

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 19th day of February, 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 Tim Ennis and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, February 15, 2019.

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Four separate resolutions were made to honor athletes at Brooke Middle School for their participation and outstanding accomplishments in football. The athletes had to be invited to participate in these events. The Commission drafted resolutions for Gavin Moore, Garrett Moore, Evan Keener and Bryce Bateman. Sheriff Palmer also presented plaques to the athletes and thanked them for their accomplishments.

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

A letter was received from Weirton Transit Corporation requesting \$6,000 financial assistance for supportive match dollars for FY2018-2019 Federal Transit Grant funds. A motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve their request for \$6,000.

A copy of the Brooke County Public Service District minutes of their January 9, 2019 meeting was received.

A Press Release was received from Mac Warner, Secretary of State letting us know there is a new on-line tool through the WV One Stop Business Center that aims to simplify the business registration process in West Virginia.

A Press Release was received from Mac Warner, Secretary of State giving an update on the success of West Virginia's ability to let our military mobile vote, which is the first mobile voting pilot for military and overseas voters.

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

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Commissioner Thomas explained that in 2012 the Business Development Corporation bought RG Steel (formerly Weirton Steel) which was in bankruptcy, however; in 2013 a lien was attached to the property and RG Steel was ordered to pay the taxes and did pay half. The Business Development Corporation (BDC) was charged the 2013 taxes, however; should not have been taxed since the lien was against RG Steel. Commissioner Thomas felt the Commission could not exonerate the taxes due and our only recourse would be to agree not to not pursue collection of the taxes from anyone current or in the future. Commissioner Ennis stated the Commission did research on this issue with Joe Barki, Prosecuting Attorney and with the State Auditor's Office and felt this was what needed to be done. The parcels of property were identified as Map & Parcels BB36-0023, B36B-0116, BB36-0024, BB36-0002, BB36-0001, B36F-0077, B36B-0126, B36K-0013, B36B-0119, B36B-0017, BB36-0023.0001. After discussion

a motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to forgive these taxes.

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Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to appoint Alexandra Eberle and Michael Traubert to the Economic Development Authority Board.

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Sylvia Benzo, County Clerk let the Commission know that there is only one Fiduciary Commissioner and he is no longer a resident of Brooke County. A letter had previously been sent to the Brooke County Bar Association asking for their help but nothing has been done. A discussion was held on this issue with Joe Barki, Prosecutor and the Commission with several suggestions. The Clerk will write a letter to the State to see what needs to be done to get more commissioners.

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Sheriff Palmer let the Commission know that the 911 Advisory Board will be meeting tonight in the County Commission Office at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Thomas stated that they are trying to move forward on our 911 System and have individuals coming in to help and advise us. Commissioner Wise explained that they first had to look at the tower and have tower load study done and are waiting on the results. She stated that once the studies are done the other process will move quicker and we should be able to make up time.

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Sharon Cuomo was present and thanked the Commission for all they do.

Rev. Cuomo was also presented and congratulated Commissioner Thomas on his election to commissioner.

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Christina Taylor of the E-911 Department was present and felt the radio system needs addressed as soon as possible. She explained an ambulance caught fire around Maloney's Service Station and the radio call was not clear. She felt the 911 Department gets back lash from the fire departments because they cannot hear the call clearly. Commissioner Ennis stated that the Commission has been working to resolve the radio issue. He hopes that Lauttamus Communications will be at the meeting tonight.

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Sheriff Palmer stated that although the road is rough St. John's Road has been re-opened.

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Libby Durham of First Energy was present and let the commission know if they need anything, they would be happy to help in any way they can. Rev. Knight questioned why power outages are not scheduled during warmer weather. She was not positive as she was not sure of the incidents, however; felt if this occurred First Energy had their reason.

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Commissioner Ennis stated that the Commission had been approached to purchase six lots adjacent to the Brooke County Museum for \$10,000 and felt this was a good price. He felt the lots would be beneficial to us and would be a wise investment. Commissioner Wise stated that the exercise place beside the museum takes up a lot of parking space and the purchase of these lots would benefit all. She felt the purchase would be beneficial for future economic growth. Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the purchase and move forward with the necessary steps to purchase the lots from Community Bank.

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Commissioner Ennis stated that two times a tractor trailer vehicle has got stuck on Rabbit Hill Road and this appears to be an on-going problem. He asked that a letter be sent to the DOH asking them if they can come up with a remedy. Signs were previously installed, however; the DOH had them taken down because the request to install the signs did not go through the DOH. Commissioner Thomas stated he will bring this information to BHJ Planning Commission to see if they can offer a resolution. Sheriff Palmer stated that gas trucks were using Genteel Ridge to go to McKinleyville and citizens complained but there is no weight limit and not much his department can do. Commissioner Ennis will talk with Burl Williams of the DOH.

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At about 11:15 a.m. a motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to enter into executive session with Bob Fowler, Ambulance Director.

At about 11:30 a.m. the Commission reconvened their regular meeting with no decision being made.

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

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22265 through 22275 for \$11,272.02  
Check No. 22273 Void  
E-911 - Check Nos. 2103 through 2104 for \$558.75  
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4137 through 4145 for \$7,339.11  
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 821 through 823 for \$908.35  
Valuation Fund - Check No. 1373 through 1307 for \$77.39

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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