James, Chief Human Resources Officer **(pgs. 40-42)**
 - 5.1 Approval of Hires – Firefighter/EMTs (3) and Firefighter/Paramedic (1) - Emergency Services Agency
 - 5.2 Approval of Promotion – GIS Coordinator/CAD Administrator – Department of IT/GIS
 - 5.3 Approval of Temporary Assignment – Deputy Director – Emergency Communications

- 6. 7:05 pm David Bound, Chief Financial Officer **(pgs. 43-50)**
 - 6.1 Reimbursement approval- Parks and Recreation Commission
 - 6.2 Approve FY26 budget resolutions as presented
 - 6.3 Approve CHY Engagement letter as presented

- 7. 7:15 pm Edwina Benites-LM, county administrator **(pg. 51)**
 - 7.1 Consider matters involving or affecting the construction, planning, purchase, sale, or lease of property for county office space and/or courthouse space.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION (pgs. 52-58)

Bob Aitcheson correspondence

William Kinley emails

Invitation to YOUR Vote Matters panel discussion

Minutes

Jefferson County Commission

Thursday, August 7, 2025

A meeting of the Jefferson County Commission was held on Thursday, August 7, 2025, during the third quarterly session at 393 N. Lawrence Street, Charles Town, WV at 9:30 a.m.. The meeting was held via Zoom and in-person. Present were President Pasha Majdi, Vice President Mike Mood, Commissioner Steve Stolipher, Commissioner Cara Keys, and Commissioner Jack Hefestay. Also present were Edwina Benites-LM, County Administrator; Nathan Cochran, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; Jacki Shadle, County Clerk; and Lynn Dillow, Administrative Clerk. The archived meeting of the Thursday, August 7, 2025, meeting is available on the Jefferson County Commission website.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of allegiance to the West Virginia flag

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve:

- July 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT with corrections and the addition of presentations from business groups.

The motion was approved without objection.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

CHECK NUMBER	VENDOR NAME	UNCLEARED
92800	AT&T BILL PAYMENT	1.33
92801	ATLANTIC EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS, INC.	9,778.17
92802	AUTOZONE	40.99
92803	BEGIN COUNSELING PLLC	1,611.98
92804	BENJAMIN NAPIER	700.00
92805	BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP	2,979.00
92806	BIEDLERS ELEC MOTOR REP	20.88
92807	BJ'S EMBROIDERY CO INC	45.00
92808	BOUND TREE MEDICAL LLC	2,310.10

92809		CITIZENS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	3,400.00
92810		COMPILED TECHNOLOGIES LLC	2,750.00
92811		CYNTHIA DANNER	1,974.07
92812		DEARBORN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	2,850.02
92813		DIGITAL DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS INC	824.55
92814		EVELYN STEPHENSON	2,227.38
92815		FASTSIGNS	1,278.28
92816		FIDELITY POWER SYSTEMS	2,147.50
92817		FIRST CITIZENS BANK & TRUST CO	2,230.47
92818		FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	1,800.00
92819		GEARCLEAN, INC	2,949.38
92820		GUTTMAN OIL CO	13,928.06
92821		HIGHMARK WV	50,483.88
92822		INDEPENDENT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	4,800.00
92823		J.C. EHRLICH	937.09
92824		JASON MICKEY	739.65
92825		JEFFERSON CO CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU	38,046.64
92826		JEFFERSON CO FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION, INC.	1,332.00
92827		KELSEY STIPANOVIC	192.03
92828		KEVIN J. BOYCE	412.00
92829		LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES	168.95
92830		MCA, INC	7,791.28
92831		MCKESSON MEDICAL-SURGICAL GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS LLC	5,445.40
92832		MILLENIUM INSURANCE GROUP	900.00
92833		MILLER'S SUPPLIES AT WORK	998.50
92834		NATIONAL VISION ADMIN.	553.05
92835		OLD CHARLES TOWN LIBRARY	3,000.00
92836		PATRIOT FIRE AND SECURITY LLC	270.00
92837		POTOMAC EDISON	400.36
92838		RC TOWING LLC	431.00
92839		RICE TIRES CO	125.17
92840		RIVER VALEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	25.00
92841		ROBERTS OXYGEN COMPANY, INC	2,152.58
92842		ROBIN ADAM	40.00
92843		SAMANTHA COMBS	534.60
92844		SANDRA KELLEY	796.95
92845		SHEPHERDSTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	3,200.00
92846		SOFTWARE SYSTEMS INC	1,458.59
92847		STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	348.54
92848		TARA VANN	218.91
92849		THOMAS HANSEN	49.00

92850		TOWN OF BOLIVAR	8,931.26
92851		TRACY POPKINS	350.00
92852		UNIFIRST	326.70
92853		US BANK	128,142.09
92854		W B MASON CO. INC	22.98
92855		WILLIAM SCHWEITZER	5,250.00
92856		WV BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT UNEMPLOYMENT COMP. DIV.	8,545.21
92857	FG/009	BERKELEY CO SHERIFF OFFICE	1,633.68
92858	FG/009	MARTINSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT	1,104.76
92859	FG/009	SHERIFF OF GRANT COUNTY	599.62
92860	AM/053	PAYMENTS CORP	43.80
TOTAL			336,648.43

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the accounts payable for July 24, 2025 in the amount of \$ 336,648.43. The motion was approved without objection.

CHECK NUMBER		VENDOR NAME	UNCLEARED
92862		AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ICU	1,839.42
92863		AT&T MOBILITY - CC	899.83
92864		ATLANTIC EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS, INC.	21,079.01
92865		BEGIN COUNSELING PLLC	265.44
92866		BUREAU OF CHILD SUPPORT	583.46
92867		COLONIAL LIFE	95.68
92868		COMPTROLLER OF MARYLAND	1,331.10
92869		EFTPS IRS TAXES	176,900.63
92870		EMPOWER RETIREMENT	11,856.90
92871		FASTSIGNS	425.44
92872		FIDELITY POWER SYSTEMS	1,121.27
92873		FIRST CITIZENS BANK & TRUST CO	2,230.47
92874		GUTTMAN OIL CO	5,697.80
92875		HIGHMARK WV	242,973.12
92876		JEFFERSON SECURITY BANK	3,678.00
92877		MATTHEW BENDER	322.86
92878		MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	16,554.41
92879		NATHAN COCHRAN	291.00
92880		NATIONAL VISION ADMIN.	1,684.78
92881		NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS	1,065.00
92882		PA SCDU	320.00
92883		POTOMAC EDISON	4,696.36
92884		RETIREE HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST	9,467.00

92885		DR. ROBERT E. JONES III	1,000.00
92886		SOFTWARE SYSTEMS INC	72.70
92887		STATE TAX DEPARTMENT	250.00
92888		SUN LIFE	19,834.98
92889		TARA VANN	387.00
92890		UNIFIRST	157.05
92891		WV DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT SYSTEM	31,180.68
92892		WV PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	50,278.02
92893		WV PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	165.60
92894	AM/053	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY	2,948.06
TOTAL			611,653.07

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the accounts payable for July 31, 2025, in the amount of \$ 611,653.07. The motion was approved without objection.

CHECK NUMBER	CHECK DATE	VENDOR NAME	UNCLEARED
92895		ALICE N PAINTER	122.00
92896		AMERIFLEX	195.00
92897		BEGIN COUNSELING PLLC	380.47
92898		BOLAND TRANE SERVICES INC	2,123.00
92899		CHESAPEAKE SYSTEMS, LLC	4,654.00
92900		CMA CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP	42.25
92901		COMCAST	280.74
92902		DODSON SEPTIC SERVICE LLC	285.00
92903		GUTTMAN OIL CO	6,503.44
92904		HIGHMARK WV	2,335.95
92905		JACQUELINE SHADLE	122.00
92906		JOYCE A. JOHNS	4,700.00
92907		KAELYN HOFFMAN	122.00
92908		KATRINA CLARK	122.00
92909		NAPA AUTO PARTS	398.64
92910		POTOMAC EDISON	707.13
92911		RICE TIRES CO	407.19
92912		RUGGED NOTEBOOKS	3,515.00
92913		STAPLES	2,989.54
92914		UNIFIRST	157.05
TOTAL			30,162.40

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the accounts payable for August 7, 2025, in the amount of \$ 30,162.40. The motion was approved without objection.

APPROVAL OF MANUAL CHECKS

July 24, 2025				
OTHER FUNDS				
Check #	Fund	Vendor		Amount
625	CS/002	EASTERN PANHANDLE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER		\$ 4,800.00
970	HD/008	US BANK		\$ 91.42
1255	AV/056	MONROE SYSTEMS FOR BUSINESS		\$ 641.92
1256	AV/056	PRINT-O-STAT INC		\$ 199.50
388	FP/057	JEFFERSON COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION		\$ 158,556.47
181	IP/249	MINGHINI'S		\$ 84,839.30
182	IP/249	LANTZ CONSTRUCTION WINCHESTER		\$ 14,184.00
183	IP/249	SANDBAR ARCHITECTURE, PA		\$ 360.00
184	IP/249	RCS SECURITY		\$ 16,875.00
185	IP/249	CHARES TOWN PLUMBING		\$ 1,555.35
186	IP/249	JEFF CO PARKS/RECREATION COMMISSION		\$ 3,299.79
163	IE/249	JEFFERSON CO EMERGENCY SERVICES		\$ 81,000.00
427	CW/369	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY		\$ 755.00
TOTAL				\$ 367,157.75

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the manual checks for July 24, 2025, in the amount of \$ 367,157.75. The motion was approved without objection.

