NOTICE

THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION COURTROOM. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

1. **RE-ORGANIZATION**
2. **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

BILL ARCHER, PRESIDENT
MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION

RE: WEST VIRGINIA:

At a Special Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, January 2, 2025.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Phone:	Brian Blankenship,	Commissioner

RE: RE-ORGANIZATION – YEAR 2025

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously for Bill Archer, Commissioner, to remain as President of the Mercer County Commission for the Year 2025.

RE: PERSONELL MATTERS

Executive Session

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session. The Commission voted unanimously to come out of executive session and go back into regular session.

RE: BOARD APPOINTMENTS

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the following appointments:

The following Boards and Committees will be served by the following Commissioner:

- Community Action Case of West Virginia – Bill Archer
- Hatfield McCoy Trail – Greg Puckett will replace Gene Buckner
- Mercer County Airport Authority – Bill Archer
- Mercer County Building Commission – None
- Civil Service Board – None
- Convention & Visitors Bureau – Greg Puckett will continue to serve
- Board of Health – A Commissioner does not have to represent by their by-law rules so Gene Buckner will continue to represent as an independent private entity.
- 911 – Greg Puckett will continue to represent
- Mercer County Fire Service Board – Brian Blankenship
- Planning Commission – Brian Blankenship
- Public Service District – None
- Coal Heritage Authority – Brian Blankenship
- Region One – Greg Puckett will replace Gene Buckner
- Mercer County Development Office – Bill Archer

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 14, 2025.

_____President

Bill Archer

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING - TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.

AGENDA:

OPEN WITH PRAYER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mercer Public Service District
Rock District Sewer Project
Mike Kennett, Chairman
Jacob Bryant, Project Manager

EMPLOYMENT/OATH OF OFFICE:

Courthouse Maintenance Department
Employment & Oath of Office
Dakota Coyle, FT Maintenance Worker

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

WV Department of Agriculture
Spay Neuter Grant Application
Vicky Reed, County Administrator

ESTATES:

William Osborne

FUNDING REQUESTS:

Bluewell Public Service District
Additional Funding to Breach Dams
Bryan Rotenberry, General Manager

HopeWords 2025 Writers Conference
Robbie Gaines, Director of Operations

Bluefield State University Foundation
Black History Month
Gabrielle Ponder, Chair

Glenwood Recreation Park
Ideal Roofing Systems, LLC
Estimate to Replace Restroom Roofs
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

DISCUSSION:

Greasy Ridge Development
Proposed Asphalt Plant
Stephanie Stinson
Nancy Manning

U.S. Small Business Administration
Disaster Assistance Loan Program
Mauricio Orozco, Public Affairs Specialist

American Rescue Plan Funding
Mercer County Professional Building
Alan Christian, Sheriff

Alliance Consulting, Inc.
Preliminary Estimates for Dredging
Braden Hoffman, Sr. Vice President

Brush Creek Sites 14 & 15
Rehabilitation Projects
Bill Archer, President

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Invoices
2. Settlements
3. Exonerations
4. List of Approved Estates for December 2024

RE: WEST VIRGINIA:

At a Regular Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Phone:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Present:	Brian Blankenship,	Commissioner

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

Public hearing opened to discuss the Rock District Sewer Project, Mike Kennett, and Jacob Bryant, Project Manager. This is the second and last meeting to discuss funding for Phase 1 (Treatment Plant). No one to speak at public hearing.

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing.

RE: EMPLOYMENT & OATH OF OFFICE – DAKOTA COYLE – MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Dakota Coyle to serve as a Full-Time Maintenance Worker for the Mercer County Courthouse Maintenance Department.

RE: GRANT – SPAY NEUTER GRANT APPLICATION – WV DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the WV Department of Agriculture Spay Neuter grant application in the amount of $25,000 submitted by Vicky Reed, County Administrator.

RE: ESTATE – WILLIAM OSBORNE

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship and Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to appoint the Sheriff of Mercer County, Alan P. Christian as Administrator D.B.N. of the Estate of William Osborne.

WEST VIRGINIA:

At an adjourned session of the County Commission continued and held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on January 14, 2025.

Present:	Bill Archer,	President.
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner.
Present:	Brian Blankenship,	Commissioner.

BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: WILLIAM OSBORNE, DECEASED.

O-R-D-E-R

On the 14thth day of January, 2025, before the Mercer County Commission, came the matter of the Estate of William Osborne, deceased, upon motion of Ashley J. Tucker, Attorney, requesting that the Sheriff of Mercer County, Alan P. Christian, be appointed Administrator D.B.N., to distribute assets and finalize said estate.

After discussion and review of this matter by the Commission, upon proper motion and second, and it appearing proper to do so, the Commission **ORDERS** that the Sheriff of Mercer County, Alan P. Christian, shall qualify as Administrator D.B.N. over the estate of William Osborne, deceased. No bond being required.

