

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 9th day of April, 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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Anthony Paesano, Dr. Kathy Kidder-Wilkerson and Marty Bartz were present to update the Commission on their efforts to have the Market Street Bridge placed on the historical property register. Mr. Paesano stated that they have been working on this project for the past two and one-half years to make the bridge a historic landmark. They have been to several offices at the State level including the Department of the Interior, WV Arts Culture & History Council and several other offices, working with them on this project. He thanked Dr. Kidder for her work on the documentation and stated the next step will be the dedication. The bridge is one hundred fourteen (114) years old. He provided some information on the bridge and felt it changed the entire environment in our valley, gave us economic development and transportation, as there were previously three ferries across the Ohio River. He gave an update on Dorman Sinclair who invested more than \$100,000 to construct the bridge. Dr. Kidder stated, the idea to have the bridge declared historic property was that of Mr. Paesano. Marty Bartz thanked Tom Oughton, Assessor for his efforts in finding that the bridge belongs to West Virginia. The Commission thanked everyone for their efforts in this endeavor.

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Commissioner Thomas stated the Commission received a request from the Brooke County Committee on Aging for funding and after reviewing their request felt they provide a vital service to our county. The Commission would like those services to continue. Sandy Kemp of the Brooke County Committee on Aging was present and update the Commission on the services the Senior Center provides which include an in-home and nutrition program, which serves both Brooke and Hancock County residents. They deliver about two hundred fifty (250) meals which are delivered to shut-ins. They provide transportation to take patients to doctor appointments, dialysis appointments, to the grocery store and many other services. She stated that the director is retiring early to free up her salary, and the employees are down to working four days a week instead of five. Commissioner Ennis stated that the reimbursement rate for meals does not cover the cost of the meals. Norman Schwertfeger was present and stated that the board is in the process of adjusting rates that would be sufficient for the services provided. He stated that the Commission appreciates all the hard work and dedication as we have a large population of seniors in our county. A large number of employees were present and Commissioner Wise thanked them for their sacrifices for taking cuts. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Stacey Wise to accept their letter requesting \$25,000, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed.

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Commissioner Thomas stated that the Commission is reconsidering the action they took last week on the Economic Development Authority budget. The Commission had previously decided not to give the EDA additional funding for next fiscal year. Commissioner Wise stated that none of the decisions the Commission made last week concerning the EDA were taken lightly and that the Commission did look at the data presented. She felt the new group is very energized, however; the data previously presented did not support additional funds. She felt the new group of board members are enthusiastic and felt in

a spirit of cooperation some additional funding could be given as there is still time to get results. Commissioner Ennis stated that if the motion is approved and the EDA comes back in about six months to show what happens with the money awarded, then and now, the Commission will take this into consideration. After a short discussion a motion was made by Andrew Thomas to give the EDA \$10,000 and not the \$24,000, as requested, said motion seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed.

Norman Schwertfeger, EDA board member was present and stated even though he is disappointed the board wants to work with the Commission. He stated there is a three-year audit being performed and annual report and if the Commission is willing to work with them, they will work with the Commission.

Luke Diserio, EDA board member was present and stated that he was disappointed the funding was not closer to what they requested, he does appreciate something.

Bud Billiard asked for the Commission to split the difference in the request and provide half the funding (\$12,500). He did not want to have to come back and ask the Commission for money every time. He felt the new board members have a vision and that the funding was just a token and he does want just a token. He talked about a comment concerning the board members supplying food when holding meetings and explained his view on providing meals. He asked the Commission to re-visit the request next week.

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

A letter was received from the WVDOT inviting the Commission to an informative meeting with District Six personnel and Central Office Management on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at the District Six Office in Moundsville at 1:00 p.m.

A letter was received from Susan Pierce, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer informing the Commission that the Market Street Bridge was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of March 21, 2019.

A letter was received from Mike Colombo whose company is "Steppin' Out" letting us know that they specialize in low cost employee recognition programs for County Governments and provide key questions to consider when implementing this type of program.

A copy of the Brooke County Public Service District minutes of their February 20, 2019 meeting was received.

A notice was received from Comcast letting us know that changes are coming in the monthly rate for Acorn TV, effective May 2, 2019.

A Petition was received from David B. Cross, requesting the re-opening of his father's estate, Jack L. Arbogast, Sr. in order to transfer a car to his brother, Jack L. Arbogast, Jr. Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the request.