July 31, 2025				
OTHER FUNDS				
Check #	Fund	Vendor		Amount
1257	AV/056	MR PRINT		\$1,800.00
1258	AV/056	PRINT-O-STAT		\$199.50
1937	CO/246	POTESTA & ASSOC INC		\$6,995.00

TOTAL				\$8,994.50
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Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the manual checks for July 31, 2025, in the amount of \$ 8,994.50. The motion was approved without objection.

August 7, 2025				
OTHER FUNDS				
Check #	Fund	Vendor		Amount
971	HD/008	SATELLITE TRACKING OF PEOPLE		\$1,398.10
1938	CO/246	COMCAST		\$129.95
1939	CO/246	TEK ADVISORS		\$34,490.32
1532	IP/249	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL		\$604,197.35
1533	IP/249	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT		\$11,638.11
1534	IP/249	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS/REC		\$295,358.12
1535	IP/249	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY EMS		\$67,253.78
1536	IP/249	SHERIFF OF JEFFERSON COUNTY ADMIN		\$72,726.78
1025	CW/059	WV STATE AUDITOR		\$1,265.00
TOTAL				\$1,088,457.51

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the manual checks for August 7, 2025, in the amount of \$ 1,088,457.51. The motion was approved without objection

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve payroll for August 1, 2025, in the amount of \$ 497,172.02. The motion was approved without objection.

APPROVAL OF REQUISITIONS

DEPARTMENT	PURCHASE ORDER NO.	AMOUNT	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION
SHERIFF - LAW	26029	\$ 20,971.00	Markl Supply Co.	tactical equipment for sheriff
	26037	\$ 19,113.45	Motorola Solutions	portable radios
JCESA	26031	\$ 7,800.00	Marney Treese	Medical Director
	26036	\$ 20,000.00	BJ's Embroidery Co.	stock embroidery uniform shirts
	26030	\$ 32,195.00	Progressive Printing	printing/mailing ambulance bills FY25
COUNTY COMMISSION	26033	\$ 14,080.00	Fox Associates	APUS
	26040	\$ 99,822.73	EP Regional Planning & Development Co	Region 9 local assessment HEPMPO
	25128	\$ 30,000.00	Perry & Associates CPA	FY24 Audit Prep.
	25127	\$ 17,500.00	EP Regional Planning & Development Co	Thrasher Group Sports Complex Study
IT	25129	\$ 44,985.00	Rugged Notebooks	15 Rugged Notebooks
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 306,467.18		

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the requisitions for August 7, 2025, in the amount of \$ 306,467.18. The motion was approved without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was received by:

Amanda Stroud

David Tabb

Christine Marshall

Troy Miller

Julia Bronia

Colin Stine

PRESENTATIONS

1. Angela Banks, Jefferson County Assessor

Exonerations:

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the tax exonerations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay and approved unanimously.

2. Lynn Dillow, Clerk of Administration, Finance, and Human Resources

Years of Service Awards

Thomas Hansen – 30 years – Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department

Jessica Ebersole – 20 years – Jefferson County Animal Control

Brittany McLaughlin – 5 years – Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency

Outstanding Achievement in Professionalism

Lynn Dillow

David Kling

Debbie Lowe

Laura Kuhn

Dean Thomas

Ryan Milbourn

Mike Lee

3. Nikki Painter, County Clerk’s Office

Reopen the estate of Cecil Dickinson

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to convene as a Fiduciary Review Board to hear probate matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve estate of Cecil Dickinson be re-opened. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Accept the Waiver of Final Settlement for the estate of Ronald Lewis, Sr.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to accept the Waiver of Final Settlement for the estate of Ronald Lewis, Sr., and close the estate as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Petition to remove Margaret Simmons as Executrix on the Estate of Francis Campanella & Fiduciary Commissioner Response

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to deny the petition of removal based on the findings of the Fiduciary Commissioner, D.Frank Hill, III as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to reconvene in regular session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Set the Early Voting Location for the 2026 Elections

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to move the early voting location to the courthouse annex at 393 North Lawrence Street, Charles Town as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Tom Hansen, Jefferson County Sheriff and Treasurer

Approval of the FY25 Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve Deborah Lowe to submit the FY25 Equitable Sharing and Certification and agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in the guide and subsequent updates and the Code of Federal Regulations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Tax Collection Commission

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the issuance of the commission check for Sheriff Hansen as qualified in the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Consider the appointments, membership, and make-up of the following boards:

Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Applicants to be interviewed:
 1. Carlos Fonseca (registered to vote/owns property)

Commissioner Hefestay motioned to appoint Carlos Fonseca to the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2028. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jefferson County Development Authority

- Applicants to be interviewed:
 1. Mara Bauserman
 2. Dan Casto
 3. David Lutman
 4. Jill Upson

5. Kathy Skinner
6. Todd Wilt
7. Raymond Goodrich
8. Nick Russo
9. Heather McIntyre
10. Tyler Tummolo
11. Elizabeth Ricketts
12. JP Thoma
13. Ranale Jones

Commissioner Keys motioned to increase the size of the JCDA board to 11 (eleven) members. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved by a vote of 3 (Keys, Mood, Hefestay) to 2 (Majdi, Stolipher).

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint Nick Russo to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2026- seat 1. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint Kathy Skinner to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2026- seat 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint Tyler Tummolo to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2026- seat 3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint Mara Bauserman to the Jefferson County Development Authority for an unexpired term ending April 5, 2027- seat 4. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint David Lutman to the Jefferson County Development Authority for an unexpired term ending April 5, 2027- seat 5. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to appoint Raymond Goodrich to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2027- seat 6. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mood motioned to appoint Heather McIntyre to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2028- seat 7. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mood motioned to appoint Dan Casto to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2028- seat 8. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mood motioned to appoint Jill Upson to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2028- seat 8. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mood motioned to appoint Todd Wilt to the Jefferson County Development Authority for a three-year term ending April 5, 2028- seat 8. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jefferson County Commission Water Advisory Committee

- Applicants to be interviewed:
 1. Elizabeth Riordan
 2. Daniel Hayes

Commissioner Mood motioned to appoint Elizabeth Riordan to the Jefferson County Commission Water Advisory Committee as the staff member of Harpers Ferry – Bolivar Service District, and Daniel Hayes to the Jefferson County Commission Water Advisory Committee as a Citizen Representative for three-year terms both ending January 15, 2028. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Steve Stolipher, Jefferson County Commissioner

Designation of September as Library Card Sign-Up Month-2025

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the resolution designating September as Library Card Sign-Up Month – 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Roger Goodwin, Director of Engineering, Planning and Zoning

Shubhangini, LLC-Burr Park Lot 37, File #22-4-SP request for bond release

Commissioner Keys motioned to approve the complete release of the above referenced Performance Bond GM228027 with the remaining balance of \$177,957.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reschedule of Cochran Properties Zoning Map Amendment Public Hearing

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to reschedule the August 21, 2025 Cochran Properties Zoning Map Amendment Public Hearing to September 4, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Impact Fee Refund Requests

- Avtar Singh and Manpreet Gill
- Joseph Stillwell, Stillwell Homes, LLC

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve a refund of the \$1,944.00 impact fee paid by Avtar Singh and Manpreet Gill and to revoke permit #24-811. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the refund of the \$9,128.00 impact fee paid by Joseph Stillwell, Stillwell Homes, LLC permit #25-834 Ranson Corporation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Jessica James, Chief Human Resources Officer

Approval of Promotion – Deputy Director – Department of Engineering, Planning and Zoning

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the promotion of Mason Carter to the Grade VII, full-time, 80-hour position of Deputy Director within the Department of Engineering, Planning and Zoning, at a salary of \$70,257.00 per year, effective, Monday, August 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Promotion – County Planner – Department of Engineering, Planning, and Zoning

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve promotion of Colin Uhry to the Grade V, full-time, 80-hour position of County Planner within the Department of Engineering, Planning, and Zoning at a salary of \$56,650.00 per year, effective Monday, August 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Hire – Grants and Social Services Coordinator – County Commission

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve Kayla Palm for the Grade V, full-time, 80-hour position of Grants and Social Services Coordinator for the Jefferson County Commission Office at a salary of \$58,656.00, effective Monday, August 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Temporary Assignment – Acting Director – Emergency Communications

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the appointment of Tara Vann as acting Director for the Department of Emergency Communications, effective Monday, August 4, 2025 and provide an increase in salary for the appointment per JC-AP212-Compensation During Temporary Assignment, from Ms. Vann’s current salary of \$82,597 to the Grade 9 base salary of \$95,181, effective Friday August 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. David Bound, Chief Financial Officer

Ambulance Fee Bill Adjustments/Exonerations

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the JCESA Ambulance Fee adjustments and exonerations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

Banking consideration for the e-911 Fee and Hill Top TIF

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the use of Jefferson Security Bank for TIF and E911 fee collections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-1 (Keys).

10. Nathan Cochran, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Discussion of Charles Town Utility Board v. West Virginia American Water Company (25-0263-PWD-C)

Agenda item was information only. No action was taken.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

11. Edwina Benites-LM, County Administrator

393 and 330 Building Update

Agenda item was informational only. No action was taken.

