

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION SS:

At a regular session of the County Commission in and for the aforesaid County and State, at the James F. Cain Court House Annex, on the 1st day of August, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Randolph County Commissioners, David Kesling and Chris See. Commission President Chris Siler was absent

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Kesling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Commissioner See moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting that was held on July 18, 2024, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS:

911/OEM Director Michael Miller gave a handout to each Commissioner of his report. He reported that the roofing company came today and worked on the roof at the 911 Center that was leaking. He said he met with Chief Deputy Brad Sharp about preparing for the Mountain State Forest Festival. He reported that the Flood Plain Manager Sandy Bibey has been sorting through a file cabinet with floodplain documents that they found last week. He said she has to do a response to the report returned by Region III FEMA by September. He said Tucker County still have one of Randolph County's water buffalo's.

Chief Deputy Brad Sharp reported that two new Court Security Officer's started on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and was sworn in today.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Kesling announced that the next meeting of the Randolph County Commission will be held on August 15, 2024 at 1:30 pm.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR DAVIS HEALTH SYSTEM (See copy attached)

Commissioner Kesling said Davis Health System asked for the Commission to do a letter to the WV Alcohol Beverage Control Administration for a liquor license for Orchard Hall. He said since it is outside the City limits it has to be done by the County. He said it would be in effect from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Commissioner See moved to approve the endorsement letter for Davis Health System to obtain a liquor license from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, as presented. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL (See copy attached)

Heidi Bray, Executive Director of the Mountain State Forest Festival, appeared before the Commission. She thanked the Commission for their support over the years. She said they are requesting \$10,000.00 this year. She said they strive to bring in a variety of acts, exhibits, and enjoyment for all ages. She said with this comes great expenses. She went over some of the bands and acts that will be coming this year. She said they would not be celebrating the 86<sup>th</sup> year tradition without the contributions of our community and its benefactors. She said the Mountain State Forest Festival will be held from September 28<sup>th</sup> thru October 6, 2024. Commissioner Kesling said they can use money out of Hotel/Motel tax for this. He said the Commission gives money every year to the Forest Festival as it brings a lot of people into the County. He said it is a worthwhile project and they are happy to help fund it. Commissioner Kesling said they already budgeted \$5,000.00 and they can take an additional

\$5,000.00 out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Mountain State Forest Festival in the amount of \$10,000.00. He said \$5,000.00 will be taken out of the budgeted funds and \$5,000.00 is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM CORRIDOR H HIGHWAY AUTHORITY  
(See copy attached)

Robert L. Morris, Jr., Chairman of the Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority appeared before the Commission. He said he was there to ask for the annual allocation of \$5,000.00 for the Corridor H project. He said there is great work being done on the project. He said there is still some opposition to some of the routes. He said they have two different routes that are being evaluated right now for the Parsons to Davis segment of the road. He said that should wrap up soon and the Authority is working to keep things on track. He said Corridor H needs to be completed and completed soon. He said we have waited over 50 years for this. He said the Authority will support whatever route is chosen. Commissioner Kesling said the Commission has supported this project and will continue to support it. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority in the amount of \$5,000.00 and that is to be taken out of the Community Development line. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION AND FUNDING REQUEST FROM THE RANDOLPH COUNTY FAIR (See copy attached)

Kathie Staten, President of the Randolph County Fair Corporation appeared before the Commission. She said this is her 6<sup>th</sup> year as President and the 20<sup>th</sup> year for the Randolph County Fair. She said it is now a 9 day event and it is for the entire County and surrounding Counties. She went over some of the costs associated with holding the fair. She said these costs are rising every year. She said the youth work so hard for the livestock show and the fair is their happy place. She said the cost is priceless for the youth. She said they are requesting \$10,000.00 for this years Randolph County Fair. Commissioner See said it's a nice event and the kids love it. He said he likes the rodeo the best. Commissioner Kesling said they already budget \$3,000.00 for this every year but they could do a one time extra amount out of Hotel/Motel Tax. Commissioner See moved to approve the funding request from the Randolph County Fair Corporation in the amount of \$7,000.00 and that is to be taken out of Hotel/Motel Tax funds. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

FINAL SETTLEMENTS/ANNUAL ACCOUNTINGS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (8) Final Settlements, as submitted.