A packet of information from Becky Uhly submitting her nomination to name the new bridge, crossing the Ohio River, in honor of Anna Clendenen, the first female business owner in Brooke County (1790 to 1875).

A letter of support was received of Thomas Way, Executive Director of Urban Frontier Organization. A copy will be provided to the EDA as requested.

A letter was received from Terry Stuck, Deputy Probation Officer asking for two projects to be completed in the Probation Office at 840 Charles Street. The two projects are replacing existing outside security lights and second the installing of LED lights in the office.

A request from Mark A. O'Neal & Associates asking the Commission to sign a Subordination, Non-Disturbance and Attornment Agreement between Mary Louise McAllister and the Commission. The Commission holds a mortgage under the First Time Homebuyer Program against Ms. McAllister. Commissioner Thomas felt the Subordination would not affect the Commission line and made a motion to authorize the signing of the document, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed.

BUDGET REVISIONS REQUESTED - STATE APPROVAL:

A "Request for Revision" to the approved budget for \$1,481 which is payment from the Solid Waste Authority as party of their loan from the county.

A "Request for Revision" to the approved budget for \$40,000 from the Commission budget to Ambulance Authority for workers compensation and employment security.

BUDGET REVISIONS REQUESTED - IN-HOUSE:

A request from Sheriff Palmer to move \$874.00 in various Home Confinement line items, to move \$1,416 in Courthouse Security to various line items, and move \$737.00 in Law Enforcement to various line items, Jail to move \$41.00 in various line items and E-911 in the amount of \$140.00 to various line items

A motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve the revisions.

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A letter was received from Mark E. Sperlazza letting the Commission know that he is interested in becoming a member of the Brooke County Museum Board. Commissioner Thomas stated he has known Mr. Sperlazza for a long time and felt there were very few people that loves history like Mr. Sperlazza. A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the appointment.

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Ruby Greathouse was present to again announce that the Brooke High School Art Class, staff and alumni will be hosted at the Museum and everyone will get to vote on the displays. This event will take place on April 25, 2019 through April 28, 2019.

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Virgil Birkhimer was present and stated that Allegheny County will be bring their garbage to the landfill and wanted to know if the County receives funds from dumping. He also would like to make sure that someone cleans up the trash in that area. Commissioner Ennis stated that the Solid Waste Authority receives a tipping fee from garbage collection.

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Tim Hooper from the State Treasurer's Office was present and let the Commission know that on April 22, 2019 he will be available to discuss the Smart 25 Program. He would also like permission to set up in the Courthouse to allow residents to come and discuss collection of their unclaimed funds.

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Norman Schwertfeger stated that the County used to do litter grants and he was instrumental in getting several grants over the years for \$10,000 to do litter control. He stated the Commission contact Fred McDonald of the Northern Panhandle Criminal Justice Board as he is in charge of individuals that have to do community service and felt these could help with litter clean-up. Commissioner Ennis stated that recently Heidi Kirchner of the Solid Waste Authority provided the Commission information on applying for a litter grant. He also stated that the Commission has used the Northern Panhandle Criminal Justice, Fred McDonald for those doing community service, however; this program could be revived for help in litter control.

He also asked the Commission to consider paying for the EDA audit when it is finished.

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Gabriella Molyneau from Liberty National Insurance was present to ask permission to contact the employees about selling them cancer insurance, etc. The Clerk will check as there is already this type of insurance in place in the county.

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The Commission is accepting applications for the position of County Clerk, due to the retirement of Sylvia J. Benzo, Clerk. Applications are being accepted until May 3, 2019.

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Deputy Pizer reminded the Commission that applications are being accepted for the Tax Office Deputy position as Susie Malson is retiring at the end of April.

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Mary Fran Kowalo thanked everyone that participated in the Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce Dinner this past weekend. Norman Schwertfeger was named Citizen of the Year.

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

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22582 through 22607 for \$21,097.29
Dog Fund - Check Nos. 1402 through 1403 for \$807.36
E-911 - Check Nos. 2126 through 2127 for \$55,702.18
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4197 through 4203 for \$79,384.59
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 844 through 849 for \$2,005.75
Valuation Fund - Check Nos. 1387 through 1388 for \$5,465.44
Business Development Corp. - Check No. 165 for \$17,250.00

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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

Teste:

Sylvia J. Benzo, Clerk