Ending the meeting room lease with the Charles Town Library

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve and send the end of lease agreement to the Charles Town Library after a legal review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keys. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consider matters involving or affecting the construction, planning, purchase, sale, or lease of property for county office space and/or courthouse space

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to send a formal letter to the City of Charles Town to see if there is interest in purchasing the Washington Street properties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjourn

Having no further business, Commissioner Majdi motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Commission adjourned at 1 p.m.

Pasha Majdi, PRESIDENT

Respectfully submitted
Jacqueline C. Shadle
Jefferson County Clerk

Public Comment for Jefferson County Commission meeting for August 7, 2025

I, **David Tabb**, a lifelong resident/taxpayer make the following comments:

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Now that the Jefferson County Commission had their big spending spree and showed off the new County Complex; I believe it's time to report to the county resident/taxpayers how much this complex has cost and how long it will take to pay this back!

Did everyone enjoy receiving their tax bill? I told everyone that this was coming with the spending spree of the JCC – this is far from over!

It appears that the county is out of money.

It appears that the 911 center is in need of a communications director. This could be a good thing – but time will tell.

On Tuesday, 7-5-2025, the County Administrator made a request to the Jefferson County Fire and Rescue Association to sponsor multiple Town Hall meetings for the County's Fire Services Study. The Administrator is attempting to get public input before decisions are made in regards how emergency services will look and operate for the future. The Town Hall meetings could happen as soon as September.

There are some 24 volunteer positions to be filled over the next several weeks. Keep in mind - you do not get paid and if you don't follow the agenda of the JCC, you will be removed. The most recent examples are the JCESA board and the JCDA. Keep this in mind if you are removed from a volunteer position, this could be a part of your resume.

The JCC Administrator has been tasked with a lot of different projects. I would hope at some point, the JCC would head up some of these task, instead of the demand from others.

"The public reserves the right to call out the public officials to follow the required laws to ensure the constitutional rights of the public. The Government is to be "open for business" and not deprived the public of notice and comments that would violate ethic provisions.

It is hard to be safe, with the current County Commission.

Have a nice day!

AFFIDAVIT:


David C. Tabb came and appeared before me, the undersigned notary, Amanda S. Bennett, resident of Berkeley Co., in the State of West Virginia made his statement and affidavit upon affirmation of belief that the facts set forth are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

DATED this 7th day of August, 2025

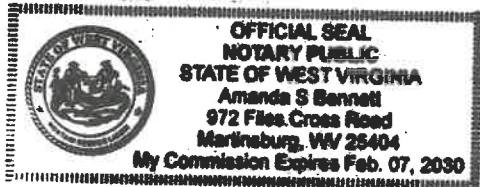


David C. Tabb

Sworn and subscribed before me this 7th day of August, 2025



Notary



JCDA Statement on JCDA

1 message

Troy Miller <troynmillerwv@gmail.com>
To: John Doyle <rjohndoyle@comcast.net>

Thu, Aug 7, 2025 at 7:23 AM

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION BETRAYS OUR COUNTY

The Jefferson County Democratic Association strongly condemns the summary removal of all the members of the Jefferson County Development Authority. The Commission's action on July 8 was both warrantless and without warning.

The Commission says it will create a new Development Authority, with fewer members. But why? Lack of information welcomes unlimited speculation.

Is this a further attempt to consolidate power and disenfranchise the residents of Jefferson County?

Why did the Commission ban municipalities from having representation on the Development Authority?

Was this state's open meetings law followed?

Dismissed members want to invest in our agricultural economy, one of Jefferson County's greatest strengths. Does the Commission oppose such priorities?

And why impose a "loyalty oath" on new members, in violation of the First Amendment of the US Constitution?

If the Commission has substantive reasons for reconstituting the Development Authority, it should first hold a public hearing on the question. After that, the Commission should place a clearly defined item on its agenda for a future meeting.

Four of the five members of the County Commission were elected less than a year ago promising transparency. Why have they instead shrouded themselves in a veil of secrecy about this decision?

REQUISITIONS TO BE APPROVED

August 21, 2025

DEPARTMENT	PURCHASE ORDER NO.	AMOUNT	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION
HOMELAND SECURITY	26038	\$ 11,961.14	EVERBRIDGE INC.	HOMELAND SECURITY NOTIFICATION
JCESA	26045	\$ 8,652.35	ANTRIM DIESEL SERVICE INC	2011 FORD F450 AMBULANCE VIN30
	26044	\$ 29,446.03	EMS TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS, LLC	RFID HANDHELD READERS
	26039	\$ 4,000.00	NORTH AMERICAN RESCUE HOLDINGS, LLC	STOP THE BLEED KITS - LEADERSH
COUNTY COMMISSION	26042	\$ 5,980.40	BAILEY & WYANT, PLLC	INV 83485 LEGAL BUILDINGS 393
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 60,039.92		

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: Angela Banks

Department or Organization: Assessor of Jefferson County

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: 10 minutes

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **August 21st, 2025**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject: 1. Taxpayers Exonerations 5 minutes
2. Taxpayer request to consolidate 6 parcels down to 2 parcels.

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Is this a funding request? No

If so, how much? \$

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

1. Recommend to approve the exonerations
2. Recommend to approve consolidation of parcels

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector **Y/N** Internet/Wi Fi **Y/N** Telephone for conference call **Y/N**

Contact information:

Email address:

Phone Number:

FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION

not applicable

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Personal Property Book

09 DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

Did not own 2023 Subaru Crosstrek

Tax Amount 357.66

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.

Richard Clawson

Richard A. Clawson 8/7/25
Applicant Date

Richard Ticket # 316230
clawson

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Real Property Book.

Kabletown DISTRICT _____ MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

Value reduced for easement portion.

06- 10A-0031-0000-0000

Assessed Value \$ 20,900

Tax Amount \$ 485.72 full year

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.

Lucy M Athey
Applicant Athey, Lucy M.

8/11/25
Date

Ticket # 17174

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Personal Property Book.

Shepherdstown DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY


Described as follows:

Did not own 2007 Lexus GS on 7-1-2024

Assessed Value \$ 2,750

Tax Amount \$ 63.92

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.


Applicant Bass, Michael C

8-13-25

Date

Ticket # 315951

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch. 11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939, Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2024 Personal Property Book,
_____ DISTRICT Ranson Corporation MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

2001 Toyota Camry was double assessed.

Assessed Value \$ 778.00

Tax Amount \$ 22.10

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.

Mye
Applicant Le. Minh B

08/07/2024
Date

Ticket # 314457

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch. 11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939, Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Real Property Book.

DISTRICT SC MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

Should have been assessed in Class 2 instead of Class 4.

Assessed Value \$ 88,830

Tax Amount \$ 1,185.88 full year

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.

Sylvia A. Turner
Applicant Nichols, Sylvia A

c/o Sylvia Turner

August 3, 2025
Date

Ticket # 32357

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Real Property Book.

Charles Town DISTRICT _____ MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

Should have been assessed in Class 2.

Assessed Value \$ 240,800

Tax Amount \$ 2,798.10 *full year.*

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.

Wick C. Swartz
Applicant Swartz, Donald L et al

08/13/2025
Date

Ticket # 7075

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 _____ Land _____ Book _____

 Middleway _____ DISTRICT _____ MUNICIPALITY _____

Described as follows:

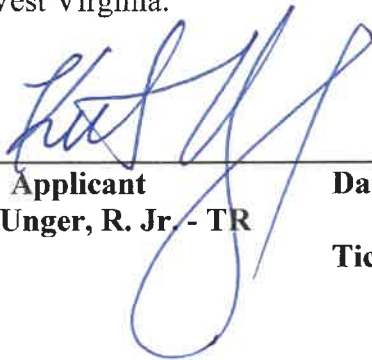
 Swimley (#8711) _____

MD map 28 parcel 2 (6002) should be assessed in class 2 not class 3

Assessed Value \$110,960

Tax Amount Full year taxes to be exonerated is \$1,289.36

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.



Applicant
Kenneth Unger, R. Jr. - TR

Date 8/5/2025

Ticket #24547

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON:**

Sec. 27, Art. 3, Ch.11, Code of West Virginia, Acts of Legislature 1939. Chapter 123, relief in County Court from erroneous assessment, to the taxpayer resulting from a clerical error, or a mistake occasioned by an unintentional act as distinguished from a mistake by misjudgment of classification of taxability of such property.

In the 2025 Personal Property Book.

Harpers Ferry DISTRICT _____ MUNICIPALITY

Described as follows:

2017 Honda Odyssey was incorrectly assessed.

Assessed Value \$ 11,400.00

Tax Amount \$ 264.94

In compliance with provisions of above mentioned article of the said Code of the State of West Virginia.



Applicant Williamson, Brett

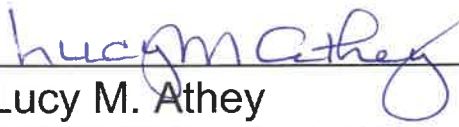
8/6/25

Date

Ticket # 309416

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
CONSOLIDATION OF LAND
EXHIBIT C**

According to §11-4-17 & 18 of the West Virginia Code, the following request is made:

Owner's signature:  Date: 8/1/25
Owner's name: Lucy M. Athey
Owner's address: 710 Summerchase St, Apt 101, Charles Town

Taxpayer(s) respectfully request a consolidation of the following property for assessment purposes as prescribed by law for Tax Year 2026.

