

MINUTES OF A REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, HELD IN THE COMMISSION COURTROOM, LOCATED IN CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, THEREOF ON JANUARY 29, 2026.

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, WAS HELD ON JANUARY 29, 2026, BEGINNING AT 4:00PM

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER WAS PRESENT:

BEN SALANGO, PRESIDENT
LANCE WHEELER, COMMISSIONER
NATALIE E. TENNANT, COMMISSIONER – via Zoom

4:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Commission President Ben Salango

MINUTES

Commissioner Wheeler moved to approve the minutes listed on the agenda. Commissioner Tennant seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Commission Meeting on January 8, 2026

RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION

NEW EMPLOYEES

CHANGE OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS

AGENDA ITEMS

4:00 P.M.

Discussion regarding reimbursing County agencies for first responder fees to attend and complete the Sissonville Fire and Rescue School

Commission President Ben Salango

Commissioner Lance Wheeler

Commissioner Natalie E. Tennant

C.W. Sigman, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Commissioner Wheeler said this is something that all first responders should participate in, and there are not many options in the state of WV. Commissioner Wheeler asked how long the Sissonville VFD has held these classes. CW Sigman said that for 20 years, and retired, and active can attend. Commissioner Wheeler asked how the Sissonville VFD pays for this. CW Sigman said that the registration fees and some private donations. Commissioner Wheeler said it has been suggested that public safety grant funds be used to pay for every volunteer firefighter in Kanawha County to attend. CW Sigman said that the County could reimburse the participants after they complete the course. Commissioner Wheeler said that would force completion, and this money is for public safety, and the best way to do that is to ensure the class was taken and the certificate was issued. CW Sigman said this is for firefighters, law enforcement, EMS, and Metro. Commissioner Salango stated he thought this was a great idea and he fully supports the funding. Commissioner Tennant stated that she agreed and that this is a wonderful idea from the Sissonville Fire Department.

Commissioner Wheeler moved to approve and to include a budget revision on the next agenda for public safety training \$60,000. Commissioner Tennant seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Spring 2026 Kanawha County Clean-Up Dates:

- **April 11, 2026 – Sissonville, 3298 Sissonville Drive Charleston, WV 25312 (Intersection of Sissonville Drive and Casdorph Road)**
- **April 25, 2026 – Cabin Creek, 15127 MacCorkle Ave SE, Chelyan, WV 25035 (Behind Go Mart)**

Commission President Ben Salango

Commissioner Lance Wheeler

Commissioner Natalie E. Tennant

Tom Blasingim informed the Commission that AEP is allowing the County to use their property again this year. Commissioner Wheeler asked whether the advertising would continue this year. Tom Blasingim said yes, but we are going to do some things differently. Since the County is saving money by having only two, they are paying more per ton. We do not take liquids; the propane tank must have

MINUTES

Meeting of January 29, 2026

Page 2 of 14

the valve removed and a hole drilled in it. Commissioner Tennant said she appreciates what these cleanups have done and how hard the Planning employees work, and the wonderful job they are doing.

Commissioner Tennant moved to approve the two dates listed for the Spring Clean-Up. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. Motion carried.

Kanawha County Commission meetings through May, 2026

Commission President Ben Salango

Commissioner Lance Wheeler

Commissioner Natalie E. Tennant

DATE	TIME
Tuesday, February 3, 2026	8:30 a.m. ≈
Thursday, February 5, 2026	9:00 a.m. Δ≈
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	8:30 a.m. ≈
Thursday, February 12, 2026	4:00 p.m. ≈
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	8:30 a.m. ≈
Thursday, February 19, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ≈ •
Thursday, March 5, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ
Thursday, March 19, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ
Thursday, April 9, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ▲
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	4:00 p.m. Δ
Monday, May 18, 2026	12:00 p.m. Δ