All of which was accordingly **ADJUDGED** and **ORDERED.** The Clerk of this Commission is **DIRECTED** to take whatever actions he deems necessary to effectuate this Order**.**

Dated this the 14th day of January, 2025.

ENTER:

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BILL ARCHER, PRESIDENT
MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION

ATTEST:

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VERLIN T. MOYE, CLERK
MERCER COUNTY CLERK

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – BLUEWELL PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to table this funding request until 01/28/2025.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – HOPE WORDS 2025 WRITERS CONFERENCE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from Hope Words, Robbie Gaines, Director of Operations. Funding in the amount of $5,000 will be taken from Hotel/Motel and used for the 2025 Hope Words 2025 Writers Conference, April 4th and 5th.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – BLUEFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION – BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from Bluefield State University Foundation, Gabrielle Ponder, Chair. Funding in the amount of $5,000 will be taken from Hotel/Motel and used for month long events during Black History Month such as a fashion show, banners in Downtown Bluefield, movies at the Granada Theater, etc.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – GLENWOOD RECREATION PARK – IDEAL ROOFING SYSTEMS, LLC

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from Glenwood Recreation Park, Greg Puckett, Commissioner. Funding in the amount of $9,275 will be taken from LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund) and used to replace restroom roofs.

DISCUSSION:

- Greasy Ridge Development: Proposed Asphalt Plant: Stephanie Stinson and Nancy Manning – Voiced displeasure and concerns about proposed asphalt plant being relocated from Halls Ridge Road to Greasy Ridge Road. Concerns include smell, air quality and land value. Discussion to be continued at next County Commission Meeting 01/28/2025 @ 3:30.
- U.S. Small Business Administration – Tabled
- American Rescue Plan – Mercer County Sheriff's Department – Mercer County Professional Building – County closed out the deal to purchase the Mercer County Professional Building for the Mercer County Sheriff's Department, hoping to move in by mid-summer, Jail will continue to be in the basement of the Courthouse due to cost
- Alliance Consulting, Inc. – Preliminary estimates for dredging Glenwood Lake – Braden Hoffman, Senior Vice President
- Brush Creek Sites 14 & 15 – Next meeting is 1/21/2025 for contractors/bids

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bill Archer – Offered Monroe County Courthouse our county's help in any way
Bill Archer – Toys for Tigers sent CC a letter thanking them for their financial support
Bill Archer – Thanked the new Governor Patrick Morrisey for helping push through the Lipitor Lawsuit and it being resolved

RE: INVOICES, SETTLEMENTS, EXONERATIONS & APPROVED ESTATES

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the following Invoices, Settlement and Exonerations.

Johnston, James Edward – Ticket #'s 22834, 22835, 500000110S, 22887,22886, 307768, 22843, 22844, 22798, 22733 – Map VAR Parcel VAR – Tax Class 2 & 3 - Real Estate 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 – 05-East River – Various locations & Personal Property – Property was over assessed – Class 2 assessment is $72,320 - Class 3 assessment is $6,510

Amount of Exoneration - $821.68 – Class 3 $147.86 – Total $969.54

Whittaker, Barbara – Ticket #26497 – Map 24A Parcel 104 – Real Estate 2024 – 05- East River – Lots 1 & 2 Sec 311 & Lots 1&2 – Assessment is $26,500 should be $24,640 – Added Rm1 to Real Estate, Rm1 was already being taxed in personal property

Amount of Exoneration - $21.11

Prestige WV Homes Corp – Ticket #303314 – Personal Property 2021 – 09 Plymouth – Assessment is $8,388 – Mobile Home – Mobile home was assessed on ticket #301547, Paid in full.

Amount of Exoneration - $190.91

Prestige WV Homes Corp – Ticket #303265 – Personal Property 2022 – 09 Plymouth – Assessment is $8,838 – Mobile Home – Mobile home was assessed on Ticket #304507, Paid in full.

Amount of Exoneration $201.15

Prestige WV Homes Corp – Ticket #303207 – Personal Property 2023 – 09 Plymouth – Assessment is $8,838 – Mobile Home – Mobile home was assessed on Ticket #304476, Paid in full.

Amount of Exoneration $211.21

Prestige WV Homes Corp – Ticket #310895 – Personal Property 2024 – 09 Plymouth – Assessment is $21,342 Should be $14,342 – Mobile Home – Mobile home was overvalued in assessment.