Presently assessed as follows:

Parcel ID: <u>06 10A 0031 0000 0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>1.27 Ac Rippon-Nicodemus</u>
Parcel ID: <u>06 10A 0032 0000 0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>1.20 Ac Rippon-White-Tumblin</u>
Parcel ID: <u>06 10 0002 0006 0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>LTS 1,1A,2A COUNTY GREEN (6.17AC)</u>

To be assessed as follows:

Parcel ID: <u>06 10 0002 0006 0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>8.64 AC RIPPON-COUNTY GREEN</u>
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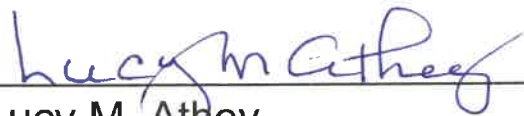

Assessor or Deputy

8/15/2025
Date



JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSOLIDATION OF LAND EXHIBIT C

According to §11-4-17 & 18 of the West Virginia Code, the following request is made:

Owner's signature:  Date: 8/1/25
Owner's name: Lucy M. Athey
Owner's address: 710 Summerchase St, Apt 101, Charles Town

Taxpayer(s) respectfully request a consolidation of the following property for assessment purposes as prescribed by law for Tax Year 2026.

Presently assessed as follows:

Parcel ID: <u>06- 10-0002-0003-0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>LT #3 (2.10 AC) BIBER MINOR</u>
Parcel ID: <u>06- 10-0002-0005-0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>LT #2 RIPONS COMMONS (1.97AC)</u>
Parcel ID: <u>06- 10-0002-0008-0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>LT #2 (2.21AC) BIBER MINOR</u>

To be assessed as follows:

Parcel ID: <u>06- 10-0002-0003-0000</u>	Legal Description: <u>6.28 AC BIBER-RIPPON COMMONS</u>
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Assessor or Deputy

8/15/2025
Date

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: Cara Keys

Department or Organization: County Commission

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: 15 Minutes

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **8/21/2025**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*):

Update on MARL and/or Valley Link

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Is this a funding request? Y/**N**

If so, how much?

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Motion to allow Commissioner Cara and/or Commissioner Pasha to attend working group meetings with Hampshire, Monongalia, Preston, Mineral (other jurisdictions as appropriate) to share information as it relates to the proposed lines to ensure we are aware of interconnected effects as the PSC considers these projects and the shared impacts of our residents.

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain: Commissioner Cara spoke with fellow Commissioner Brian Brill of Hampshire County, and it was discussed that it would be in the best interest of our counties to regularly communicate with the impacted counties. These updates will be provided at County Commission meetings regularly.

Is equipment needed? Projector Y/**N** Internet/Wi Fi Y/**N** Telephone for conference call Y/**N**

Contact information: Cara Keys

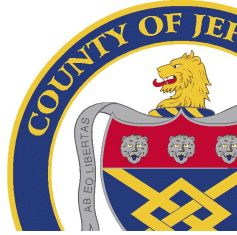
Email address: ckey@jeffersoncountywv.org

Phone Number: 240-367-5152

FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION

not applicable

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: **Roger Goodwin, Chief County Engineer**

Department or Organization: **Department of Engineering, Planning & Zoning**

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: **10 minutes**

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **September 4, 2025**

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*): **Approval of West Virginia Department of Economic Development & Jefferson County Commission - Agreement/Contract Extension #4 for the Hill Top House Hotel Tourism Development District (TDD) project services.**

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

The Hilltop House Hotel project is located in the municipality of Harpers Ferry. It is a \$140 million dollar tourism/economic development project. To date, the developer submitted five building permit applications for the project and the building permits are issued. The developer still needs to submit the site plan for review and approval.

Under West Virginia State Code, Section 5B-1-9, the State of West Virginia removed this project from the purview of the Town of Harpers Ferry officials and oversight is assigned to the West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED). The WVDED decided that Jefferson County's land development regulations and the West Virginia state building code shall apply to this project. The WVDED contracted with the Jefferson County Commission to have the Department of Engineering, Planning & Zoning's staff to provide oversight of the site plan, building plans review and building code inspections, etc.

The current agreement (Change Order #3) between the West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) and the Jefferson County Commission will expire on September 29, 2025. Therefore, the WVDED wants to extend the Agreement/Contract to September 29, 2026, via Change Order #4. The not to exceed contract amount is One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000). To date, the Department Engineering, Planning and Zoning has issued invoices in the amount of \$47,745.50

Change Order #4 is attached. In the past, the County Commission authorized the County Administrator to sign the contract documents on their behalf.

Is this a funding request? **No** If so, how much?

Motion Requested: **Yes**

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Move to approve ACT DEV220000001 Change Order #4 Contract Renewal Jefferson County Hilltop House Project, dated September 4, 2025, between the West Virginia Department of Economic Development and the Jefferson County Commission, and extending the contract from September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026; and authorizing the County Administrator to sign the change order on behalf of the Jefferson County Commission.

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied. **See attached Agreement Change Order #4.**

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector Y/N **No** Internet/Wi Fi Y/N **No** Telephone for conference call Y/N **No**

Contact information:

Email address: engineering@jeffersoncountywv.org Phone Number: 304-728-3257

<u>FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/COMMENTS</u>

MEMORANDUM

Ms. Edwina Benites
County Administrator
Jefferson County Commission
124 E Washington Street
Charles Town, West Virginia 25414

**RE: ACT DEV2200000001 Change Order #4—Contract Renewal
Jefferson County Hilltop House Project**

Dear Ms. Benites:

The West Virginia Department of Commerce, Division of Economic Development, is offering to renew subject contract under the same terms and conditions as stated in the contract. The renewal dates are from September 30, 2025, through September 29, 2026.

Please sign below if your company agrees to this renewal.

Carley Cochran
Procurement Officer
WV Division of Economic Development

Todd E. Hooker
Acting Executive Director
WV Division of Economic Development

We agree to renew the contract for the period state above under the same terms and conditions as stated in the contract.

Name/Signature
Edwina Benites

County Administrator
Title

September 4, 2025
Date



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

124 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-3284 **Fax:** (304) 725-7916

Web: www.jeffersoncountywv.org

PRESIDENT
Pasha Majdi

COMMISSIONER
Jack Hefestay

COMMISSIONER
Cara Keys

COMMISSIONER
Steve Stolipher

COMMISSIONER
Mike Mood

To: Commissioner Pasha Majdi
Commissioner Jack Hefestay
Commissioner Cara Keys
Commissioner Steve Stolipher
Commissioner Mike Mood

From: David Bound

Date: Aug 21, 2025

Re: Fiscal Note: Dept. of Engineering Planning and Zoning Hill Top House Fees

The Dept. of Engineering Planning and Zoning Hill is requesting acceptance of Change Order #4	
Total Estimated Fee Income	\$100,000.00
<u>Fee Income to date</u>	<u>\$ 47,745.50</u>
Remaining expected income per contract amount	\$ 52,254.50

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: **Jessica James, Chief Human Resource Officer**

Department or Organization: **Jefferson County Commission**

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: **5 minutes**

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **August 21, 2025**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*):

- 1. Approval of Hires – Firefighter/EMTs (3) and Firefighter/Paramedic (1) - Emergency Services Agency**
- 2. Approval of Promotion – GIS Coordinator/CAD Administrator – Department of IT/GIS**
- 3. Approval of Temporary Assignment – Deputy Director – Emergency Communications**

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Is this a funding request? Y/N - **NO**

If so, how much? \$

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Emergency Services Agency Requests

I move to approve the hires of _____, _____, _____ as Firefighters/EMTs for the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, at a rate of \$ _____, effective _____.

I move to approve the hire of _____ as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Emergency Services Agency, at a rate of \$ _____, effective _____.

IT/GIS Request

- I move to approve the promotion of Jessica Gormont to the Grade VII, full-time, 80-hour position of GIS Lead/ CAD Administrator, with a salary of \$72,225.60, effective Monday, August 10, 2025. And further, after completion of the SAA program, Ms. Gormont’s salary will increase to \$82,225.60.

Emergency Communications Request

- I move to approve the temporary assignment of Lori Brown as Deputy Director of the Department of Emergency Communications, effective August 18, and resulting increase in salary to the Grade 8 base of \$82,597, effective August 18, in accordance with Jefferson County Administrative Policy 212 – Compensation During Temporary Assignment.

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector Y/N Internet/Wi Fi Y/N Telephone for conference call Y/N

Contact information: Jessica James

Email address: jjames@jeffersoncountywv.org

Phone Number: 304-728-3282

<u>FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION</u>

not applicable



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

124 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-3284 **Fax:** (304) 725-7916

Web: www.jeffersoncountywv.org

PRESIDENT

Pasha Majdi

COMMISSIONER

Jack Hefestay

COMMISSIONER

Cara Keys

COMMISSIONER

Steve Stolipher

COMMISSIONER

Mike Mood

To: Commissioner Pasha Majdi
Commissioner Jack Hefestay
Commissioner Cara Keys
Commissioner Steve Stolipher
Commissioner Mike Mood

From: David Bound

Date: Aug 21, 2025

Re: Fiscal Note: Promotions and Hires through Human Resources

The JCESA is requesting to hire three Firefighter/EMTs and one Firefighter/Paramedic.
The requests are within the FY26 budget.

