

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 8th day of January, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Courthouse.

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Present: Tim Ennis, President
Stacey Wise and Andrew J. Thomas, Commissioners
Sylvia J. Benzo, County Clerk

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The Commission held their preliminaries before the meeting including a prayer and pledge of allegiance.

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A motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 3, 2019.

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John B. McCuskey, State Auditor was present to update the Commission on a site they are creating to let the general public know of how state funds are spent. The site is the Open Government Project at WVcheckbook where you can search what items are purchased by the state and to whom the invoice is paid. He explained that there are only a few State Auditor's and if this portal is used by all counties, he feels that state audit costs will be reduced with less travel time being involved and systems would be the same. He feels this system would be great for constituents interaction when you can show them how funds are spent, it is better. He felt this is the first step to build a unified accounting system.

He also let the Commission know that if they are interested in using the P-Card he would be glad to have a representative attend a meeting to discuss how it is used.

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Don Cusick was present expressing concerns about the condition of the former Gen-Pak Building that burned and has not been cleaned. He was told that the building is under purchase, however; there was conflict as to whom was going to pay to have the building finished being demolished, the debris taken away and the site cleaned. Commissioner Ennis indicated that this is out of our control (it is in the city limits of Wellsburg). Mr. Cusick felt the county might have better contacts. The Commission will make a few inquiries. Christina Taylor of the E-911 Center was present and wanted to know if any fines are instituted. Larry Swanson of the Economic Development Authority stated that there is a meeting tonight where this will be discussed and that Senator Weld has been working on this project and a contract.

He also expressed concerns about the recycling bins being removed from the county. Commissioner Ennis let him know the locations of bins in the county, however; they do not accept plastics as of now.

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Larry Swanson let the Commission know that the EDA will try and have a representative at each commission meeting to insure they are aligned with the commission and report their progress being made.

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A copy of the following correspondence was given to each of the Commissioner's for their review:

A schedule was received from Change, Inc. for the year of 2019 of the schooling scheduled under the First Time Homebuyer Program.

A letter was received from Comcast letting us know that changes will be made to the Xfinity Services, effective February 1, 2019.

An invitation was received from Project Best to attend their networking luncheon at noon on January 22, 2019 at Undo's in Elm Grove.

A fax was received from Mac Warner, Secretary of State updating the counties on new business growth in West Virginia for December, 2018 and the fact that Grant County leads in growth.

A letter from the State Auditor's Office letting us know that they will be conducting a regional training workshop for county officials and assistants at the end of January and into February at various locations.

The above correspondence was ordered filed in the County Clerk's Office.

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The Commission announced that next weeks meeting will be held at 3:00 on Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

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Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to adopt the 2019 Holiday Schedule, however; this does not include a half-day on Christmas Eve and half-day on New Year's Eve (as set by the State) as these are not WV Code Holidays.

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Commissioner Ennis stated that we are under space constraints at the courthouse and were served with two Court Orders to get our Circuit Court, Magistrate and Family Courts into compliance. He felt it only made sense to build an annex on property the county owns next to the courthouse known as Miller Tavern (the old museum building). Larry Swanson questioned if the Wellsburg Middle School had been ruled out for consideration. Commissioner Ennis stated that the Commission looked at the Wellsburg Middle School and he personally ruled it out. He felt the school would cost too much to renovate and would be too large to manage and a new building would be in our best interests. Commissioner Thomas felt an annex was very much needed and long over-due. The current courtroom will remain open. Commissioner Wise felt we needed to try and build up our down-town area and if the county did not others would not want to try and if we build an annex it could create a domino effect to make our town better. The Miller Tavern site is on our historic route and when built will be something to make us proud. Larry Swanson stated that the Delta Queen has a waiver from Ohio and will be starting in our area again in 2020. Commissioner Ennis stated that since Wellsburg is the county seat, we need to take advantage of making an investment with our first location site rather than settling for second. After a lengthy discussion Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to accept bids for the demolition of the Miller Tavern Building. The Commission will work on the details to put this out for bid.

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Commissioner Ennis thanked Commissioner Wise for her vision to try to make improvements to the courthouse. He felt the lighting/ceiling project was a huge success in all offices and the new counter in the Tax Office was a big hit. Improvements have also been made to the courtroom and third floor within the last year and the Commission appreciates all her hard work. Commissioner Wise felt the projects were a team effort with elected officials and offices cooperating. She reported that the new building will house our judicial services and the courthouse will be the administrative area. The Commission will continue to work on grants to help with projects to refresh our area.

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Part-time Contracts were signed for Robert Geisel of the Ambulance Service and for Destiny Fleming of the Animal Shelter.

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Invoices and vouchers were approved and the following checks were ordered written:

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22054 through 22073 for \$21,125.07
E-911 - Check Nos. 2077 through 2079 for \$60,531.93
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4088 through 4090 for \$86,054.48
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 795 through 799 for \$17,349.29
Enhanced 911 Equipment - Check No. 2080 for \$17,310.00
Valuation Fund - Check Nos. 1353 through 1354 for \$1,611.00

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No further business to come before the Commission a motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to adjourn.

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Timothy R. Ennis, President

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Sylvia J. Benzo, Clerk