

## COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING-TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 –10:00 A.M.

## AGENDA:

OPEN WITH PRAYER  
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/  
OATHS OF OFFICE

Mercer County Circuit Clerk's Office  
 Employment & Oath of Office  
 Hayley Hodges, Deputy Clerk

Mercer County Prosecutor's Office  
 Employment & Oath of Office  
 Heather Meadows, Legal Assistant

CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/RESOLUTIONS : - Resolution-Military Order of Purple Heart  
Bill Archer, President

Resolution Honoring the Life of  
 Barbara McCarty  
 Bill Archer, President

Resolution of Support for Israel  
 Bill Archer, President

Budget Revision-General County #2  
 Verlin Moye, County Clerk

Mercer County Dilapidated Structures  
 Approval to Proceed-Batch #3  
 Lori Mills, Dilapidated Structures Officer

WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement  
 Authority-Grant Contract  
 Restoration of Courthouse Doors  
 Vicky Reed, County Administrator

FEMA Buyout Grant Application  
 Approval for Appraisal of Structures  
 Vicky Reed, County Administrator

## ESTATES:

No Estates for December 2023

## FUNDING REQUESTS:

Mountaineer Food Bank  
 Extra Mile Program  
 Becky Conrad, Foundation Relations

COPS Crisis Intervention Team Grant  
 Purchase Vehicle for Coordinator  
 Alan Christian, Chief Deputy

## DISCUSSION:

Princeton Salvation Army  
 Sgt. Melissa White

WV Department of Highways  
 Signage in Right-of-Ways  
 Danny Clark, Inspector

Mercer County Spay Neuter Clinic  
 Gene Buckner, Commissioner

Brush Creek Sites 14 & 15  
Rehabilitation Project  
Gene Buckner, Commissioner

Glenwood Park Updates  
Restroom Renovations  
Bridal Changing Facility  
Dates for Dedication and Concert  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Courthouse Christmas Colors  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Warming Station  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Invoices
2. Settlements
3. Exonerations
4. List of Approved Estates for November 2023

## WEST VIRGINIA:

At a Regular Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Present:	Gene Buckner,	Commissioner

RE: EMPLOYMENT & OATH OF OFFICE – HAYLEY HODGES – MERCER  
COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK’S OFFICE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Hayley Hodges to serve as Deputy Clerk for the Mercer County Circuit Clerk’s office.

RE: EMPLOYMENT & OATH OF OFFICE – HEATHER MEADOWS – MERCER  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Heather Meadows to serve as Legal Assistant for the Mercer County Prosecutor’s office.

RE: RESOLUTION – MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution – Military Order of Purple Heart.

## Mercer County Commission

1501 West Main, Suite 210  
Princeton, West Virginia 24740

Phone: (304) 487-8306  
Fax: (304) 487-8370  
Email:  
mercercocommission@frontiernet.net

VICKY REED  
County Administrator



BILL ARCHER  
1322 Woodrow Avenue  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

GENE BUCKNER  
118 Martingale Place  
BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

GREG PUCKETT  
334 Pine Acres Way  
PRINCETON, WV 24739

### RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE PURPLE HEART TRAIL

**Whereas**, the people of southern West Virginia have a long and well-earned reputation of both serving in the military as well as supporting our nation's military personnel during and after the completion of their military service; and

**Whereas**, when any member of the military makes the supreme sacrifice in defense of this nation's freedom, the people of West Virginia, indeed, all freedom-loving people throughout this great nation, recognize the significance of their sacrifice. A grateful nation honors that sacrifice by bestowing a Purple Heart Medal upon the family of the individual who gave their last full measure of devotion; and

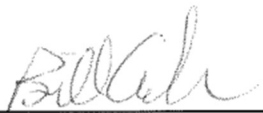
**Whereas**; Charles Baisden, Commander of the "Military Order of the Purple Heart" located in Henlawson (Logan County) West Virginia has been working throughout the southern counties of West Virginia to name State Route 10, a road that originates in Mercer County near and terminates in Cabell County a "Purple Heart Trail." Commander Baisden is reaching out to each of the county commissions throughout the course of the highway that was built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and completed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century; and

