

February 9, 2026

The Wheeler County Commissioners Court met in Regular Session on the above date to consider the below listed items. Members in attendance were: Judge McDowell, Commissioners Phillip Gaines, Cecil Gaither Sr, and John Walker. Commissioner May Jr was absent. Also attending were: Margaret Dorman-Clerk of the Court; Nichole Mock-County Auditor; Cindy Brown-Tax Collector, Jeff Shortnacy-Constable #2; Tim Reeves-Sheriff, Leslie Timmons-County Attorney; Billy Hennig; Louis Stas; Taire Knight and Amando Lujan.

Judge McDowell called Court to order and then offered an opening prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2026 APPROVED

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the minutes from the January 2026 meetings as written. Motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY FEE REPORTS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither to accept the monthly fee reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

COMPENSATORY TIME BALANCES APPROVED

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to approve the compensatory time balances for the period ending February 7, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the following budget amendment:

SO-\$452.00 LEOSE GRANT EXPENSE

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to approve the following budget transfers:

\$40,000.00 from County Attorney to SO Vehicle Purchase

\$600,000.00 from Contingency-\$300,000.00 to South Wheeler County Hospital and \$300,000.00 to North Wheeler County Hospital

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to approve the following budget line item transfers:

CO JUDGE-\$ 350.00 from Supplies to Bond Premium
-\$ 700.00 from Computer Expense to Bond Premium
-\$ 424.00 from Conf Training Official to Bond Premium
JAIL -\$ 58.00 from Wages pt to OT
TAC -\$ 1,000.00 from Conf Training official to Supplies
-\$ 200.00 from Dues & Publications to Supplies
-\$ 200.00 from Out of State Service to Supplies
CONS 1 -\$ 240.00 from Equipment Purchase to Telephone
CO ATTY -\$ 470.00 from Supplies to Telephone
AUDITOR -\$ 831.00 from Supplies to Computer Expense
NON DEPT-\$ 1,500.00 from Legal Fees to Atty Ad Litem
RB #2 -\$ 195.00 from Utilities & Phone to Contract Labor
RB #3 -\$ 5,000.00 from Supplies to Road Materials
-\$ 5,000.00 from Fuel to Road Materials
-\$ 5,000.00 from Warehouse Exp to Road Materials
-\$ 4,468.00 from Equipment purchase to Road Materials
RB #4 -\$ 4,961.00 from Vehicle Purchase to Safety Equipment

Motion carried unanimously

BURN BAN

No action taken.

JUDGES REPORT

Recent bad weather was mentioned.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Recent bad weather was mentioned.

SO-JAMES KERBY ADDED TO PAYROLL-Full time deputy, effective February 9, 2026 \$25.11 hourly

At the request of Sheriff Reeves, John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to add James Kerby to the payroll as a full time employee, effective February 9, 2026 with a salary of \$25.11 per hour (SB 22 fund and classification non-exempt). Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING CHANGE-from May 25, 2026 to May 22, 2026

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to change the May 25, 2026 meeting to May 22, 2026 due to the Primary Runoff Election being on May 25, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

SUBGRANT AWARD FROM TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/FEMA FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to recognize the subgrant award from the Texas Division of Emergency Management/FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant program for the Smokehouse Creek Fire in February 2024. The amount is \$116,244.86. Motion carried unanimously

TAC RISK MANAGEMENT POOL LIABILITY RENEWAL APPROVED-May 1, 2026 through May 1, 2027

Judge McDowell made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve the the Risk Management Pool Liability Renewal coverage for the period of May 1, 2026 through May 1, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

CYBER SECURITY TRAINING COMPLETED

John Walker made a motion which was seconded by Phillip Gaines to acknowledge completion of the mandatory Cyber Security training by all Wheeler County employees and officials. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by John Walker to approve the bills for payment and pay accordingly. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Phillip Gaines made a motion which was seconded by Cecil Gaither Sr to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Pat McDowell, County Judge

MARGARET DORMAN, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED: _____