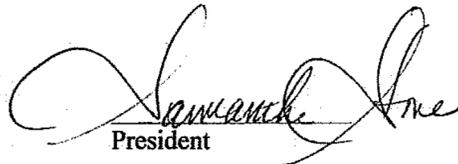


**NOTICE OF EMERGENCY SESSION**

Notice is hereby given that the **PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION** will conduct an Emergency Session on **MARCH 18, 2020**, beginning at **4:00 P.M.** in the County Commission Office, Kingwood, West Virginia, for the following:

County Operations and Continuity of Government Guidelines regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

  
President

3/18/2020  
Date

  
Commissioner

3/18/2020  
Date

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, COUNTY OF PRESTON, Ss:**

The Preston County Commission met in Emergency Session at 4:00 p.m., March 18, 2020 in the County Commission Meeting room.

The meeting was hereby called to order by President Samantha Stone for an Emergency Session regarding: County Operations and Continuity of Government Guidelines regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) dtd March 17, 2020.

Commissioner Stone then introduced Duane Hamilton, Director of OEM/911, and V.J. Davis, Administrator of the Preston County Health Department.

Those present for the Emergency Session: President Stone, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Price, and Kathy Mace- Interim Administrator.

The following persons were also in attendance during the meeting:

Kathy Plum-The Dominion Post	Justin Wolfe-OEM/911
Theresa Marthey-P.C. News & Journal	Melissa Hardy-PCSD
Mel Snyder-Prosecuting Attorney	Connie Kimble-Assessors Office
Biff Armstrong-IT	Linda Huggins, County Clerk
Allen Clayton-WBOY	Alee Sia Hatcher-WBOY
Deanna Lively	

County Commission President Samantha Stone declared in light of recent situations she proclaimed that Preston County is in a State of Emergency and then read the Proclamation. (See attached.)

PROCLAMATION

By The  
Preston County Commission President  
Samantha Stone

Whereas, beginning on March 18, 2020 at 4 pm,

(COVID-19 Pandemic)

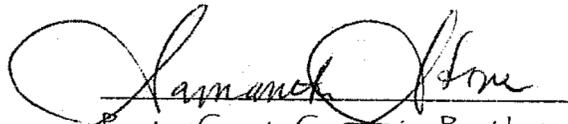
causing potential threats to critical infrastructure, private and public assets in Preston County, West Virginia.

Whereas, the event, and its effects, have caused pending threats to private and public assets and pose a threat to the health, safety, welfare and assets of the citizens of Preston County.

Now Therefore, be it resolved that I, Samantha Stone, President of the Preston County Commission, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State and Governor Justice and in recognition of the gravity of the situation, do hereby find and declare a State of Emergency to exist in Preston County.

Now Therefore, this State of Emergency shall exist for 30 days unless extended or suspended.

Done at the Preston County Office of Emergency Management, this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty and in the One Hundred Fifty Sixth year of the State.

  
Preston County Commission President

At this time, Commissioner Stone read a Press Release from the Preston County Commission for immediate release. (See attached.)

PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION



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

NEWS RELEASE

Immediate Release  
March 18, 2020

Contact: 304.329.1805  
Preston County Commission

**Preston Commissioner Set County Operations and Continuity of Government Guidelines - COVID-19**

The Preston County Commission is closing the Annex to walk in traffic until further notice, due to the Coronavirus. The offices affected are the Preston County Clerk, Preston County Assessor, Preston County Commission, Preston County Health Department, Preston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Preston County Tax Office. Employees will be taking calls to assist you during regular business hours Monday 8:30am to 5:30pm and Tuesday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Here is a list of county office phone numbers.

Preston County Clerk	304.329.0070
Preston County Assessor	304.329.1220
Preston County Commission	304.329.1805
Preston County Health Department	304.329.0096
Preston County Prosecuting Attorney	304.329.1885
Preston County Tax Office	304.329.0105

Preston County Sheriff's Department and the Office of Emergency Management/911 are also closed to walk in traffic. If you have an emergency, call 911. If you have questions on Home Confinement Payments or Concealed Weapon Permits and other non-emergencies related to law enforcement please call 304.329.1611. At OEM/911 the staff will be on duty and will be handling your calls. If you have an emergency call 911 for questions for Emergency Management, Floodplain Management and Mapping and Addressing please call 304.329.1855, Monday through Friday 8am to 4pm.

