

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 5th day of March, 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 Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 26, 2019.

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This being the first regular meeting for the month of March, 2019 fiduciary matters were presented to the Commission for approval after having been cared for in the absence of the Commission by the County Clerk. Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Tim Ennis and unanimously passed to approve fiduciary matters with the exception of Annie E. Donner and Hayward Homer Grizzle. Commissioner Thomas recused himself from voting on the Estates of Annie E. Donner and Hayward Homer Grizzle and left the room while these were approved on a motion of Stacey Wise, seconded by Time Ennis and unanimously passed.

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A copy of the following correspondence was ordered filed in the County Clerk's Office:

An informational letter was received from Bowles, Rice, Attorneys at Law sharing tax incentivized investment and economic strategy information where they assist clients through a program known as Qualified Opportunity Zone projects which offer tax breaks under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 for clients who redeploy eligible capital gains via investments.

A letter was received from Fred McDonald, Director of the Lee Day Report Center up dating the Commission on how the contribution the Commission commits to their program is used and the benefits the county receives.

A letter was received from Southwestern Energy letting us know they have high standards for ethical conduct which is one of their core values and letting the Commission know becomes aware of misbehavior to let them know.

A copy of the 2019-20 Public Utility Property report as supplied by the State Auditor's Office was received.

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

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Rhonda Stubbs, Director of Court Appointed Special Advocate known as "CASA" was present to update the Commission on the program. She explained that the CASA Volunteer is trained and appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. They have served children in Brooke and Hancock Counties for more than nineteen (19) years and have recently provided service to Jefferson County, Ohio. In Brooke County Ms. Stubbs reported that about twenty-nine (29) children have been served, eighty-six in Hancock County and nineteen (19) in Jefferson County. She explained some of the differences between West Virginia and Ohio Laws pertaining to the program. She explained that they are fighting a huge opioid crisis which continues to be part of the problem and why their case

loan is heavy. They are also struggling to keep volunteers. Ms. Stubbs explained that during the recent government shut-down their grant funds were frozen and although they are not federally funded, they could not get their funding. They have had bake sales and will be having a Quarter Auction to help raise funds for the program and stated they would appreciate any donation from the Commission. Rev. Brian Knight was present and questioned if in some families she sees a repeat of abuse. In some instances, different generations of the same family appear in the system. After a lengthy discussion the Commission commended her for doing an amazing job.

Ms. Stubbs also thanked Fred McDonald for the donation of a van they had to take out of service. CASA will use it to transport and store materials they use for the Brooke County Fair. She also thanked Lombardi Development for their donation of bicycles to be distributed at Christmas time.

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Sharon Kesselring, Executive Director for the American Red Cross of Northwest, West Virginia was present to update the Commission on events. She read the Mission Statement which states "The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors". She also explained the vision and values of the American Red Cross. Currently there are only four chapters of the American Red Cross in West Virginia. Ms. Kesselring stated that in 2018 the Disaster Response Team served over 8.2 million meals, installed nearly 400,000 smoke alarms with over 165,000 households made safer through home safety visits. In West Virginia alone they installed more than 22,000 smoke alarms, made more than 8,000 homes safer and served nearly 2,100 people through home visits. Ms. Kesselring let the Commission know of the Red Cross Hero Care Mobile app that is available that supports generations of military members. A motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to adopt a Resolution in support of the American Red Cross.

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Bernie Hart was present and expressed concerns about youth that are between eight and twelve years of age riding side by side vehicles and four wheelers in the middle of her road, Dew Drop Drive. These youth are riding with no helmets on. Her main concern was that she is going to hit one of them with her vehicle. She felt the children or parents need to be cited. The Commission will meet with her and Sheriff Palmer after the meeting to discuss this issue.

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Sheriff Palmer was present with a reminder that there will be an E-911 Advisory Board meeting on March 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. which is open to the public. He also stated that Theo Keenan resigned from the E-911 Board and his appointment must be someone from the fire department, according to the rules.

Sheriff Palmer confirmed there is a large drug addiction problem and thanked the Pastors Association and Attorney General's Office for sitting down and working on a plan to help alleviate the problem. They are working with Cabell County who have a Quick Response Team in place and are gathering information from them. He also reported that Northwood has a crisis center in Weirton that is open twenty-four hours for those in crisis situations. Sheriff Palmer reported that they are trying to utilize the Day Report Center more and are in the process of setting something up with Fred McDonald, Director. The Commission commended him for all his help.

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Tim Hooper of the State Treasurer's Office was present and let those present know that the Treasurer's Office will be starting to meet at the courthouse and library to help individuals fill out unclaimed property forms.

He also invited the Commission to attend the special meeting to be held at the Board of Education Office tomorrow where the PRO Officers positions, in the schools will be discussed.

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Rev. Brian Knight announced that Amy Nickerson will be at their Tuesday meeting and a topic of conversation will be the drug addiction in our area.

Rev. Knight also asked if the county web-site could be updated as the minutes are not current on the site. A discussion was held to add the Economic Development Authority minutes which will be looked into.

He also wanted to know if a line item had been added in the budget for next year for the 911 Center. The Commission is currently working on the 2019-2020 budget which is due by the end of the month.

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A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to certify the Board of Education Election that was held on Saturday, February 23, 2019. After the votes were canvassed, the total vote For the Levy was 2,421 and Against the Levy was 1,018. The results will be forwarded to the Secretary of State and the State Auditor's Office.

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Commissioner Ennis stated that three names have been proposed to him on a name for the new bridge which are, the Pioneer Bridge, Unit Bridge or the Cardinal Bridge.

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

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22424 through 22443 for \$10,351.61
Payroll withholding - Check Nos. 22419 through 22423 for \$113,595.34
ACH - \$39,380.20
Polling Places - Check Nos. 22244 through 22455 for \$900.00
Dog Fund - Check No. 1394 for \$155.95
E-911 - Check Nos. 2105 through 2110 for \$55,323.28
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4147 through 4157 for \$4,890.35
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 825 through 829 for \$23,954.04
Valuation Fund - Check Nos. 1374 through 1376 for \$14,444.87

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

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Timothy R. Ennis, President

Teste:

Sylvia J. Benzo, Clerk