Amount of Exoneration $158.87

PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF ERONEOUS CHARGES

Tax Year	2024		
District	02 Beaver Pond		
Ticket #	Name of Taxpayer	Reason	Amount
303815	SW WV Rentals, LLC	MH burned	$ 77.62

Tax Year	2023		
District	03 Bluefield		
Ticket #	Name of Taxpayer	Reason	Amount
13170	Jacob Holdren	Taxable Error	$ 412.78
14527	Linda C. Neal	Taxable Error	$ 63.26
14098	Brian K Marrs	Taxable Error	$ 68.24
300001555	Dana C. Pierce	Error on supplement	$ 36.60

Tax Year 2024
District 03 Bluefield

Ticket #	Name of Taxpayer	Reason	Amount
13267	Jacob Holdren	Taxable Error	$ 440.38
14625	Linda C. Neal	Taxable Error	$ 68.14
14179	Brian K. Marrs	Taxable Error	$ 74.78

Tax Year 2023
District 05 East River

Ticket #	Name of Taxpayer	Reason	Amount
500002897	Dylan L. Kinser	Error on supplement ticket	$ 68.22
50000300	Susan Beckner	Error on supplement	$ 326.44

Tax Year 2023
District 10 Princeton

Ticket #	Name of Taxpayer	Reason	Amount
1000000984	Timothy W. Poe	Should be Timmy on supplement ticket	$ 281.04

This day the following accounts were presented against the County of Mercer, and the Commission having examined each and all of them, doth allow payment from the different accounts, check numbers listed below:

CHECKS – DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL COUNTY	-Check #80344 – 80471	Voided #80447, 80448
COAL SEVERANCE	-Check #4550 - 4557	
DOG FUND	-Check #636	
JUSTICE FINES	-Check #5392	
HOME CONFINEMENT	-Check #2698 - 2700	
HOTEL MOTEL	-Check #4899 – 4911	
COURTHOUSE EQUIPMENT	-Check #948 - 951	
COURTHOUSE ANNEX	-Check #2050 - 2057	
VIDEO LOTTERY	-Check #1674 - 1680	
HOTEL MOTEL RESERVE	-Check #1012 – 1015	
COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION	-Check #1009 - 1017	
MCDRC FEES	-Check #6236 - 6255	
ASSESSOR REAPPRAISAL	-Check #7057 – 7070	
FINANCIAL STABILIZATION	-Check #1075	
LACTF	-Check #1000	
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN	-Check #1070	
DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT	-Check #338	

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 28, 2025.

_____President

Bill Archer

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING-TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 –3:30 P.M.

AGENDA:

OPEN WITH PRAYER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINMENTS

OATHS OF OFFICE:

Mercer County Gardner Center
Employment & Oath of Office
Kim Testerman, Evening Shift Custodian

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Mercer County Clerk's Office
FY 2025 Budget Revision-General County #2

FUNDING REQUESTS:

Mercer County Assessor's Office
Request for Budget Increase
Tommy Bailey, Assessor
Todd Kendall, Chief Deputy

Mercer County Emergency Management
Purchase Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle
Keith Gunnoe, OEM Director

Mercer County Public Service District
Thornhill Water Project
Mike Kennett, Chairman

Kingdom Builders Ministry
Operation Outreach
Raymond Kennedy

DISCUSSION:

Greasy Ridge Development
Proposed Asphalt Plant
Stephanie Stinson
Nancy Manning

U.S Small Business Administration
Disaster Assistance Loan Program
Jim Accurso, Public Affairs Specialist

Mercer County Airport
Signage
Brian Blankenship, Commissioner

Mercer County Health Department
Lease Agreement
Daniel Wells, Chairman

Mercer County Assessor's Office
Personnel Matter
Tommy Bailey, Assessor
Todd Kendall, Chief Deputy

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

MERCER COUNTY DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES FORMAL HEARINGS

June Shoda	4425 Coal Heritage Road	House	Map 17C, Parcel 75.2
John Peyton	124 Ruritan Lane	House	Map 31, Parcel 81

RE: WEST VIRGINIA:

At a Regular Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Present:	Brian Blankenship,	Commissioner

RE: EMPLOYMENT & OATH OF OFFICE – KIM TESTERMAN – MERCER COUNTY GARDNER CENTER

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Kim Testerman to serve as Evening Shift Custodian for the Mercer County Gardner Center.

RE: BUDGET REVISION - MERCER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE – GENERAL COUNTY #2

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the FY 2025 Budget Revision – General County #2, Verlin T. Moye, County Clerk.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY ASSESSORS OFFICE

Executive Session

RE: FUNDING REQUEST - MERCER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

This matter has been tabled. (More information needed)

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT – THORNHILL WATER PROJECT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from the Mercer County Public Service District, Mike Kennett, Chairman. Funding in the amount of $9,863 will be taken from Coal Reallocation and used for the Thornhill Water Project.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – KINGDOM BUILDERS MINISTRY

This matter has been tabled.