Starting salary FF/EMT William Jones	\$52,665.60
Starting salary FF/EMT Megan Fox	\$45,344.00
Starting salary FF/EMT Madison Chambers	\$45,344.00
Starting salary FF/Paramedic Charles Lopp	\$69,513.60
Total	\$212,867.20
FY26 Budget allocation 001715.410300	\$212,867.20

The IT/GIS Department is requesting approval of promotion of Jessica Gormont	
Promotional increase of \$5,000 with an additional \$10,000 upon SAA certification	\$ 15,000
FY26 Budget allocation 001428.410300	\$ 15,000

The Emergency Communications Dept. is requesting approval of the temporary assignment of Lori Brown as Deputy Director

Salary Increase	\$ 7,613
FY26 Budget allocation account 001712.410300	\$ 7,613

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: David Bound

Department or Organization: Administration

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: 15 min

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **Aug 21, 2025**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*):

Reimbursement approval- Parks and Recreation Commission
Approve FY26 budget resolutions as presented
Approve CHY Engagement letter as presented

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Discuss and approve the reimbursement for Parks and Recreation as presented.

Discuss and sign FY26 budget resolutions which were unanimously approved at prior JCC meetings.

Discuss and approve CoxHollidaYoung PLLC FY25 Compilation engagement letter.

Is this a funding request? Y/N Y

If so, how much? \$ 129,881.71

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Requested motion to approve reimbursement to Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$95,881.71.

Requested motion to approve FY26 budget resolutions as presented.

Requested motion to approve FY256 CoxHollidaYoung CPAs compilation of County financial statements not to exceed \$34,000 use of professional services funding.

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector Y/N Internet/Wi Fi Y/N Telephone for conference call Y/N

Contact information: David Bound

Email address: dbound@jeffersoncountywv.org

Phone Number: [304.728.3284](tel:304.728.3284)

FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION

not applicable

RESOLUTION

At a regular session of the Jefferson County Commission, held on the 15th Day of May 2025, the following Order was made and entered:

SUBJECT: Approve the budget adjustments as presented. The following resolution was offered.

RESOLVED: That subject to approval of the State Auditor as ex officio chief inspector of public offices, the Jefferson County Commission does hereby direct that the budget be revised as shown on **Fiscal Year 2026 budget revision number #1 to the General Fund**, a copy of which is entered as part of this record.

The adoption of the foregoing Resolution having been moved by

Commissioner Stolipher, and duly seconded by Commissioner Hefestay, the vote was as follows:

Pasha Majdi	<u>yes</u>
Mike Mood	<u>yes</u>
Stephen Stolipher	<u>yes</u>
Cara Keys	<u>yes</u>
Jack Hefestay	<u>yes</u>

Whereupon, Commissioner **Majdi** declared said Resolution duly adopted, and it is therefore ADJUDGED and ORDERED that said Resolution be, and the same is, hereby adopted as so stated above, and **Pasha Majdi**, President of the Jefferson County Commission, is authorized to affix his signature to the attached "Request for Revision to Approved Budget" to be sent to the State Auditor for approval.

Pasha Majdi, President
Jefferson County Commission

\$33.21/hour, effective Sunday, June 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Hire – Administrative Assistant – Emergency Services Agency

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the hire of Natalie Banks-Perkins as a Grade II, full-time, 80-hour Administrative Assistant for the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, at a salary of \$45,000, effective May 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. David Bound, Chief Financial Officer

FY26 Budget adjustments

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the budget adjustments as presented:

- motion to approve the following FY26 Budget requests:
- motion to approve \$73,512 for Commission wages and taxes
- motion to approve \$5,131 for County Clerk part time help
- motion to approve \$19 for Circuit Clerk wages
- motion to approve \$57,654 for Tax Deputy wages and taxes
- motion to approve \$16,899 for Assessor wages and taxes
- motion to approve \$52,396 for Assessor Valuation insurance
- motion to approve \$3,325 for State Wide Computer network increase
- motion to approve \$87,176 for Fleets and Maintenance building maintenance
- motion to approve \$61,825 for Information Technology wages and taxes
- motion to approve \$45,853 for Regional Development invoice
- motion to approve \$164,803 for Sheriff full time bailiffs overtime wages taxes retirement
- motion to approve \$485 for Sheriff Service of Process uniforms
- motion to approve (\$43,160) for JC Development Authority wages and taxes
- motion to approve (\$29,162) for JC Ministries wages and taxes
- motion to approve (\$496,756) for Contingency Funding

The motion was seconded by Commissioner. Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

JCESA FY25 budget adjustment

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to approve the internal budget transfers as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner. Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION

At a special session of the Jefferson County Commission, held on the 8th Day of July 2025, the following Order was made and entered:

SUBJECT: to approve the state budget transfers for COLA funds amounting to \$576,502 to the County departments' and elected offices' FY26 budgets as presented and to transfer merit funds amounting of \$272,198 to the elected departments' FY26 budgets as presented.

RESOLVED: That subject to approval of the State Auditor as ex officio chief inspector of public offices, the Jefferson County Commission does hereby direct that the budget be revised as shown on **Fiscal Year 2026 budget revision number #2 & #3 to the General Fund**, a copy of which is entered as part of this record.

The adoption of the foregoing Resolution having been moved by

Commissioner Majdi, and duly seconded by Commissioner Stolipher, the vote was as follows:

Pasha Majdi	<u>yes</u>
Mike Mood	<u>yes</u>
Stephen Stolipher	<u>yes</u>
Cara Keys	<u>yes</u>
Jack Hefestay	<u>yes</u>

Whereupon, Commissioner **Majdi** declared said Resolution duly adopted, and it is therefore ADJUDGED and ORDERED that said Resolution be, and the same is, hereby adopted as so stated above, and **Pasha Majdi**, President of the Jefferson County Commission, is authorized to affix his signature to the attached "Request for Revision to Approved Budget" to be sent to the State Auditor for approval.

Pasha Majdi, President
Jefferson County Commission

Services Agency at a rate of \$ 22.90 per hour effective June 15, 2025 and a lump sum payout of \$226.50 for time worked between June 15, 2025 and today. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of COLA/Merit Increases for the Jefferson County Clerk's Office

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the cost-of-living adjustments and merit increases for the Office of the Jefferson County Clerk, as presented, effective July 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Keys motioned to approve the hire for the Grade 9, full time 80 hour position of Chief Technology Officer, Gabriel Areigaza at \$95,197 effective date July 9, 2025. The motion was seconded by commissioner Hefestay. The motion was approved unanimously.

✓ 16. David Bound, Chief Financial Officer

External budget transfer approval – merit and cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)

Commissioner Majdi motioned to approve the state budget transfers for COLA funds amounting to \$576,502 to the County departments' and elected offices' FY26 budgets as presented and to transfer merit funds amounting of \$272,198 to the elected departments' FY26 budgets as presented.. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher. The motion was approved unanimously.

17. Nathan Cochran, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Discussion and advice from counsel and possible action on courthouse annex

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to enter into executive session to receive legal advice at 5:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mood motioned to reconvene in regular session at 5:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stolipher and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Stolipher motioned to accept the orders as presented by counsel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mood. The motion was approved unanimously.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

18. Certificate of Insurance



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

124 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 250, Charles Town, WV 25414

Phone: (304) 728-3284 **Fax:** (304) 725-7916

Web: www.jeffersoncountywv.org

PRESIDENT
Pasha Majdi

COMMISSIONER
Jack Hefestay

COMMISSIONER
Cara Keys

COMMISSIONER
Steve Stolipher

COMMISSIONER
Mike Mood

To: Commissioner Pasha Majdi
Commissioner Jack Hefestay
Commissioner Cara Keys
Commissioner Steve Stolipher
Commissioner Mike Mood

From: David Bound

Date: Aug 21, 2025

Re: Fiscal Note: FY25 Compilation of Financial Statements

The Chief Financial Officer is requesting a signature on the engagement letter provided by CoxHollidaYoung PLLC to compile the FY25 financial data for the county.

Requested amount of professional services	\$34,000
FY 26 Professional Services Budget	\$70,350

Jefferson County Commission
Parks and Receptions Reimbursement Request
July 2025

FY26 Funding

FY26 Budget Allocation \$ 586,049.00

July Expenses

Insurance	\$ 40,387.00	
Payroll	38,707.88	
Utilities	2,085.20	
Maintenance	<u>14,701.63</u>	
Total		\$ 95,881.71
FY26 Funds Available		<u><u>\$ 490,167.29</u></u>



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PRESIDENT
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COMMISSIONER
Mike Mood

To: Commissioner Pasha Majdi
Commissioner Jack Hefestay
Commissioner Cara Keys
Commissioner Steve Stolipher
Commissioner Mike Mood

From: David Bound

Date: Aug 21, 2025

Re: Fiscal Note: Reimburse JC Parks and Recreation through FY26 budget allocation

The Jefferson County Parks and Recreation is requesting expense reimbursement through their FY26 budget allocation. As of July 1, 2025 expense reimbursement is the preferred method for entities receiving discretionary funding through the Commission.

FY 26 Budget	\$586,049.00
Expenses	<u>(\$95,881,71)</u>
Remaining Funds	\$490,167.29

AGENDA REQUEST FORM
www.jeffersoncountywv.org



Name: Edwina Benites-LM

Department or Organization: Administration

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment: 15 minutes

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **August 21, 2025**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*):

1. Consider matters involving or affecting the construction, planning, purchase, sale, or lease of property for county office space and/or courthouse space

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Is this a funding request? Y/N

If so, how much? \$

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector Y/N Internet/Wi Fi Y/N Telephone for conference call Y/N

Contact information:

Email address:

Phone Number:

FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION

not applicable

August 8, 2025

The County Commission of
Jefferson County, WV
Charles Town, WV

Re: Adequate Forethought Before Allowing
Further Industrial Solar in Our County

Dear Commissioners:


Enclosed you will find six copies of the Epoch Times article "Wasting Away in Wind-and-Solarville" (June 11-16, 2025 issue). There is one copy for each Commissioner and one for the record.

