

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

*Phil Gainer Community Center
142 Robert E. Lee Ave. Ext.
February 9, 2026
11:00 a.m.*

Present were members: C. Lowther (chair), R. Chenoweth, & B. Woods.

Also present were: Jerry Marco (mayor), Tracy Judy (treasurer), Travis Bennett (police chief), Sutton Stokes (city clerk), and Mikayla Goins (executive secretary).

MINUTES

Woods **MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2026.** The motion carried.

REPORTS

Heather Biola provided a report on the Kump House Education center. Written report attached.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Downtown sound system

The committee discussed the downtown sound system. Stokes will gather information about next steps based on the following goals for a new downtown sound system:

- City has control (no outside inputs)
- Only announcement capability would be from city side (most likely EPD for emergencies and parade route parking announcements)
- Smaller/lower speakers, utilized frequently throughout year
- Mostly app-based music programming (e.g., Soundtrack) but with ability to play other programs (e.g., Augusta curated, etc.)

b. City Hall kiosk

The committee discussed the City Hall kiosk; the current kiosk will be removed as part of the City Hall renovation due to disrepair, with no plans for replacement due to cost and limited utility.

c. Traffic control improvements

The committee discussed traffic control improvements, including:

1. Possibility of city reinstallation of traffic light at Davis and Fourth
2. Possibility of installation of four-way stop at Third and Kerens (currently two-way stop)

Staff will research the following questions:

1. Can the city simply take these actions, or does DOH need to be involved?
2. What other considerations would go into these matters?

d. Fire Department wall repairs

There was nothing new to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 p.m.

Chris Lowther / Chair
Name & Title


Signature



Kump Education Center
401 S. Randolph Avenue
Post Office Box 1106
Elkins, WV 26241

Schedule for Reporting to Elkins Municipal Properties Committee:

Reporting Period	Target Sent by Dates Listed Below:
October 1 –December 31, 2025	January 30, 2026
January 1 –March 31, 2026	April 30, 2026
April 1 –June 30, 2026	July 30, 2026
July 1 –September 30, 2026	October 30, 2026

Fourth Quarter 2025 Report for Kump Education Center
January 12, 2026

Status of Work on the House:

Metal Roof Replacement: In August Design Roofing completed the \$48,655 roof project to remove and replace two metal roof sections on the back (east elevation of the Kump house) and line gutters with EPRM rubber membrane. This work stopped leaking in two 3rd floor bedrooms and the 2nd floor “Sleeping Porch.” Nearly half of this bill was paid by a grant from the West Virginia Historic Preservation Office, and the remainder was paid by Kump Education fundraising efforts.

Front Fence Replacement: Before tutoring began in September, the Middle Fork Builders replaced the old wooden front fence with PVC boards. The same materials were bought to complete the fence to Seneca Road next spring. This fence is necessary to protect the children from harm on busy Randolph Avenue.

Dead Tree Removal: We had the dead fir tree near Seneca Road removed in late summer.

Plans for Improvements and Requests from the City:

Kump Education Center continues to work with City Tree Board to improve landscaping and make the wetland safer and more attractive. We understand that the City of Elkins has hired a new arborist, and we would like to ask him to look at Kump Center landscape projects and advise us on our plans to plant more trees.

Efforts to Obtain Funding:

Year End Contributions: We sent a letter to donors in the fall of 2025 explaining that we were celebrating the Kump House centennial year. We requested donations for our \$100,000 Centennial Personnel Fund to honor Governor Kump's public school legacy and the generosity of Mary Gamble Kump's gift to the community. We expect to meet our goal because local people support the Kump Education Center, and Elkins citizens recognize the importance of education for creating a brighter future.

Program & Event Planning:

1. Targeted Tutoring
2. Family Fostering
3. Dyslexia Screening
4. House Tours
5. Teatime Events
6. Tree Talks

Report respectfully submitted from Kump Education Center Board of Directors:

K. J. Shaffer, President
Sam Cusimano, Secretary
Pricilla Gay, Treasurer
Andrew Carroll, City Council
Crystal Krause, College Professor
Laura Santmyer, Events Planner
Malcoln Long, Retired Contractor
Sue Russetti, Retired Educator
Sara Gladwell, Coordinator

Reported by Heather R. Biola, Volunteer Executive Director