Δ Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

≈ Board of Review and Equalization Meeting

* Mineral meeting

• Board of Review and Equalization- Adjourn Sine Die

▲ The 2026-2027 Kanawha Co. Levy Rate will be set at this meeting

Discussion regarding Election and important dates

Commission President Ben Salango

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	3:00 p.m.	Public Test, Early Voting, Voter's Registration Office
Wednesday, April 29, 2026, through Saturday, May 9, 2026	Mon. - Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm; & Sat. 9:00am-5:00pm	Early Voting for Primary Election
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	3:00 p.m.	Public Test, Christopher Street and Voter's Registration Office

Monday, May 11, 2026	7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Voting Supplies, Voter's Registration Office
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Primary Election Day
Monday, May 18, 2026	7:00 a.m.	Canvass, Voter's Registration Office

PUBLIC HEARING

AGENDA SETTING

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tanawah Downing, a Civil Rights Litigator & Advocate, informed the Commission that he is providing a Notice of Constitutional Non-Conformance and an Action Item request to the Attorney General and the Supreme Court.

Brandon Brothers stated he has a complaint against Kanawha County Family Court and Child Protective Services. Mr. Brothers stated he has documentation of their corrupt practices against his parental rights from 2014 to 2020. Mr. Brothers stated he has been sued twenty-two times and has abuse charges.

Jessica Saxon – Litigator from Tennessee and advocate. Like that gentleman just said, children are being kidnapped by the authority of the law. The state is profiting from the removal of children from their families. WV is the #1 state of removing children unlawfully.

John Doyl stated he had appeared before the Commission in October and November, requesting the Commission's intervention regarding the assignment of county LE officers to assist the secret federal police. Mr. Doyl stated he was told by Mr. Salango that the Kanawha County Commission has no authority to intervene. Mr. Doyl stated he searched to find out what the law says about that. Three or four of the clauses from the state constitution are violated by the behavior of these agencies, WV code 713. Commissioner Salango said in response to one of Mr. Doyles' emails, he pointed out that they have to uphold both the State and the US Constitution. Commissioner Salango said the Commission cannot ask our deputies to intervene with Federal officers. John Doyl stated he never received a response to my emails, but if they see them doing something illegal. Commissioner Salango stated that he responded to several of the emails, and Mr. Doyl replied, but your view of what is illegal may not align with law enforcement's understanding of what is illegal. If people are tired of what is going on, they will vote them out of office. John Doyl said he believes that if enough proclamations were sent from many county commissioners, it would get their attention. John Doyl stated our law enforcement is being directed by the Governor's Executive Order and statements he has made since then

and people tend to lose their tempers in situations like this. Mr. Doyl asked where in the Constitution it is that law enforcement officers here are legitimately put in this to support federal law enforcement. Commissioner Salango stated that he does not believe any of our deputies are running raids with ICE. Commissioner Salango stated the key is that if the federal government does something illegal, the remedy is in court. If they are not receiving due process, then the court system has to address it. John Doyl said the silence from the county and city about what is going on within their borders, and that people who are complying with the letter of the law are being handcuffed, shoved into unmarked vans, and disappearing. John Doyl said what is it would make a person say "that's not my department". Commissioner Salango said the US government, and only they, are in charge of immigration. John Doyl stated articles 5 & 6 rights and criminal cases; for a person to have these rights, they have to be arrested, arraigned, given a court date with a jury of their peers. How many of these disappearing people have faced a jury of their peers? John Doyl stated that an ICE raid at the Mexican restaurant in Dunbar, 6 people were hauled off. ICE walked in fully armed, without any warrants or evidence of any crime. John Doyl said he is asking for simple humane decency, and this is way out of line. Every person who took that oath to protect the Constitution in WV needs to speak out on what's going on here. Commissioner Salango said he is not saying Mr. Doyl's points are invalid; Mr. Doyl is in the wrong court. Commissioner Salango said there is nothing the Commission can do to override the federal government's decision on immigration. John Doyl said so you are saying it is not your department. John Doyl said he is not asking the Commission to interfere with Federal activity, and it amazes him that the Commission can be silent on this because Minneapolis is coming here.

