

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 21st day of May, 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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Jonette Lazasz from the Schwendeman Agency was present to update the Commission on our health care insurance. Ms. Lazasz and the Commission have been working on the health care benefits for county employees. She felt the only change in the health care was in the co-pay going from \$10.00 to \$25.00 for an office visit. The vision, dental and life will be with a new company known as Principal, which have offered enhancements in the dental and vision. They will be having meetings with the employees to explain the programs. She felt the networks were good for out-of-network for dental paying at the ninety (99%). The vision for contact lenses goes to payment of \$150.00.

Commissioner Wise stated that the vision and dental plans are now being paid by the county who will be picking up the full amount of the premiums for those that are qualified. She stated that since the co-pay is going up for health care it would take about twenty trips to the doctor before the employee should see any increase.

Ms. Lazasz stated that we have to move forward to try and keep rates down.

After discussion Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to adopt the Health Plan as our insurance carrier.

Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to adopt Principal as our provider for vision, dental and life insurance benefits. All insurances will become effective July 1, 2019.

Ms. Lazasz reminded the Commission that the symposium for health care insurance is being held at Oglebay tomorrow and two of our commissioner's will be attending.

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A motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of May 14, 2019.

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

A copy of the Hammond Public Service District minutes of their meeting of April 17, 2019 was received.

A letter from Sheriff Palmer advising that he received the final tabulated Lieutenant, Sergeant and Corporal Promotion test results with the following being promoted - Sergeant Matthew Beatty to Lieutenant, Corporal Patrick Graham to Sergeant and Deputy Devin Baker to Corporal, effective May 1, 2019.

A letter was received from Tim Hooper asking to be considered being appointed to the Board of Health.

A letter was received from Jennifer Cross attaching her resume and asking to be considered for the Board of Health position.

A letter from Rosemary Guida requesting the reappointment of Mike Vitello to another term on the Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board. His term will end on June 30, 2019. The Clerk indicated that this position is not normally advertised because the person serving must be from a certain class, such as someone from the labor position, etc. After a brief discussion, Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to reappoint Mike Vitello to the Northern Panhandle Workforce Development Board.

A letter was received from Bob Fowler, EMS Director advising that he has hired Ryan Canon as a part-time EMT, effective May 14, 2019. His part-time contract was attached which needs signed. Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve the contract.

A copy of the Brooke County Public Service District minutes of April 11, 2019 was received.

An e-mail was received Mac Warner, Secretary of State asking the Governor during the up-coming special session to consider the use of incoming special revenue, that exceeds the costs of Business Division Services to cover the cost of upgrading the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). The Clerk explained that most County Clerk's are in support of his request.

A letter from the State Auditor's Office letting us know that the County Commissioner's Annual training is set for August 26, 2019 in Flatwoods.

A letter was received from the Women of the Moose asking the Commission to consider placing an ad in their program booklet for their convention to be held in August, 2019. The Commission previously placed an ad in their program, however; the fees were personally paid by the commission.

A letter was received from the Public Service Commission enclosing a copy of their Order to let us know that wireless fees are increasing from \$3.34 to \$3.83 per month, per subscriber, effective July 1, 2019.

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

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A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to adopt Infinisource, Inc. for our Cobra Contract.

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Bob Fowler was present and stated he has been working with FEMA to make improvements to the Pioneer Trail. The first step is to do an advertisement to have an engineering study done. The county will be receiving about \$2.2 million dollars to repair the trail from the flood in 2018 with an additional \$112,000 to use for engineering. The \$112,000 was what was due the county for administrative costs but could be used for engineering. Mr. Fowler stated that there are several slides along the trail that need to be repaired. Mr. Fowler stated that the repair of the trail will not cost the county anything. He felt the county will be receiving the check soon which must be deposited in an interest-bearing account with a separate account set up, if we receive the additional \$112,000. After discussion a motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to move forward with an advertisement for an engineer. The Commission thanked Mr. Fowler, Andy Nickerson and Ruby Greathouse for all their hard work.

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Bob Fowler asked the Commission for permission to proceed with the bid to purchase of a bus from Weirton Transit to be used for mobile operations. The vehicle previously used for mobile operations was vandalized in Steubenville, Ohio. Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to grant permission to proceed.

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Darin Pizer, Deputy was present and let the Commission know that the generator at the courthouse has been repaired.

He also reported that upgrades have been made to the telephone system.

Deputy Pizer asked permission to proceed with the purchase of four new police cruisers and one vehicle for the House Arrest Program. A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and passed to authorize proceeding with a bid advertisement to purchase vehicles for the Sheriff's Department.

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Walter Ferguson was present to express concerns about the amount of funding Brooke and Hancock Counties are getting compared to Marshall County who is receiving more than our two counties together. He would like to know the formula for the distribution of funds. He felt that the Department of Highways, District 6 does not know where we are. He stated that nothing has been done from a request made several years ago for an escape route for trucks coming down Washington Pike onto Tenth Street. Commissioner Ennis stated that they have been working to get road improvements and did not know the specifications for money distribution.

Mr. Ferguson felt it was time that we all say something about Route 27 as it is a really busy intersection and is in need of repair. He felt that the patching done at Tenth Street is not acceptable. The Commission stated that road upgrades are scheduled and a list was submitted to the DOH with all roads requested, on the list.

Butch Rotellini asked if it could be mandatory for all trucks to stop at the top of the hill (Washington Pike) and check their brakes before coming down the hill.

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Christine Taylor from the E-911 Department was present and let the commission know that a group of people met with the Attorney General concerning the opioid epidemic in our area to try and get funding. She felt the meeting was a positive one and encouraged others to participate in future meetings.

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Ruby Greathouse reported that AG Day held at Brooke Hills Park last week was a success. They had about two hundred twenty (220) fifth graders participate in the program with each student receiving a treat bag. A pack of sunflower seeds was given to each student to plant and then they will be invited to the Brooke County Fair if they grow the plants.

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Commissioner Thomas stated he received a letter from David Smith asking to be appointed to the Museum Board.

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A Complaint Form was received from Ralph Rowland of 524 Rockdale Road, Follansbee complaining about property of Beth Hooker at 520 Rockdale Road, Follansbee. This will be given to Butch Rotellini to investigate.

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

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

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22774 through 22789 for \$16,508.43  
E-911 - Check Nos. 2146 through 2147 for \$146.51  
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4244 through 4254 for \$9,831.02  
Dog Fund - Check No. 1411 through 1412 for \$1,707.57  
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 867 through 871 for \$1,255.30  
Valuation Fund - Check Nos. 1402 through 1404 for \$1,630.40

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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.

Timothy R. Ennis, President

Teste:

Sylvia J. Benzo, Clerk