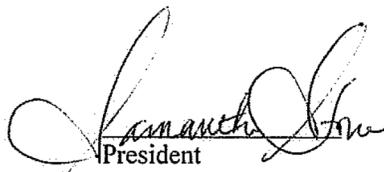


## **NOTICE OF EMERGENCY SESSION**

Notice is hereby given that the **PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION** will conduct a Special Session on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**, beginning at **9:00 a. m.** in the County Commission Office, Kingwood, West Virginia, for the following:

New Policies and Procedures Regarding to the COVID-19

  
President

3/30/2020  
Date

  
Commissioner

3/30/2020  
Date

The Preston County Commission met in Emergency Session at 9:00 a.m., April 1, 2020 in the County Commission Meeting room.

Commission President Stone called the Emergency Session to order and invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

She then read the call for the New Policies and Procedures Regarding to the COVID-19.

Those present were President Stone, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Price, Kathy Mace, Interim Administrator, Biff Armstrong and V.J. Davis.

Commission President Stone then asked to keep the emergency responders, police, elected officials, citizens, hospitals, and doctors affected by this terrible virus in everyone's prayers.

She stated that there has been a lot of staff and officials with many, many concerns and the Commission has been working diligently to try and come up with a solution for a situation that is ever changing.

They received a lot of feedback from those people and want to set some things in place to move some of the impact that the COVID-19 virus is having on our county.

Beginning immediately the Preston County Commission is putting a freeze on the following: all new hiring, all non-essential work-related travel, all non-essential over-time in all departments, all non-essential expenditures. The county commission will only be approving essential expenditures in the following categories: payroll, maintenance and repair, buildings and grounds/equipment, custodial supplies, utilities, fuel/auto supplies, contracted services for such things as; IT and maintenance, lease payments for vehicles, lease for space for early voting, if needed and payment for election equipment. Payments for emergency needs will be considered on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve this. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Discussion called for. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Smith, Price and Stone voting yes. Motion carried.

Changing the employment status for Kathy Mace. She has agreed to suspend her retirement and return to full time status as County Administrator beginning May 1, 2020. Ms. Mace's status as Interim County Administrator will continue through April 30, 2020.

Commissioner Price moved to make the employment change for Kathy Mace, Administrator. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Discussion called for. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Price, Smith, and Stone voting yes. Motion carried.

Ask for relief from the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation regarding our regional jail bill. If our request is granted it will allow the Preston County Commission to make payments on the regional jail bill for the months of March, April, May and June 2020 with the final payments for the four-month period to be made on or before December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Smith moved to ask for relief. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Discussion called for. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Smith, Price and Stone voting yes. Motion carried. (See attached.)

PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION



Samantha Stone, President  
Dave Price, Commissioner  
Don Smith, Commissioner

April 1, 2020

State of West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety  
Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Office of the Commissioner  
1409 Greenbrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25311

Dear Commissioner Betsy C. Jividen

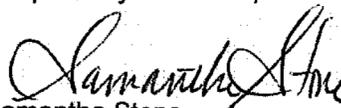
At this time, with the Coronavirus bearing down on us in Preston County, like the rest of the nation and the world, we must prepare for the worst and pray for the best. We must find ways to continue to provide services to our citizens with shrinking revenues. So today the Preston County Commission is requesting that the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation work with us and provide some immediate relief when it comes to our regional jail bills.

We are asking that for the months of March, April, May and June 2020, Preston County will pay one-half of the bill owed to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation in jail costs and that we be permitted to pay the balance owed for this four month period on or before December 31, 2020. As we all know the situation we are faced with regarding the Coronavirus may traverse into the next fiscal year 2020-2021 so we may need to ask for additional relief at that time.

We anticipate this action will provide us some immediate financial relief and at the same time pay our bill in full to the regional jail system.

We realize this is an extreme measure but we are living in an extreme time.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Samantha Stone  
President

  
Dave Price  
Commissioner

  
Don Smith  
Commissioner

Preston County Courthouse Annex • 106 West Main Street, Suite 202, Kingwood, West Virginia 26537  
Phone (304)329.1805 • Fax (304)329.3192 • TDD (304)329.0652  
[www.prestoncountywv.org](http://www.prestoncountywv.org)

Make a formal request to Governor Jim Justice requesting that he order the May Primary Election be held by absentee voting only.

Commissioner Smith moved to make this formal request for absentee voting. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Discussion called for. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioners Smith, Price and Stone voting yes. Motion carried. (See attached.)

PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION

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Samantha Stone, President  
Dave Price, Commissioner  
Don Smith, Commissioner



April 1, 2020

**Office of the Governor**  
**West Virginia Governor James Conley Justice II**  
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Charleston, WV 25305

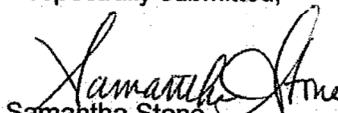
Dear Governor Justice,

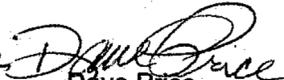
Today, the Preston County Commission is pleading with you as our Governor to please hold the May Primary Election by absentee ballot only. We believe that with the extreme situation we face it is now impossible, if we have voting in person, to protect our citizens who are coming out on Election Day and at early voting. We must also consider the health and safety of the hundreds of county clerk staff, poll workers and others who are needed to hold the election.

We applaud the efforts of Secretary of State Mac Warner and you, Governor, to encourage absentee voting due to the Coronavirus. However, with social distancing and a stay at home order still in place; with the President of the United States extending the deadline for social distancing till April 30, 2020 which is after early voting begins and most importantly with the confirmed cases of the coronavirus still climbing we implore you Governor Justice to make the bold move to order that the May Primary Election 2020 in West Virginia by absentee voting only.

We believe that if you would announce this action as soon as possible no voter will be disenfranchised. With all of us working together, people can vote, people can be protected and lives will be saved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Samantha Stone  
President

  
Dave Price  
Commissioner

  
Don Smith  
Commissioner

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Commissioner Stone asks that every county in West Virginia join with Preston County to request that Governor Justice declare the May Primary Election be held through absentee voting only to keep the state as safe as possible.

V.J. Davis, from the Preston County Health Department gave an update on the Coronavirus-19 in West Virginia.

Statewide there are 162 positive cases and 3,981 negative cases. The health department released a press release yesterday reminding people to stay home, only send one family member out to the store, practice social distancing and to continue illness prevention practices

The health department has made signs for stores asking to limit the number of people that go in at a time.

At this time, he reported 3 positive cases in Preston County.

### **Commissioners Comments**

At 9:19 a.m., there being no further business to come before the President Stone declared the Emergency Session adjourned.

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*Commissioner*

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*Commissioner*

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*Commissioner*

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*04/01//2020*