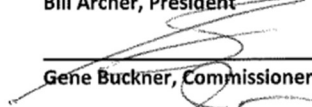
**Whereas**; Citizens honor the supreme sacrifice of military personnel in ceremonies on Memorial Day, and honor all veterans living or dead annually on Veterans Day. However, for the families of those whose loved ones have made the supreme sacrifice, the heartache can be a minute-to-minute or moment-to-moment reminder of the incredible price an individual and the individual's family has made in the defense of liberty.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission gives its full support to the efforts of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 733, in the chapter's efforts to name State Route 10, from Mercer County to Cabell County a "Purple Heart Trail," and encourages the commissions of the other counties that share State Route 10, to join with this noble gesture.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

Mercer County Commission:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Archer, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Buckner, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

RE: RESOLUTION – HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA MCCARTY

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Honoring the Life of Barbara McCarty.

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### RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF BARBARA HALE MCCARTY

**Whereas**, persons who dedicate their lives to the nursing profession have long been known as "Angels of Mercy." Nurses are called upon during the worst of times when patients and their loved ones are experiencing a tragic illness or injury. In the next moment, they can be called upon to assist with ushering in a new life with the birth of a child. A nurse's world can pivot from moment to moment. They are persons with great strength tempered by both tears and joy, and;

**Whereas**, one such local nurse recently exchanged her scrubs for angelic wings and has moved on to another form of selfless service. Barbara Hale McCarty passed away on October 26, 2023. She was a native of Falls Mills, Virginia, graduated from Castlewood High School, earned her degree in nursing from Bluefield State College and started working as an Emergency Room Nurse at the Bluefield Sanitarium. While working at the Sanitarium, she earned a Master's Degree from Bellarmine College in Louisville. When the Sanitarium was transformed into Bluefield Community Hospital, Barbara worked her way up the management and was Vice President of Nursing Administration when she retired after 33 years of service, and,


**Whereas**, during her tenure, the entire nursing profession ... indeed the entire medical profession .. underwent an incredible transformation. Medical practices changed ... the Federal Government took a more active role by establishing guidelines for healthcare providers ... and nurses soon found their time unevenly divided by charting rather than patient care, and;

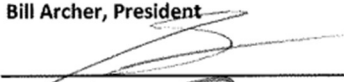
**Whereas**, Nurse McCarty found herself in a rapidly changing profession. Despite the pressures brought on by uncompromising new regulations and the uncertainty of coping with this evolving healthcare environment, Barbara stood strongly behind the concept of providing the highest quality of patient care. To be sure, Nurse McCarty often found herself in difficult situations, but she served her nursing team, the physicians and hospital staff to the best of her ability.


**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission expresses heartfelt thanks for the life of service to the regional medical community by Barbara McCarty. This commission expresses its heartfelt condolences to her spouse, Mack McCarty and family.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

Mercer County Commission:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Archer, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Buckner, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

RE: RESOLUTION – SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution of Support for Israel.

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### RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Since the unprovoked attack on Israeli children, women and men by Hamas terrorists, people of the United States have been horrified by the wholesale slaughter of civilians by their neighbors to the east. In a world where images can be broadcast almost in real time, the October 7, 2023 attack by the Palestinian Sunni Islamists against people enjoying an outdoor concert continues to reverberate worldwide; and

**Whereas**, freedom loving people worldwide are well aware of the terrible Holocaust wrought by Adolph Hitler against the Jewish people about 86 years ago is just one of many the unspeakable atrocities that Jews have suffered through the years. Their current homeland is their ancestral homeland of King David, Moses and the Jewish people. That is an historical fact. People from the Middle East have invaded the Israeli homeland for more than a millennium. The land that gave birth to both Judaism and Christianity had been embroiled in conflict for centuries; and