Karen Lynn Begg

Darlene Ann Hoover

Mary Johanna Nelson

Frances Rebecca Riemenschneider

Patricia Schoonover

Howard Neal Skidmore

Edward John Thaubald, III

Samuel Flame Wamsley

All yes – Motion passed unanimously

BUDGET REVISIONS: None

DIVISION OF PROPERTY/ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the division of property, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Commissioner See moved to approve the erroneous assessments, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

DISTRESSED PROPERTIES: None

FIRE FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner See moved to approve the (2) fire fee adjustments, as submitted.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Commissioner See moved to pay the bills, as submitted. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner See moved to adjourn the meeting. All yes – Motion passed unanimously

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

# Randolph County Commission



## Commissioners

**David L. Kesling**

**Chris See**

**Christopher Siler**

August 1st, 2024

WV Alcohol Beverage Control Administration  
900 Pennsylvania Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Charleston, WV 25302

WV Alcohol Beverage Control Administration

This letter confirms that, on August 1st, 2024, a quorum being present, the Randolph County Commission approved the request of the Davis Health System Foundation for an endorsement letter to accompany its application for the necessary permits for a private wedding, barn, or venue liquor license at Orchard Hall, 476 Harper Road, Elkins, WV 26241 from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Orchard Hall is located just outside of the Elkins city limits making it zoned properly for this application.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Cris Siler

Randolph County Commissioner, President





P.O. BOX 388 • ELKINS, WV 26241 • OFFICE: (304) 636-1824 • WWW.FORESTFESTIVAL.COM

\$ 5,000 Budget  
\$ 5,000 H/m

August 1, 2024

Cris Siler, President  
Randolph County Commission  
4 Randolph Avenue, Suite 102  
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Re: FY '25 Funding Request

Dear President Siler:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Assistant Directors of the Mountain State Forest Festival, we wish to thank the Randolph County Commission for their support over the years.

We are confident our beloved Forest Festival will be a great success in 2024. This year we respectfully request \$10,000 from the budgeted funds. Received funds will help offset costs associated with hosting the state's largest and oldest festival. This year, we are proud to announce, "The Pride of West Virginia" WVU Mountaineer Marching Band will be returning to Festival City for two spectacular performances on Saturday, October 5! After marching through the Grand Feature Parade, they will perform at the Jack Basil Band Field Show at Elkins High School football field. The WVU Band last joined us over five festivals ago. They are always a crowd favorite and draw with them a large following. Also returning is The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team. Before riding through the Fireman's and Grand Feature Parades, they will perform a special show on Davis Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. Other acts joining us for the Grand Feature Parade are the Camden County NJ Emerald Society Pipes and Drums band and XPogo, an extreme pogo entertainment group.

We strive to bring in a variety of acts, exhibits, and enjoyment for all ages. With this comes great expenses. Our sincerest thanks to all the local and surrounding businesses that give their unwavering support to us year after year. We would not be celebrating the 86<sup>th</sup> tradition without the contributions of our community and its benefactors.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate all the support from the Randolph County Commission. We look forward to working with you again this year to bring Randolph County the "Timeless Traditions" of the Mountain State Forest Festival. If you would like to discuss this request further or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Bray  
Executive Director





5,000  
community  
Dev.  
line

**ROBERT C. BYRD CORRIDOR H HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**

July 23, 2024

Randolph County Commission  
4 Randolph Avenue, Suite 102  
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Re: FY 2025 Funding Request

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority, I would like to thank you for graciously allocating Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to us for FY 2024! Your contribution helped continue a tremendous growth streak for Corridor H. I would respectfully request that you consider contributing to us again this fiscal year.

Through the generous support of the counties along the Corridor H route, the Authority has continued doing the important work we are charged by code to do. The past two years have created federal funding momentum and construction progress that we continue to build from. Some of the accomplishments include:

- February 2022 – Governor Awarded the Cheat Bridge contract for \$147,000,000 on the Kerens to Parsons Section
- June 2023 – Governor Justice holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for the final section of Kerens to Parsons.
- September 2023 – Public Meeting held for the Wardensville to the State Line section, another step toward putting the project out to bid.
- February 2024 – Public meeting held for Parsons to Davis Section, another step towards putting the project out to bid.

