

REGULAR ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF BROOKE COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA, HELD TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2019

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The County Commission of Brooke County, West Virginia met in regular adjourned session this 28th 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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A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting.

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

An invitation was received from Serenity Hills Life Center to join them in a ribbon-cutting, and open house for the newest licensed residential treatment facility for women located at 667 Stone Shannon Road in Wheeling on Friday, May 31, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.

A letter was received from the West Virginia Development Office enclosing a Grant Award Notice document that is part of the program file and needs signed and returned to them. Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to authorize Commissioner Ennis to sign the Grant Award Notice for the development of a regional broadband development plan, in partnership with Hancock County. This will provide strategies that will lead to the deployment of broadband projects in underserved and unserved areas. Mark Henne was present and thanked the Commission for their help with this grant. He stated all the paperwork has been done to proceed. The State will be here next Wednesday to go over items.

A request was received from Andy Nickerson of the Ambulance Service to hire Jonathan Hood and Gabriel Rohmann on a part-time basis, effective June 1, 2019. Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the hiring of Jonathan Hood and Gabriel Rohmann, effective June 1, 2019.

A letter and amendment from the Division of Highways listing expenditures for federal fiscal years 2016-2021 for the Federal Highway Administration which are open for public comment. Brooke County has two projects listed dated June 28, 2019 for the resurfacing of Bethany Pike - 12<sup>th</sup> Street and West Virginia 2 - Follansbee Fire Station.

An e-mail sent to Commissioner Thomas from Joshua Parrish asking to be considered for a position on the Museum Board. A separate letter was received from David G. Smith asking to be considered to the Board of the Brooke County Museum. Andrew Thomas made a motion, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to approve the appointments to the Museum Board. A letter will be sent to them to come in and take the Oath of Office. These two new members will be replacing Leonard and Dolores Ginier for a five-year term.

An e-mail was received from Andy Nickerson of the Ambulance Service requesting the hiring of Kristin Siranovic as a part-time EMT, effective June 1, 2019. Stacey Wise made a motion, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to approve the hiring.

An e-mail from Jessica Gumm, Program Manager for Weirton Planning and Development letting us know Weirton is applying for a TAP grant for a rail trail project and asking for a letter of support. (The current Panhandle

Trail ends adjacent to Cove Road, prior to the City Building. The Commissioner will draft a letter in support of their grant.

A copy of the Brooke County Public Service District minutes of their April 25, 2019 meeting was received.

A letter was received from the State Auditor's Office reminding us of deadlines for submitting final budget revisions, which is June 14, 2019, Coal Revisions by July 15, 2019 and General Fund revisions by July 31, 2019. This will be sent to elected officials and office heads.

A Press Release from Mac Warner, Secretary of State letting us know they received an award from the International Association of Commercial Administrators for an innovation referred to as "the Business Startup Wizard" which helps small business with licensing.

A letter was received from John B. McCuskey, State Auditor letting us know that the property the County bought at a Tax Sale was not redeemed within the specified time frame and a deed can now be prepared putting the property in the County's name. An additional \$503.74 is due before a deed can be made to the County. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Stacey Wise, seconded by Andrew Thomas and unanimously passed to pay the additional fees so a deed can be obtained in the name of the County.

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

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Robert Cheek was present and let the Commission know that the State has decided not to fund the driver's that transport disabled veterans to their doctor visits. He stated there are a lot of veterans' that are sight impaired have oxygen problems, and physical disabilities and cannot transport themselves to their doctor visits. He is trying to find ways to fund the program. The transport van serves veterans from both Brooke and Hancock Counties. He indicated that Ohio and Marshall Counties have gone together to fund their driver's and thought perhaps Brooke and Hancock County could too. The driver's get a seventy-five (\$75.00) stipend to transport the veterans, however; after July 1, 2019 the Governor stated this program will no longer be funded. He felt this was a big issue and everyone should participate. If the van ran five days a week it would only be about \$19,500 per year. Anyone wishing to use the van makes reservations through the Follansbee Senior Center. Mr. Cheek stated that the Senior Center has yet to be notified of the cancellation in services. Commissioner Ennis questioned if anyone has met with our legislators. Mr. Cheek stated that some have met with the Governor but he has decided the program would not be funded. Commissioner Ennis stated that they find this disheartening as West Virginia, per capita, has had the highest number of veterans enlisted as well as lost lives. The Commission directed a letter be sent to Governor Justice with copies going to our legislators indicating that we would like the program to continue.

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The meeting next week will be held on Wednesday as the Commission has a commitment for our regular Tuesday meeting.

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Tim Hooper from the State Treasurer's Office was present and let the Commission know that the 529 Plan has already been done with proceeds going to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The event was held in Charleston.

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Sheriff Palmer let the Commission know that there will be an E-911 Advisory Board meeting on June 25, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. He gave an update on the Tower Project for the radio towers.

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Andrew Thomas stated that the Commission met last Friday and conducted interviews for the County Clerk position. The Commission was impressed with the applicants, that cared about the county, to fill the position of the retiring Clerk, Sylvia Benzo. A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to appoint Kim Barbetta to fill the position of County Clerk. The term will begin on June 15, 2019. Commissioner

Wise stated that the Commission did receive good applications and the decision was a tough one.

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Commissioner Ennis stated that Bethany has been named the most livable town in the country and would like to congratulate them.

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At about 10:55 a.m. the Commission entered into executive session concerning a personnel issue as requested by the County Clerk.

At 11:06 a.m. the Commission reconvened their regular meeting.

A motion was made by Andrew Thomas, seconded by Stacey Wise and unanimously passed to send a letter to James Shingleton to make him an inactive employee. The Commission also asked that we contact Bob Fowler, Ambulance Director asking him to submit a letter to the Commission to make Mr. Shingleton inactive.

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A resume was received from Tim Hooper who submitted his name for consideration to the Board of Health position.

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

General County Fund - Check Nos. 22799 through 22824 for \$23,184.34  
Payroll withholding - Check Nos. 22790 through 22798 for \$2,580.56  
ACH - \$726.70  
E-911 - Check Nos. 2148 through 2154 for \$57,470.66  
Ambulance Fund - Check Nos. 4255 through 4263 for \$5,045.26  
Dog Fund - Check Nos. 1413 through 1414 for \$258.34  
Shelter Levy - Check Nos. 872 through 874 for \$19,158.12  
Valuation Fund - Check Nos. 1405 through 1413 for \$15,088.06  
Fire Levy - Check Nos. 1603 through 1612 for \$26,511.38

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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