This article is brought to your attention because what you do *vis-a-vis* planning and zoning will have a material impact on whether or not further industrial scale solar development proceeds in Jefferson County. This article illustrates the calamities that inevitably occur when there is insufficient or no forethought when authorities are shaping regulations to allow this type of development in their jurisdictions. It is a failure to identify knowns and unknowns and to think it all the way through for the benefit of the citizens and the fiscal stability of their jurisdictions.

I am not suggesting that this Commission has any role in setting bonding requirements. The W.Va. Code 22-32-4 (eff. June 7, 2019) places that responsibility on State agencies, for better or worse. Rather, I am saying that because the disposal issue is in such a nascent phase of development as amply demonstrated by the facts in this article, it would be an abrogation of your duty to protect the citizens of this County to fashion ANY planning or zoning rules, regulations or ordinances to allow continued industrial scale solar development in Jefferson County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Robert D. Aitcheson
Jefferson County Resident and Taxpayer

Encl. (6 copies)

Wasting Away in Wind-and-Solarville

By James Varney & RealClearInvestigations



While green advocates commonly use the terms “renewable,” “sustainable,” and “net zero” to describe their efforts, the dirty little secret is that much of the waste from solar panels and wind turbines ends up in landfills.

The current amounts of fiberglass, resins, aluminum, and other chemicals—not to mention propeller blades from giant wind turbines—pose no immediate threat to local town dumps, but this largely ignored problem will become more of a challenge in the years ahead as the 500 million solar panels and the 73,000 wind turbines now operating in the United States are decommissioned and replaced. Greens insist that reductions in carbon emissions will more than compensate for increased levels of potentially toxic garbage; others fret that renewable energy advocates have not been forthright about their lack of eco-friendly plans and the technology to handle the waste.

“Nobody planned on this, nobody had a plan to get rid of them, nobody planned for closure,” said Dwight Clark, whose company, Solar eWaste Solutions, recycles solar panels. “Nobody thought this through.”

The discussion about what to do with worn-out solar and wind equipment is another topic usually elided in net zero blueprints, which often focus on the claimed benefits of projects while discounting or ignoring the costs. As RealClearInvestigations previously reported regarding the lack of plans for acquiring the massive amounts of land for solar and wind farms needed to achieve net zero, the math can get fuzzy, and the numbers cited most frequently are those rosiest for renewables.

“They’ve been either silent or incoherent—or just hand-wave that we should recycle all this stuff without telling us how,” said Mark Mills, executive director of the National Center for Energy Analytics.

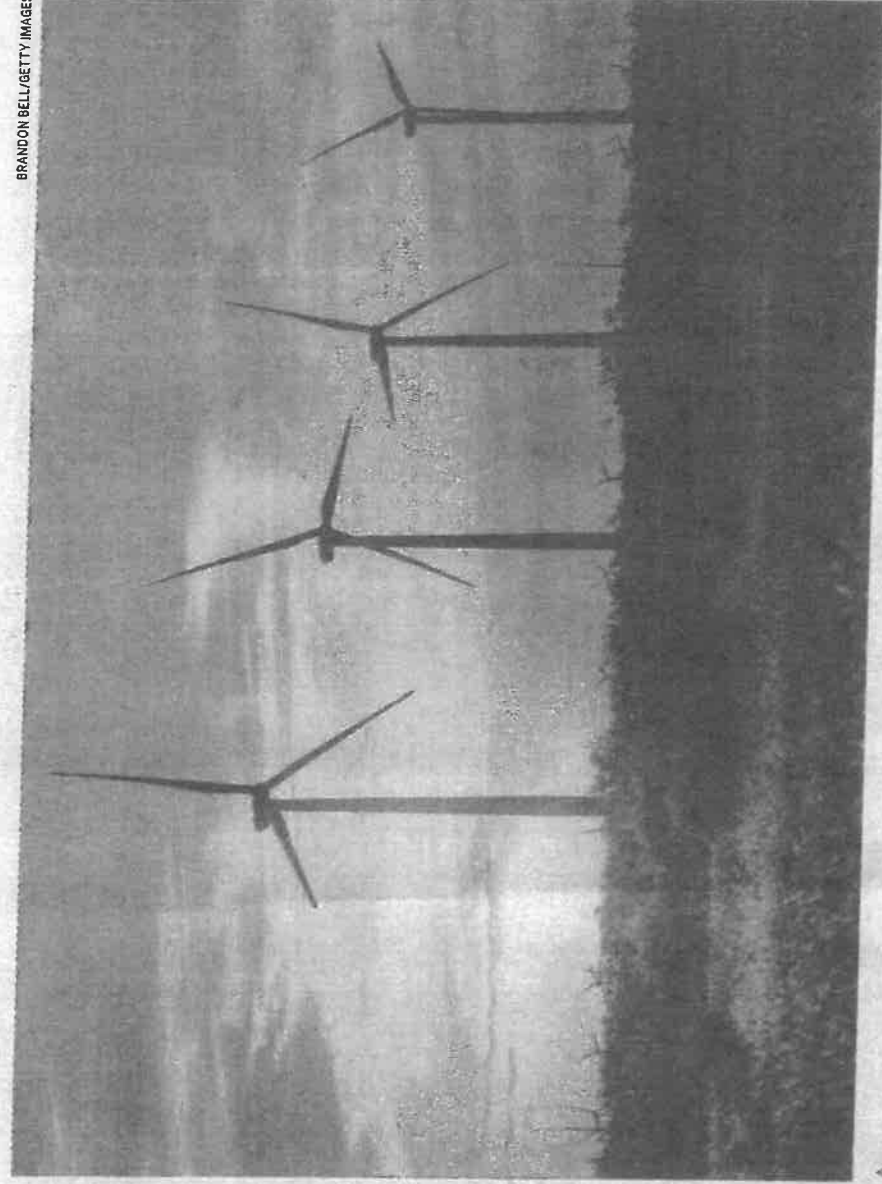
In the headlong effort to make solar and wind seem as inexpensive as possible, net zero advocates have not included fees that address the eventual cost of disposal, which could leave taxpayers holding the bag.

Some renewable supporters acknowledge Mills’s point. The Alliance for Affordable Energy, which supports government-funded research on recycling panels and turbines, stated that the “circular economy” that Mills referred to has yet to materialize.

“With the existing energy infrastructure, a lot of end-of-life questions have never been addressed,” the alliance’s executive director, Logan Burke, told RealClearInvestigations. “It may be that those costs have to be embedded in the front-end, but somehow we need to make the market circular. How do we find that market at the end of their useful life?”

Just how many panels the United States will dispose of or retire each year is also unclear. No clearinghouse keeps track of national figures, according to Meng Tao, energy engineering professor at Arizona State University and a consultant on renewable waste issues.

The estimates can vary widely. Solar panels generally have a life expectancy of 25 years, but factors such as damage and system upgrades make the number of panels coming out of circulation each year impossi-



BRANDON BELL/BETTY IMAGES

Wind turbines operate in a field at sunrise in Nolan, Texas, on June 28, 2024.

Critics say even the high end of those numbers seems suspiciously low given the hundreds of millions of panels now in use and tens of millions yet to come.

The problem will not be confined to the United States. Several European countries are further down the net zero road than the United States, and in March, the European Union estimated that it “will cumulatively amass 6–13 and 21–35 million tons of (solar) waste by 2040 and 2050, respectively.” The waste coming from wind turbines will be even greater, the EU stated, sounding a hopeful note that recycling renewables will become more prominent.

“Both PV [photovoltaic] and wind power infrastructure waste streams require special handling and recycling methods that are not widespread in Europe today,” the EU wrote.

The United States accounts for roughly 10 percent of the waste, according to several experts. Tao estimated that it would be producing roughly 2 million metric tons of solar waste per year by 2043, but other studies have a much higher figure. A 2019 study in renewable energy predicted roughly 10 million metric tons of solar waste between 2030 and 2060.

“Solar waste will grow exponentially in the next 20 years,” Tao said. “Globally, we produced 20 to 25 million tons of solar panels in 2023. They will come offline in roughly 20 years. That is 20 to 25 million tons of solar waste a year in 2045.”

The Institute for Energy Research puts the potential mountain even higher, pointing to studies estimating that the 2050 figure will be 78 million tons.

For now, 90 percent of this detritus goes to landfills. And the panel fields and towering turbines must be dismantled, trucked away (usually by diesel-powered vehicles), and then sent to landfills or ports, where they are shipped to poor, developing countries. Fossil fuels may foul the air, but renewables may pollute the ground.

There has been promising research, most of it government-funded, on making components such as turbine blades more recyclable, but the Trump administration appears unlikely to continue such funding. Such a shift under President Donald Trump would put the onus for developing more recyclable, renewable equipment on the private sector.

various categories has been a bust. The push to make renewable waste recyclable has smacked up against basic questions of profitability, according to Jesse Ausubel of Rockefeller University.

“The recycling industry overall is not one that has blossomed in the last 50 years; it’s just not a booming industry,” he said. “You’re going to need enormous amounts of installations and this stuff is made to last, made tough, which is the enemy of recycling. So it’s all still a big challenge and I think there are a lot of unanswered questions or we’ll be left with a lot of stranded assets.”