While significant progress has been made in the recent past, the Authority has a lot of important work ahead of us. There is an organized push to change the Parsons to Davis alignment of Corridor H that would cause significant delays of a decade or more. We must push the Federal Highway Administration and West Virginia Division of Highways to stick with the preferred alignment to capitalize on funding in place to complete the Parsons to Davis Section.



In addition, delays from the Federal Highway Administration have caused the bidding of Wardensville to the State Line to be delayed. We must remain vigilant until it is under construction. Having Wardensville to the State Line completed not only makes that area safer, but it also applies pressure on Virginia to begin work on their section of Corridor H.

Finally, the Corridor H Authority has been working with the Region VII Planning & Development Council on a grant they were awarded by US Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission to complete a site analysis for the counties along Corridor H. The goal of this study is to identify potential sites for residential, commercial, and industrial development in and around the path of Corridor H. The analysis will provide information for infrastructure needs, site readiness status, and more information for counties to utilize for their development planning. This site analysis will be completed by the end of August and will be distributed upon completion. As we begin to transition from advocating solely for completion of the highway to development along the highway, we feel this is an important first step in the right direction.

The Corridor H Authority has been very successful over the past several years working with both the private and public sector to support the completion of Corridor H. However, without proper funding, these efforts are much more difficult. We are respectfully requesting a contribution of \$5,000 from each county along Corridor H to support our goals and objectives during FY 2025. We appreciate all of the support Randolph County has given the Corridor H Authority over the years. We know you share our desire to see this important piece of economic development infrastructure completed as quickly as possible. In order to achieve this goal, it will take a team effort from everyone. I trust we can count on your support of the Corridor H Authority.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert L. Morris, Jr.  
Chairman





# Randolph County Fair Corporation

P.O. Box 182 • Elkins, WV 26241 - randolphcountyfairwv.com

February 20, 2024

Randolph County Commission  
4 Randolph Avenue  
Elkins, WV 26241

Approved  
Randolph County Commission  
Date: 7/18/24  
Approved by: [Signature]

Dear Commissioners:

The Randolph County Fair will be held on August 11-18, 2024. The annual contributions from the Randolph County Commission have been vital to this county-wide celebration and much appreciated. We have worked hard to create a county fair that our county can be proud of and that serves our community through promoting, educating and showcasing Randolph County and our unique rural heritage. We feel that our county fair celebration is very important of the culture of our community and we are proud to represent our county in a variety of ways at the state level as well through our active participation in the West Virginia Association of Fairs and Festivals and related legislative events.

We are very proud of our County's hardworking youth that are showcased in the livestock barn every year at the county fair, as well as other youth and local citizens that participate in the fair in a variety of ways through competing in pageants, barrel racing, produce/culinary/craft exhibition, and more. We provide educational and entertaining activities throughout the week including heritage demonstrations, agriculture and heritage educational programming for children, and a family fun evening with free activities. Of course, our very popular and always entertaining rodeo welcomes many from our county and surrounding counties. While we are proud of all we offer, it does come at great expense.

As with everything, the cost of producing the Randolph County Fair has risen significantly. The cost of all general fair expenses, such as lighting, fencing, signage, and other general operating costs, have all gone up, as well as the cost of vendors/entertainment. Even the cost of renting the facilities at Camp Pioneer has risen drastically in the last two years, doubling last year to \$3,000 with another increase in this rental fee anticipated for this year.

We believe that your budget has annually allotted a \$3,000 donation to the Randolph County Fair, which we have always been very appreciative of. At this time, that donation is not expected to even cover our rental fee for the Camp Pioneer facilities. As you look toward formulating your budget for the next year, the Randolph County Fair is requesting that you consider a larger allocation of funds to your county fair. This year, we respectfully request \$10,000 to assist with the rising costs. It is our goal to continue to provide a quality county fair for our community with reasonable gate fees and an increased donation of \$10,000 would go a long way in helping us achieve this.

We appreciate all of the support the Randolph County Commission has given us and we hope to continue to produce an event we can all be proud of. We would be happy to meet with you to further discuss our request at your convenience, or to provide any additional information. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Kathie Staten*

Kathie Staten,  
President

304-621-0379

\$ 7,000  
H/m