Mark Tabert – Thanked the Commission for allowing comments and not limiting the time of the speakers. Mr. Tabert believes a statement by the Commission would count, and the same is true of the City Council. Mr. Tabert stated everyone's democracy is at risk. Commissioner Salango said he will speak twice this year, once in May and again in November. Mark Tabert said WV is not speaking because it is a red state. John Doyl said the election is to put people in office whom you trust to do the work, and Mr. Doyl voted for the Commission, and the Commission can speak out.

Pam Nixxon – came to support John Doyl, and his one request is to make some sort of sound, a proclamation. If the Kanawha County Commission did something, it would make a difference. The Commission cannot sit idly by and say, "just vote". We are seeing a regression in civil rights.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

STAFF REPORTS

MINUTES

Meeting of January 29, 2026

Page 5 of 14

NEW BUSINESS

FIDUCIARY

Commissioner Wheeler moved to approve the Fiduciary orders listed on the agenda. Commissioner Salango seconded. Motion carried.

Order Confirming and Ratifying Supervisor's Report of Claims and Settlement Reports

Order Confirming and Ratifying Supervisor's Report of Claims and Settlement Reports

Order Declaring Re-Opened Estate Closed (Estate of Carol Lynn Barnhill)

Order Declaring Re-Opened Estate Closed (Estate of Karen Bowling)

Order Declaring Re-Opened Estate Closed (Estate of Max Dwight Dye)

Recommendation and Order (Estate of Jacqueline Gore)

PURCHASE ORDERS

Commissioner Wheeler moved to approve the Purchase Orders as listed on the agenda. Commissioner Salango seconded. Motion carried.

Order Confirming and Approving Purchase Orders in Excess of \$4,999.99 to be issued by the Kanawha County Commission Purchasing Department:

Vendor	Department	Amount	Comments/Description
Atlantic Emergency Solutions	Emergency Management	\$10,000.00	Chesapeake VFD Public Safety Grant for Vulcan Light, PPC, Thermal imager
Astar Abatement	Planning	\$19,414.95	Asbestos removal for demolitions
Civil & Environmental Consultants	County Commission	\$15,375.00	UKV Rec Plan invoice through December 6, 2025
Charleston Area Alliance (CADCO)	County Commission	\$12,575.40	UKV Trail Towns Quarterly Invoice

Travelers	County Commission	\$18,386.00	Insurance deductibles
Chapman Technical Group	County Commission	\$6,000.00	UKV Project Conceptual Façade Design Services
TW Reed Construction (ratify emergency PO signed 1/9/26)	Shawnee	\$48,000.00	River pump/install per bids received 10/28/25
Atlantic Emergency Solutions	Emergency Management	\$10,000.00	Pratt Fire Department PSG – rubber hose
Resa III/Public Service Training	Emergency Management	\$5,000.00	Trail rescue – rope rescue training
Sustainable Strategies DC	County Commission	\$6,000.00	Preparation of ARC Power Grant Application for AOT
Advantage Technology	Sheriff LED	\$11,262.95	Sentinel One (1 year) renewal
Grail LLC	Emergency Management	\$9,735.00	Nitro FD Public Safety Grant, Cancer Screening
Mr. Tire Auto Centers	Sheriff LED	\$10,000.00	Tires and tire accessories for KCSP per WV State Contract
Rodney Loftis & Son	Planning	\$74,282.60	demolitions
CAMC	County Commission	\$155,000.00	OSF-35 reimburse renovations associated with the Mother/Baby newborn nursery unit at CAMS Women's and Children's Hospital
Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority	County Commission	\$45,454.55	Reimburse equipment purchase; funds provided by the WVOEMS equipment fund grant
Multi-Cultural Festival of WV	County Commission	\$35,000.00	Contribution for MultiFest 2026
Brown Edwards & Company	County Commission	\$17,100.00	Interim billing for July 2024-June 2025
Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences	County Commission	\$50,000.00	FY 25-26 contribution forward free admission program
Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences	County Commission	\$50,000.00	FY 25-26 contribution toward free admission program
Atlantic Emergency Solutions	Emergency Management	\$10,000.00	Sissonville VFD, PSG, 10 SCBA cylinders