Tao agreed that, absent more profit, the recyclable future for renewable equipment is dim.

“We still don’t have a perfected technology for recycling them, we’re not there yet,” he said. “We’re trying to see how the industry will move forward, but there are multiple challenges, including the fact it is not profitable.”

Renewable energy champions insist that all this will mean big business, perhaps as much as \$2.7 billion in solar recycling in 2030, according to one estimate. But for now, it isn’t. Clark said his company clears about \$5 from each panel.

It isn’t only the lagging technology and market pressures. At root, there isn’t much in the panel worth recycling. There are tiny amounts of silver and copper, along with some silicon, but those wafers are deep within a compressed sandwich of glass and other elements. Crushed glass has some limited value in construction, but extracting the small amounts of valuable components is an intensive, high-tech process, Clark said.

Ausubel said he thinks that the smaller residential solar market can probably handle itself and that the real work will be disposing of millions of panels in the sprawling fields. Because unraveling the panel’s crunched knot is difficult and expensive, it only makes sense to recycle panels in the thousands, and the residential solar market is of less interest, Clark said.

“It’s like mining that way,” he said of the process. “The way they are assembled, stacked, with the cells intertwined and wired together amid sheets of plastic, resins, glue and the like.”

And all leaching cannot be prevented. While the hazardous materials contained in each solar panel litre

mediate threat to local town dumps, but this largely ignored problem will become more of a challenge in the years ahead as the 500 million solar panels and the 73,000 wind turbines now operating in the United States are decommissioned and replaced.

Greens insist that reductions in carbon emissions will more than compensate for increased levels of potentially toxic garbage; others fret that renewable energy advocates have not been forthcoming about their lack of eco-friendly plans and the technology to handle the waste.

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The discussion about what to do with worn-out solar and wind equipment is another topic usually elided in net zero blueprints, which often focus on the claimed benefits of projects while discounting or ignoring the costs. As RealClearInvestigations previously reported regarding the lack of plans for acquiring the massive amounts of land for solar and wind farms needed to achieve net zero, the math can get fuzzy, and the numbers cited most frequently are those rosiest for renewables.

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Some renewable supporters acknowledge Mills's point. The Alliance for Affordable Energy, which supports government-funded research on recycling panels and turbines, stated that the "circular economy" that Mills referred to has yet to materialize.

"With the existing energy infrastructure, a lot of end-of-life questions have never been addressed," the alliance's executive director, Logan Burke, told RealClearInvestigations. "It may be that those costs have to be embedded in the front-end, but somehow we need to make the market circular. How do we find that market at the end of their useful life?"

Just how many panels the United States will dispose of or retire each year is also unclear. No clearinghouse keeps track of national figures, according to Meng Tao, energy engineering professor at Arizona State University and a consultant on renewable waste issues.

The estimates can vary widely. Solar panels generally have a life expectancy of 25 years, but factors such as damage and system upgrades make the number of panels coming out of circulation each year impossible to ascertain. In 2021, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which did not respond to a request for comment, estimated that between 3,000 and 6,000 panels would be retired annually through 2026.

Wind turbines operate in a field at sunrise in Nolan, Texas, on June 28, 2024.

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There has been promising research, most of it government-funded, on making components such as turbine blades more recyclable, but the Trump administration appears unlikely to continue such funding. Such a shift under President Donald Trump would put the onus for developing more recyclable, renewable equipment on the private sector.

But the recycling industry as a whole has never been dynamic. Indeed, the past few years have seen widespread admissions that the recycling revolution that has led Americans to separate their trash into

various categories has been a bust. The push to make renewable waste renewable has smacked up against basic questions of profitability, according to Jesse Ausubel of Rockefeller University.

"The recycling industry overall is not one that has blossomed in the last 50 years; it's just not a booming industry," he said. "You're going to need enormous amounts of installations and this stuff is made to last, made tough, which is the enemy of recycling. So it's all still a big challenge and I think there are a lot of unanswered questions or we'll be left with a lot of stranded assets."

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"It's like mining that way," he said of the process. "The way they are assembled, stacked, with the cells intertwined and wired together amid sheets of plastic, resins, glue and the like."

And all leaching cannot be prevented. While the hazardous materials contained in each solar panel, like its valuable elements, are slight, they could present a long-term problem. Even if a landfill strictly adheres to Environmental Protection Agency regulations, the leaching from potentially millions of panels poses health risks that Tao compared to mercury poisoning.

Laws mandating recycling have proved difficult to enforce.

"To date, no single regulatory framework has been developed to cover a North Star for renewable energy project end-of-life planning, leaving a patchwork of federal, state, and local policies and regulations to sift through—and leaving project owners and developers, as well as landowners and other interested parties, to fend for themselves," a 2024 report reads.



CHRIS GRANT/GETTY IMAGES

Continued on A20

Wasting Away in Wind-and-Solarville

Continued from A18

For example, Washington passed a law mandating solar panel recycling in 2017, but it has yet to be enforced. Currently, the law is set to take effect on July 1, but the Department of Ecology opposes that date in part because manufacturers and consumers have proved reluctant to pay the recycling costs, crimping the solar market there.

"The state's clean energy transition is facing a setback if the law goes into effect on July 1, 2025," the department stated. "If the law is unchanged, it would disrupt the supply and cost of panels available for sale in Washington."

The question of who will pay to dismantle the panels, transport them to landfills or recycling centers, or even, in some cases, ship them abroad has been left unanswered in most states. Lobbyists for wind and solar projects eager to keep costs low, along with lawmakers captivated by the concept of a net zero future, have left the market too lightly regulated, said Jason Isaac, founder and CEO of the American Energy Institute, which supports "abundant, affordable and reliable energy."

In many cases, when highly regulated power companies look to build a new plant, laws require them to set aside money in bonds or escrow accounts to cover or defray decommissioning costs, Mills said. That is not always the case. A recently decommissioned coal mine in northern Louisiana may cost \$300 million to break down, according to the Alliance for Affordable Energy. The alliance said those costs will probably be borne by ratepayers. But Isaac and Mills believe that financial decommissioning requirements have been either ignored or insufficiently funded in the renewable market.

Legislatures in some states, such as Louisiana, are moving to address that vacuum and prevent taxpayers from being stuck with the cleanup bill.

"The goal is to not leave the state or a farmer with a field of broken solar panels by putting in cradle-to-grave assurances

of bonding requirements," said H. Sterling Burnett of The Heartland Institute, a group skeptical of apocalyptic global warming scenarios. "We need to treat these like any other energy source."

In April, Burnett testified in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on just such a law, prompted, in part, by a solar field in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, that has been damaged over the years by hurricanes. In 2022, the legislature passed a bill requiring a bond from renewable project builders, but the specifics of that have not been promulgated, leaving new projects in limbo, state Rep. Brett Geymann, a Republican and sponsor of the new bill, said.

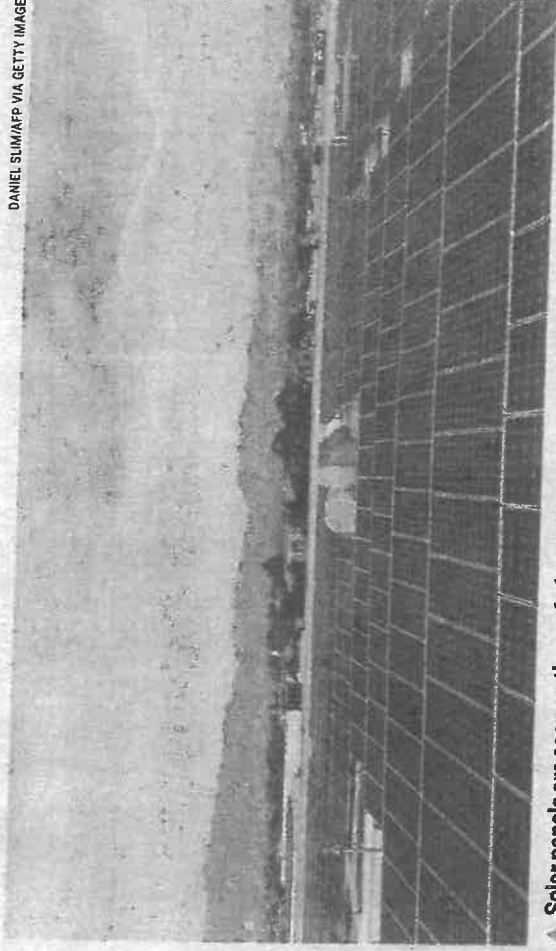
"No existing projects here have required decommissioning, unless that's part of a private contract with a landowner," he said.

A small number of solar panels are even finding a secondary market in places such as Haiti, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere, Clark said. Groups such as Brighten Haiti, which did not respond to a request for comment, take replaced panels that still have some life in them to that impoverished island, although some said that amounts to misguided philanthropy. "It's sort of a 'nice' way of dumping, really," Tao said. "Because those places have no clue what to do with it in the end."

All of these issues are outweighed by the carbon emission reductions that renewable energy represents, according to other experts. Paul Gipe, California-based energy analyst and proponent of wind, said concerns about renewable waste are overblown and advanced by enemies of net zero goals.

"Solar panels are mostly glass, so glass is easy to recycle," he said. "Wind turbines are mostly metal, again, easy to recycle. Most of the concern about 'recycling' is fear, uncertainty and doubt from the usual suspects."