**Whereas**, people of many nationalities worked together to develop the southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia coal fields. People from Poland, Italy, Russia and many other nations settled this region. Many Jewish families settled this area as well. The Lazarus family was one of the first families in Pocahontas, Virginia and Bluefield, West Virginia. While "Lazarus Liquor Stores," were known throughout the region, one family member ... Emma Lazarus authored a poem "The New Colossus" that appears on the base of the Statue of Liberty.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission stands firmly with the Jewish people in Israel as well as the United States. Their on-going contributions to the people of this nation and the world shines as a bright light of freedom. This commission stands firmly behind the Jewish people during this time.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023

Mercer County Commission:

Bill Archer, President

Gene Buckner, Commissioner

Greg Puckett, Commissioner

RE: BUDGET REVISION – VERLIN MOYE – GENERAL COUNTY #2

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Budget Revision – General County #2 from Verlin Moye, Mercer County Clerk.

RE: MERCER COUNTY DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES – APPROVAL TO PROCEED – BATCH #4

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously for the Approval to Proceed – Batch #4. This batch includes 62 structures for a total of \$346,547.00.

RE: WV COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY – GRANT CONTRACT – VICKY REED, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the WV Courthouse Facilities Authority – Grant Contract. This grant is for \$100,000 for the restoration of Courthouse Doors.

RE: FEMA BUYOUT GRANT APPLICATION – APPROVAL FOR APPRAISAL OF STRUCTURES

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously the Approval for Appraisal of Structures, FEMA Buyout Grant Application. The Approval for Appraisal of Structures is for three structures.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MOUNTAINEER FOOD BANK

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from Mountaineer Food Bank, Extra Mile Program, Becky Conrad, Foundation Relations. Funding in the amount of \$5,000 will be taken from Video/Lottery.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – COPS CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM GRANT

This matter has been tabled.

#### ❖ DISCUSSION

**Princeton Salvation Army** – Sgt. Melissa White requested \$7,500 for a warming station. This request will be considered at a later date. Greg Puckett discussed the need for a warming station.

**WV Department of Highways** – Greg Puckett spoke for Danny Clark, Inspector, concerning political/business signs along the roadways that is not on private property being a violation of Code 17-9-1. This will be re-addressed the beginning of the year so that people have time to pick up their signs. After the First of the Year these signs will be picked up and trashed.

**Mercer County Spay Neuter Clinic** – Tentatively picked Board Members, one from City of Bluefield, one from City of Princeton, one from County Commission, one from Humane Society and looking for one more board member, once all board members have been chosen then they will come before Commission for approval, moving forward with 501C3 application, acquired parcels in Blue Prince Plaza, waiting for bids from contractors and hoping to be ready to open in early spring.

**Brush Creek Sites 14 & 15** – Rehabilitation Project – Gene Buckner discussed getting easements finished, two properties that need to be finalized, Attorney working on that, so that they can get started on Dam Site 14.

**Glenwood Park Updates** – Greg Puckett, Commissioner, spoke about wanting to get proposals from contractors to hopefully renovate restrooms, possible Bridal Changing Facility, three facilities that need to be dedicated, playground, pickleball/basketball courts and amphitheater stage (would like to see dedication happen in May when park opens back up, maybe a spring concert). Gene Buckner, Commissioner, spoke about there not being a bathroom between shelter 3 and 4 and he would like to see one built across the street where water fountain was taken out. Jonathan Buckner (Chosen Road) would like to set a yearly date for concert.

**Courthouse Christmas Colors** – Blue for Princeton Tigers and through Hanukkah then Red and Green for Christmas

#### ❖ PUBLIC COMMENTS

Valarie Estille – Issues with new owners of the local Mobile Home Parks – asking County Commission to get involved – County Commission offered the use of the courtroom to host Town Meeting for tenants to voice their concerns.