US Bank	County Clerk	\$35,801.87	US Postage – first class stamps pre-sorted
EZWV Technologies	Sheriff Tax	\$6,000.00	Monthly service fee
First Baptist Church (ratify emergency PO signed 1/20/26)	County Commission	\$8,000.00	LEDA Grant
Nitro Police Department	Emergency Management	\$8,035.00	Public Safety Grant – Reimbursement – purchase of thermal drone
Mid-Atlantic Rescue Systems, Inc.	Emergency Management	\$9,662.39	Pinch VFD, Public Safety Grant, rope rescue equipment
Thrasher Group	County Commission	\$11,795.20	Thrasher Brownfield
Dell Marketing LP	Sheriff LED	\$22,487.90	10-Dell Pro Rugged 14 RB 14250
Paramount Surveying, LLC	County Commission	\$9,100.00	Camp Virgil Tate surveying for property transfer
Rocky Fork Enterprizes, LLC	Sheriff LED	\$20,000.00	Vehicle maintenance for KCSO
Software Systems, Inc.	Sheriff Tax	\$13,000.00	Monthly maintenance service fee for AS400
City of Smithers	County Commission	\$7,000.00	Round 3 Mini Grant

Order Confirming and Approving Purchase Orders in Excess of \$4,999.99 to be issued by the Kanawha County Commission Purchasing Department, contingent upon the approval and posting of a pending fiscal year 2025-2026 budget revision:

Vendor	Department	Amount	Comments/Description
Iron Mountain, Inc.	Circuit Clerk	\$36,000.00	File storage services

ORDERS

Commissioner Wheeler moved to approve the Orders, Budget Revisions, Check Registers and Ratifications as listed on the agenda. Commissioner Salango seconded. Motion carried.

Order Confirming and Approving Cash Disbursements to be made by the Clerk of the Kanawha County Commission for the General Fund (documentation available for inspection at the County Clerk's Office as well as the Kanawha County Commission meeting of January 29, 2026)

The Honorable Vera J. McCormick, Clerk of County the Commission

Order Confirming and Approving Cash Disbursements to be made by the Clerk of the Kanawha County Commission for Special Funds (documentation available for inspection at the County Clerk's Office as well as the Kanawha County Commission meeting of January 29, 2026)

The Honorable Vera J. McCormick, Clerk of the County Commission

Order authorizing President to sign deed from Kanawha County Commission to Kanawha County 4-H Foundation, Inc. for a 30.62 Acre Parcel of Land and a 14.62 Acre Parcel of Land

Appointment of Ballot Commissioners to serve for two years pursuant to W.Va. Code §3-1-19

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by Jodi Cogar (Estate of Terry Cogar), Tax Map 9B, Parcel 50, Jefferson Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by RTM Properties, Tax Map 38F, Parcel 52, Cabin Creek Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by Unknown heirs of Annie May Campbell, Tax Map 38F, Parcel 66.1, Cabin Creek Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by William Estep Jr., Tax Map 23B, Parcel 1, Big Sandy Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by Bobby G. and Kathryn A. Adkins, James H. and Heatherly D. Starcher, Tax Map 11A, Parcel 20, Washington Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by Shawn Ferguson, Tax Map 38F, Parcel 51, Cabin Creek Tax District)

Order Granting Complaint for Demolition and Adopting the Recommendation of the Kanawha County Enforcement Agency (Property owned by Roger Larry Holstein, Tax Map 3H, Parcel 31, Jefferson Tax District)

Order appointing Tom Takubo to the Kanawha County Ambulance Authority filling the unexpired term of Glenn Summers (term to expire (June 30, 2028)

Order Ratifying the Signature of the President of the Kanawha County Commission on the FY27 WV Records Management and Preservation Grant Application – KCPAO

Order Ratifying the Signature of the President of the Kanawha County Commission on the FY27 WV Records Management and Preservation Grant Application – KC Assessor's Office

Order authorizing the President of the Kanawha County Commission to Sign the Grant Application for West Virginia Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention (CDDP through the Governor's Highway Safety Program Grants, for KCSO