It's true that turbines, which have a lifespan of about two decades, are mostly metal, but they nonetheless present their own set of end-of-life problems. While most of it may be recyclable, breaking down and transporting the gigantic contraptions on land or offshore requires tremendous labor—and energy. The



DANIEL SLIM/WFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

▲ Solar panels are seen on the roof of a commercial building in West Los Angeles on Jan. 4, 2025.

thousands of tons of concrete that make up their bases will likely remain in the ground or on the ocean floor in some form for decades, according to Mills and others.

Blades on offshore turbines today can be as long as a football field, and the structures are equal in size to 10-story buildings, with those offshore sitting on an ocean floor slab as big as a city block.

"These offshore things are not renewable and not clean—it takes boat loads of equipment out to the sites to build and maintain them, and it will take boat loads to bring it all back," said Robin Shaffer of Protect Our Coast NJ, a grassroots group that began fighting a since-scuttled offshore project in New Jersey.

What's more, bankruptcies among European companies have begun to mar the renewable wind landscape as surely as the towers, a trend that could continue or accelerate as the Trump administration stops the federal spigot.

"The government has let them off the hook by shaping their policies around climate activism," Shaffer said. "They're not putting down escrow money for decommissioning and someone's going to have to come along

and remove them, or we'll be staring at these rotting towers in the ocean."

The blades are so big that they are usually broken into three pieces when decommissioned, and the giant chunks of fiberglass, resin, and composite materials go to landfills or warehouses.

There are already horror stories of municipalities faced with decommissioning problems. Towns such as Sweetwater in Texas, which has for many years been the leading state for wind power, have seen turbine recycling contracts ignored. Global Fiber-glass Solutions, one of the companies handling such contracts, did not return requests for comment.

"You can't reuse turbines, and there are now thousands upon thousands of blades just sitting there in warehouses already," Isaac said. "It's an environmental disaster we're looking at."

From RealClearInvestigations

James Varney is staff writer at RealClearPolitics. Previously he was a national correspondent for The Washington Times. Varney is currently based in Mandeville, Louisiana.

The Readers' Turn

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, please contact us:
Email: readers.turn@epochtimes.com Mail: The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Fl. 7, New York, NY 10001

The Sky Is Not Falling: Why the Institute for Museum and Library Services Should Be Defunded

As reported in the June 9 edition of The Epoch Times ("Judge Declines to Block Trump Admin from Dismantling Library Services Agency" by Bill Pan), a U.S. district court judge agrees with the dismantling of the Institute for Museum and Library Studies (IMLS). Meanwhile, your local public library as well as public opinion might be leading you to believe that the sky is falling because of the executive order defunding this federal agency. While some suggest that this defunding will lead to the obliteration of library services and the massive closure of museums, the facts actually reveal a story of gross mismanagement and waste.

The truth is that the IMLS has been taking taxpayer money without any constitutional mandate for

decades, and, while it does send a portion of this money back to the states, has been egregiously misusing it. Administrative fees have gobbed up around 10 percent of the IMLS's budget (\$294.8 million last year) with more than half of its 70-plus employees having been paid over \$100,000 annually. Meanwhile, the IMLS awards grants to institutions that already have huge endowments. In 2024, about \$17 million was given to colleges and universities, often for bizarrely esoteric research studies. For example, according to its website, the IMLS gave Queens College in New York City over \$300,000 in 2023 to "understand why BIPOC teens read manga (Japanese comics)!"

In 2020, the IMLS gave Harvard University's Peabody Museum \$250,000 to digitize the "Marshall

obvious why this organization has vehemently opposed defunding actually calling this effort to reduce government waste an "assault" and furthering the false narrative that the sky will fall if the IMLS loses federal funding.

This narrative has been echoed by public libraries nationwide as they promulgate the unwarranted notion that their services will be eliminated if they do not receive federal grants. They claim that patrons will no longer be able to borrow books from other libraries, have their kids attend summer reading programs, or enjoy e-books and audiobooks.

As the truth comes out about the Institute of Museum and Library Studies, it will become apparent that the sky is not falling. States don't have to rely on federal funds

to run their interlibrary loan services, provide access to online materials, and hold children's summer reading programs. Our public libraries will be better off without the IMLS, a mismanaged organization that is taking a significant percentage of taxpayer money and spending it on inflated administrative costs, unnecessary programs and studies, and grants to already well-funded recipients that don't need them.

Arlene Quaratiello,
former state
representative
New Hampshire





August 14, 2025

The Honorable Pasha Majdi, President
The Honorable Mike Mood, Vice-President
The Honorable Jack Hefestay, Commissioner
The Honorable Cara Keys, Commissioner
The Honorable Steve Stolipher, Commissioner
Jefferson County Commission
PO Box 250
Charles Town, WV 25414

Re: September 8th event

Dear Commissioners,

Our Future West Virginia, a Charleston-based 501c3, which advocates in all 55 counties for every West Virginian to have access to a life of justice, equity, and dignity, in addition to opportunities to thrive.

On September 8th, we will be hosting a non-partisan panel discussion as part of our YOUR Vote Matters program. The panel will feature individuals who have won or lost races for elective office by six or fewer votes. Reed Byers, a former Cabell County Board of Education member and staffer for Chris Miller's 2024 campaign for West Virginia Governor will be our moderator. Confirmed panelists include Wheeling Councilwoman Connie Cain, former WV Delegate Josh Barker, Parkersburg Councilman Zak Hoffman, and Ranson Councilwoman Stephanie Fagan. They will speak about their campaign experiences and why, truly, every vote matters in elections.

As stated, this is a 100% non-partisan event and area elected officials are invited to attend to listen to the panelists.

September 8th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, 213 N. King St., Shepherdstown.

A brief reception will follow in the atrium after the panel.

Best,

Leigh Koonce, Eastern Regional Organizer
Our Future West Virginia
lkoonce@ourfuturewv.org
www.ourfuturewv.org

JCCInfo

From: William Kinley <williamkinley4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 10:48 AM
To: JCCInfo
Subject: Aug 7 meeting

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I must apologize for getting up and leaving in the middle of your meeting. When the guy at the table was giving praise to fiduciary officers it made me sick. When infact you fiduciary system is corrupt to the point it is criminal. The probate system you have in Jefferson Co. Is a complete and under joke and YOU as county commisssoners don't seem to care. I have written each and every one of you asking for a meeting. I have had zero response. This in itself show you don't mind the fact that the system is broken and unfair. I would think that lawmakers, people in charge, government officials would care about justice but doesn't seem that way here. I am sorta glad I am being taken advantage of by a corrupt executor. Other wise I would have probably invested money in homes in Jefferson County and I would never do that now. Now that my eyes are open.

From: William Kinley <williamkinley4@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 9, 2025 2:21 PM
To: morrowlawoffice@aol.com; JCCInfo; Nikki Painter
Subject: Your letter to the commissioners and my rebuttal

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I have read a lot of miss-truths in my lifetime but that letter takes the cake.

1. Your client could have solved all this by being transparent. We could have all work together to make it beneficial for everyone.
2. On a personal note: I did all the work down there. Not just a "little" So take that lie and turn it sideways.
3. That was not my fathers wishes. My fathers wishes was to get out of the hospital and change it cause he knew this would happen. Those were my mother's wishes. Just an FYI
- 4 although I have thrown my hat in the ring. I have never once shown my "dominance" in this situation and never really wanted to be the executor. I just want honesty and fairness. And transparency.
5. As per your absurd statement that (I) have sent you 100's of emails. I have sent 6. 6 emails. None threatening. I do think you should be held accountable. But out of all the people involved. I would have to say until this letter of lies. I atleast thought you were just following your clients wishes to not speak too us. So I had a somewhat respect for you. Terry would not have sent so many if you and your client would have answered 1 of them.
7. There were gold coins. My father showed them to me. And showed me where they were kept. We all three looked the day he died. As well as looked for the silver. Your client knew where they were the whole time. He would never have owned up to it if my brother Terry wouldn't have sent 100 emails.
8. As per educating myself on the corrupt probate system. No thank you. How about you and all the cronies get a moral compass. Educate yourself on compassion, honesty, transparency, and right and wrong
9. I have never once email the judge in Jefferson county. I know better than that.
10. I have never taken the view that I own anything. Look, I'm the one that did the right thing and bid on the stuff I wanted in the auction. Not steal it!!! Get that straight right now.
11. The fiduciary officer is a joke and I refuse to even lower myself to go into how that system is so wrong. He made decisions before even hearing facts. He let you and your client answer these questions. Of course your not going to say. My client is stealing the farm. Literally. It's like asking the fox to run the hen house.
12. And I do have screen shots of his bank account from the day he died. I do know his credit card was at zero. Cause I took care of his finances for him. So there is that
But there is no one to hold anyone accountable.
- 13 The jawhorse and the red charger was just fine when I seen it on your clients porch. When he lied and said he never seen them. Are you seeing a pattern of lies?
The bottom line is. Do not generalize me in your emails to make yourself look better or to make me look evil. I'm not that guy.
I could really care less what the commissioners think of me. They have already proved themselves to me and people I don't want to deal with. They don't want to know the truth.
The whole problem is that there is absolutely no checks and balances when it comes to probate. There is zero accountability and there is no real laws to be held up to a standard. So congratulations on having a job where you never have too do the right thing just cause it's the right thing to do.
And stop using my name in generalized lies in further emails.