Dr. Beasley – requested the County Commission contribute \$3600 to complete a home demolition in the Town of Athens being done by volunteers due to their excavator breaking down. The \$3600 was denied due to asbestos testing not being done beforehand. The County Commission could be held liable if they give towards the costs. Gene Buckner mentioned asking the Town of Athens for the use of their backhoe. County Commission asked Lori Mills to assist and guide them in the right direction.



RE: INVOICES, SETTLEMENTS, EXONERATIONS & APPROVED ESTATES

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

Tax Year 2022

Bluefield

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
300001323	Larry Looney	Wrong name on supplement	\$ 117.00
300000869	Veronica Perdue	Error on supplement	\$ 33.86

Tax Year 2022

East River

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
500002485	Roland C. Munique	Error on supplement ticket	\$ 122.56
500002468	Jackie Dawson	Error on supplement ticket	\$ 14.32

Tax Year 2023

Beaver Pond

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
302938	Next Step Above Homes	Double assessed on MH	\$ 155.54
300288	Aspiring Acquisitions	Double assessed on MH	\$ 175.20
200000188	Kindale R. Abram	Error on supplement ticket	\$ 713.58
303210	Prestige WV Homes Corp	Double assessed on MH	\$ 116.66

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:

**MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2023:**

GENERAL COUNTY	- Check #78077 – 78183	VOID #78079, 78080, 78164
COAL SEVERANCE	- Check #4366-4373	
JUSTICE FINES	- Check #5379	
MAGISTRATE COURT	- Check #5384	
EMERGENCY 911	- Check #4292	
HOME CONFINEMENT	- Check #2643 – 2647	
HOTEL MOTEL	- Check #4652 – 4671	
COURTHOUSE EQUIPMENT	- Check #887 – 891	
COURTHOUSE ANNEX	- Check #1950 – 1958	
VIDEO LOTTERY	- Check #1589 – 1593	
MCDRC FEES	- Check #5991 – 6005	
ASSESSOR REAPPRAISAL	- Check #6864 – 6872	
FINANCIAL STABILIZATION	-Check #1056-1057	
ANIMAL SHELTER EST. DONATION	- Check #1052	
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN	- Check #10560	
DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT	- Check #322 – 323	

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 9, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Bill Archer

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

THE MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION WILL MEET IN A SPECIAL SESSION ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023, AT 3:00 PM IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION COURTROOM LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE MERCER COUNTY COURTHOUSE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

3. Princeton Salvation Army-Funding Request  
Sgt. Melissa White
4. Discussion Regarding Vape Stores in Mercer County  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner
5. Discussion Regarding Sheriff's Office  
Greg Puckett, Commissioner

BILL ARCHER, PRESIDENT  
MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION

WEST VIRGINIA:

At a Special Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Present:	Gene Buckner,	Commissioner

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – PRINCETON SALVATION ARMY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the funding request from Princeton Salvation Army. This funding request is for Homeless Warming Station / Hotel. Salvation Army must submit invoices and any leftover funding will be returned to the County Commission. Funding in the amount of \$7,500 will be taken from Video/Lottery.

## ❖ DISCUSSION

Regarding Vape Stores in Mercer County- Proposal of possible Vape ordinance on agenda for January 2024. If County passes ordinance, then it will be easier for the City to adopt it.

Discussion Regarding Sheriff's Department – Tabled

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 9, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Bill Archer

**(Second Meeting)**

## WEST VIRGINIA:

At an Emergency Session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Present:	Bill Archer	President
Present:	Greg Puckett,	Commissioner
Present:	Gene Buckner,	Commissioner

Purpose of meeting to discuss developments and necessary actions needed for ongoing projects. NRCS rehabilitation projects. Easements needed on two particular properties and the authorization to do elevation studies across from Dam 14 Glenwood Park that is to be started within 30 days.

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve for Bill Winfrey to solicit services from John Looney to survey for the elevation on properties.

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted to amend the previous motion to include a timeline of 30 days for surveying to be completed.

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until January 9, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Bill Archer