Order ratifying the signature of the President of the Kanawha County Commission on the Grant Application for the Kanawha County Prosecutor's Office for the West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board Grant Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Order Authorizing the Sheriff of the County of Kanawha to transfer all remaining receipts received through December 31, 2025, from the Special Revenue FUND #004 (GENERAL SCHOOL FUND) to the General Fund #001-394-0-00.00

The Revision of the Levy Estimate (Budget) for the County of Kanawha – F.Y. 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Revision #10

1. F.Y. 2025-2026 Public Safety Grant Fund Line Item Budget Revision

EXPENDITURES:

029-711.00-568.000	Public Safety- Contributions other entity	(5,000)
029-711.00-568.049	Public Safety - Pratt PD	5,000

2. F.Y. 2025-2026 Journal Voucher Entry

REVENUES:

0001-332.00-002.332	Circuit Clerk Earnings- Multi- Defendant fee	30,000
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EXPENDITURES:

0001-403.00-219.000	Building /Equipment Rent	(30,000)
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3. F.Y. 2025-2026 General Fund Line Item Revision

EXPENDITURES:

0001-401.00-214.000	Co Comm - Travel	8,000
0001-401.00-567.000	Co Comm - Transfers to other funds	(8,000)

4. F.Y. 2025-2026 General Fund Budget Revision #10

EXPENDITURES:

0001-401.00-567.000	Commission - Transfers to other Funds	(89,798)
0001-408.00-230.000	Reappraisal - Contracted Services	89,798

CHECK REGISTERS: SUPPLEMENTS/EMERGENCY:

Rodney Loftis & Son, in the amount of \$74,282.60, for demolitions

CAMC, in the amount of \$155,000.00, OSF-35, reimburse renovations associated with the Mother/Baby newborn nursery unit at CAMC Women's and Children's Hospital

Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, in the amount of \$45,454.55 for reimbursement of equipment purchase, funds provided by WVOEMS equipment fund grant

Ratification of documents processed on January 6, 2026:

Sheriff's LED outside overtime payroll

Ratification of documents processed on January 8, 2026:

New Employee: Gracie Y. Hodge, Legal Assistant, Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney's office, full-time employee, \$33,920.00 per year, replacing Tawny Burdette, effective January 16, 2026

Purchase Order: The Health Plan, in the amount of \$15,000.00, for new employee HSA plan contributions (Commission)

Purchase Order: Titan Manufacturing & Distributing Inc., in the amount of \$6,644.64, for dumbbells and squat machine for St. Albans PD PSG (Emergency Management)

Notice of the Kanawha County Commission Sitting as a Board of Review and Equalization for Consideration of 2026 Tax Assessment Appeals

Letter: Authorizing the Kanawha County Assessor's office to continue working on the property books for the 2026 tax year until we go Sine Die on February 19 (President's signature)

Ratification of document processed on January 9, 2026:

Brandon Tomblin, Deputy Clerk, Kanawha County Clerk's office, full-time employee, \$35,000 per year, replacing Marie Sampson, effective January 12, 2026

Ratification of documents processed on January 13, 2026:

Emergency Checks to US Bank, in the total amount of \$7,160.86

New Employee: Darla Bleigh, Deputy Clerk, Kanawha County Clerk's office, part-time/temporary employee, \$20.00 per hour, effective December 15, 2025

Payroll

Ratification of documents processed on January 20, 2026:

Emergency Check: First Baptist Church, in the amount of \$8,000.00 for LEDA Grant

Ratification of documents processed on January 22, 2025:

Sheriff LED overtime payroll

Ratification of documents processed on January 23, 2026:

Purchase Order and Emergency Check: CMRS-FP, in the amount of \$80,000.00 for postage for new machine, until previous vendor refund is received to replenish funds on the new machine

Emergency Checks: US Bank in the total amount of \$12,711.60 for pcard payments

Sheriff's outside overtime

THE KANAWHA COUNTY REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2026, ADJOURNED AT 4:48PM UNTIL THE 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED ON THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.



Ben Salango, President



Lance Wheeler, Commissioner



Natalie E. Tennant, Commissioner



Marc J. Slotnick, County Attorney