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)

For the Preston County Courthouse, the building will be open, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, to only those who have official business. We are recommending that anyone who has a hearing scheduled in Magistrate Court, Family Court or Circuit Court, call your attorney to be sure that the hearing is still being held. If you cannot reach your attorney please call the appropriate office. If you have official business with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probation and or Community Corrections please call ahead. Here are the phone numbers for the offices mentioned above.

Preston County Magistrates Court	304.329.2762
Preston County Circuit Clerk	304.329.0047
Preston County Family Court	304.329.3569
Preston County Circuit Court	304.329.0066
Probation Office	304.329.0772
Community Corrections	304.329.0937

Just a reminder that our online services are available for, payment of taxes, research of records and mapping information via our website [www.prestoncountywv.gov](http://www.prestoncountywv.gov).

Preston County citizens' safety is our number one concern....everyone's health is important and we want to protect you. We are closing the Annex to walk in traffic but we will be available to serve you by phone. You can find additional information on the Coronavirus on the commission website [www.prestoncountywv.gov](http://www.prestoncountywv.gov) and our Facebook page at Preston County Commission WV.

If you feel that you or someone you know is at risk for the Coronavirus call the call the Hotline Number 1-800-887-4304.

Commissioner Stone said as always, our citizens of Preston are very important to us and we care going to take every measures that we can to protect all of you and want to encourage everyone to practice what is being instructed by all the health officials and our governor as this progresses.

Commissioner Stone introduced V.J. Davis Director of the Preston County Health Department with information from his press release.

Mr. Davis said there has been one confirmed case of the Coronavirus Disease in West Virginia and that individual is located in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia.

Last night the Governor, Jim Justice, mandated the closure of all restaurants, bars and casinos, which also includes all video lottery outlets, with the exception of carryout and drive-thru services. This will be in effect for approximately a two-week period.

He offered things we need to do as a county is avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, avoid unnecessary travel, shopping trips and social events.

Continue illness prevention practices, wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing, avoid exposure to others who are sick and stay home if you are ill.

Mr. Davis said these steps are vital to reduce the spread of COVID-19 virus within our county. It is the responsibility of all of us to protect our families and neighbors.

This is a rapidly changing situation and updates will be sent out regularly. The next 10 to 15 days is a very important period for this situation and asked that everyone please practice social distancing.

He also stressed that Preston County residents not abuse the EMS/911 system. For individuals that are in need or have an emergency medical care need to call 911, however, for those with concerns of the Coronavirus call the DHHR Hotline at 1-800-877-4304 or call the Health Department at 304-329-0096.

To close he said we are all in this together for the safety of our family, friends and co-workers and the Citizens of Preston County is the greatest priority and if everyone can adhere to the mandates and guidelines that have been enacted we can overcome this public health crisis.

Duane Hamilton, Director OEM/911 added if there is a true emergency, they are there to call. They are monitoring the situation and if the event requires, they will activate the EOC to handle the amount of calls coming in. He suggested we need to limit the amount of people going to the store. Don't take the whole family, take one person and said they are here to help anyway they can if they need to.

Commissioner Stone reiterated to heed the advice being given by the experts and know that we are still conducting business in our courthouse and the Annex but we are restricting access to the public.

Melvin Snyder provided this statement: The Prosecuting Attorney's Office is not a public office nor has it ever been and he does agree that the Annex should be shut down to the public.

Mr. Hamilton asked to keep the concept in mind now of neighbor helping neighbor. If you go out, check with the elderly and your neighbors in your trip to the store to see if they need any supplies.

Kathy Plum, Journalist for the Dominion Post asked about the press covering the meetings of the county commission?

Commissioner Stone replied that the next public meeting will next Tuesday, as usual, however, it will be via live stream for the public.

Ms. Plum then stated that if she works from home, she has no access to live streaming and it's very limited at her office and much of the public does not have access to live streaming so to eliminate the press, eliminates her representation for the public.

Commissioner Stone replied she would find a way, if we hold a public meeting, that it is open to the public in every way that they possibly can. May have to revisit and make everyone aware of any changes.

Ms. Plum asked if the press would still be able to receive all documents that are handed out at the meetings and be able to access the Commissioners for questions and clarifications?

Commissioner Stone agreed to make sure of it.

Teresa Marthey, Journalist for The Preston County Journal, asked what about appointments that are received? How will those be handled?

Commissioner Stone noted that the appointments for Tuesday have been canceled due to the State of Emergency. The meeting will be for review and paying of the bills and taking care of the budget.

### **Commissioners Comments**

At 4:17 p.m., there being no further business to come before the Commission, 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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03/18/2020