DISCUSSION:

Greasy Ridge Development – Proposed Asphalt Plant – Citizens from Greasy Ridge voiced their concerns about an asphalt plant being relocated onto their road. Since Mercer County does not have zoning laws there is nothing the Mercer County Commission can do about it. They will need to contact the EPA or DEP in the future with their environmental concerns.

U.S. Small Business Administration – FEMA is finishing up in Mercer County. They have been located at Lifeline Church on Oakvale Road. They are offering long-term low-interest loans, 7, 15, and 30-Yr. Businesses can borrow up to 2 million and individual homeowners up to $500,000. Deadline is February 7. 1-800-621-3362

Mercer County Airport – Discussion of improving the sign for the airport. DOH

Mercer County Health Department – Mercer County Commission owns building. Health Department now has 3 providers Health Department and would like to have a lab in building. Requesting to lease space to QLabs, Inc. for $364.08/mo.

Mercer County Assessor's Office – Personnel Matter - Executive Session

MERCER COUNTY DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES FORMAL HEARINGS

RE: DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES – JUNE SHODA – 4425 COAL HERITAGE RD

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a 30-day continuance (to get a warrant to enter) for the house owned by June Shoda located at 4425 Coal Heritage Road, Map 17C, Parcel 75.2.

RE: DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES – JOHN PEYTON – 124 RURITAN LANE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to issue 6 months (to make repairs) for the house owned by John Peyton, located at 124 Ruritan Lane, Map 31, Parcel 81.

RE: DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES – JUNE SHODA – 4425 COAL HERITAGE RD

This day on motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a Standard Order of Demolition for the list of 32 structures below:

Standard Order of Demolitions – 32 Structures

4145 Simmons River Rd	WVTI LLC	house	Map 50 Parcel 221
156 Cutoff Rd	Destiny Myers	house	Map 17c Parcel 74
162 Cutoff Rd	Destiny Myers	house/garage	Map 17c Parcel 74.1
921 Union St Ext	Cynthia Reidel	house	Map 32e Parcel 34
7858 Bent Mountain Rd	Earnest Bishop	mobile home	Map 8 Parcel 76
7858 Bent Mountain Rd	Earnest Bishop	mobile home	Map 8 Parcel 76
147 Kegley School Rd	Sherry Hylton	mobile home	Map 39 Parcel 168
5948 Sandlick Rd	Mardella Thomason	house	Map 51 Parcel 149
560 Surface Hill Rd	Katy Martin	house	Map 11 Parcel 246.2
118 Cutoff Rd	Robert Havens	house	Map 17c Parcel 69
Fletcher St	Karen Miller	house	Map 3 Parcel 9
Rocky Bottom Rd	Alvin Sexton	house	Map 2 Parcel 46
131 Reservoir Rd	Larry Marcum	house	Map 54 Parcel 232
10765 Cumberland Rd	Deborah Rachel	mobile home	Map 5 Parcel 11.2
211 N State Street	Chad Belcher	house	Map 3 Parcel 5.5
199 Casewell Creek	Busted ATV	house	Map 49 Parcel 27
Simmons River Rd	Diane Granger	shed	Map 1 Parcel 25
2937 Simmons River Rd	Dave Wilson	brick building	Map 55 Parcel 9.1
2937 Simmons River Rd	Dave Wilson	white building	Map 55 Parcel 9.1
2828 Simmons River Rd	Dave Wilson	white shed	(not available)
273 McBride Way	Melva Thorton	house	Map 30 Parcel 151.1
Durhing Church Rd	Catherine White	single wide	Map 50 Parcel 217
233 Pocahontas Rd	Garnet Gas Co	remains of house	Map 4 Parcel 101
Pocahontas Ave	Garnet Gas Co	remains of house	Map 4 Parcel 91
Rocky Bottom Rd	Garnet Gas Co	old house	Map 6 Parcel 63
Jones Hill Rd	John Sneeling	house	Map 1 Parcel 2
420 Simmons Rd	Vickie Goins	house	Map 1 Parcel 39
419 Rocky Bottom	Earnest Fields	house	Map 54 Parcel 296
1069 Old Matoaka Road	Kathy Heartwell	house	Map 29m, Parcel 110
475 Gaslight Road	Martha Rexon	single wide	Map 26, Parcel 51
10618 Cumberland Road	Randolph Honaker	house	Map 5, Parcel 6
1241 Goodwill Hollow Rd	Kermit Penland	house	Map 50, Parcel 183

RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session. On motion of Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to come out of executive session and go back into regular session.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Brian Blankenship, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the request for budget increase from the Mercer County Assessor's Office, Tommy Bailey, Assessor, Todd Kendall, Chief Deputy. Funding in the amount of $60,603.76 will be taken from Budget Stabilization and used to hire 1 full-time employee, purchase new copier, paper & printing supplies and new desktop computers/monitors.

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until February 11, 2025.

_____President

Bill Archer