WEST VIRGINIA:

At a regular session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, July 14, 2020,

Present: Gene Buckner, President

Present: Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Present: Bill Archer, Commissioner

RE: REAPPOINTMENT – MERCER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Reappointment of Lee Ross to serve as Board Member for the Mercer County Solid Waste Authority. His term will expire June 30, 2024.

RE: REAPPOINTMENT – MERCER COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Reappointment of Jeff Disibbio to serve as Board Member for the Mercer County Solid Waste Authority. His term will expire June 30, 2024.

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING WILLIAM PAUL COLE, JR.

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the Resolution Honoring William Paul Cole, Jr.

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**WILLIAM PAUL COLE, JR.**

**Whereas**, one of Mercer County’s most steadfast, honorable, admired and faithful civic leaders, William Paul Cole, Jr., passed away on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at the age of 88. A captain of industry and a dedicated public servant, Paul Cole was well-known far and wide for his stalwart integrity and his undying commitment to all endeavors that would benefit his fellow man; and

**Whereas**, Paul cherished Bluefield, but also loved his church, his nation and his family. He graduated from Bluefield’s Beaver High School in 1949, attended Davidson College, served a two-year stint in the U.S. Army on active duty along with many years in the Army Reserves and earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the Harvard School of Business. After graduation, he accepted a job as systems engineer with IBM, but when his father, William Paul Cole Sr., died in 1965, he and his wife, the late Carol Ann McHugh Cole, returned to Bluefield to run his father’s International Harvester business; and

**Whereas**, Paul Cole grew his father’s truck business, formed Truck City Parts in 1975, later acquired Evans Chevrolet in 1982 and operated the business as Cole Chevrolet. Paul and Carol Cole’s family grew with the addition of sons William Paul “Bill” Cole III, Charles McHugh “Charlie” Cole and Thomas Jacob Cole – all three of which became successful businessmen and community servants in their own right, and

**Whereas**, Paul Cole shared his wisdom and tireless talents with the City of Bluefield, serving as mayor from 1981 to 1993 – the longest-serving mayor in Bluefield history. He also served in key roles with state and national professional organizations, served as president of the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, was on the Bluefield Community Hospital Board of Directors and was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Bluefield Rotary Club. He was a member of Mensa, an international organization made up of individuals who score in the top two percent of the general population in a standardized intellectual test; and

**Whereas**, Paul and his wife Carol were ardent supporters of arts throughout the region, and were instrumental in establishing the Bluefield Chamber’s Mountain Festival in the early 1980s. Through their son Tom Cole’s leadership, the festival now bears the Cole family name – the Cole Chevrolet Mountain Festival.

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission extends its condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of William Paul Cole Jr., and further commends Paul Cole for his commitment to public and community service, his honorable excellence in business as well as his love of family, community, state, nation and world.

**Dated this 14th day of July 2020.**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION:** /s/ Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Buckner, President**

/s/ Greg Puckett\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Greg Puckett, Commissioner**

/s/ Bill Archer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING TAYLOR WRIGHT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the Resolution Honoring Taylor Wright.

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**TAYLOR WRIGHT**

**Whereas**, Taylor Wright, a fourth-grade student at Lashmeet/Matoaka Elementary School, has demonstrated exceptional ability to communicate the harmful effects of opioids in her community, was recently awarded first place in the state of West Virginia for her entry in Attorney General Patrick Morrisey’s “Kids Kick Opioids” contest; and,

**Whereas**, her entry was chosen from over 3500 students statewide, and will subsequently appear in newspapers across West Virginia as part of Attorney General Morrisey's public service announcement, and will have their projects proudly displayed at the state Capital in the Fall of 2020; and,

**Whereas**, the coalfields of southern West Virginia are particularly hard hit with the problems associated with addiction, therefore making her project of particular importance to help educate our community about the harmful effects with drugs on family and community; and,

**Whereas**, the winning design is a drawing, showing people trapped inside a pill bottle with the message, "Don't bottle up your family over your addiction”, is a reminder that opioid abuse goes far beyond a person using drugs; and,

**Whereas**, Taylor is continually inspired and encouraged by her teacher, Mrs. Burks, the school administration, and her loving family, she maintains an “ Straight A” average, has perfect attendance, serves as Vice President of her Liberty Kids club for the school, is active in Kiwanis club or “k-kids”, participated in Reading Bee and Spelling Bee, participates in Triple Threat basketball league, and cheers for the recreation center as well as plays basketball there; and,

**Whereas**, she has accepted multiple challenges and accomplished other state honors by winning first place in agriculture with the West Virginia Farm Bureau, second place in Bus Safety, first place in the Mercer County Science Fair, and first place in the Regional Science Fair, prior to COVID-19 suspending the school year; and,

**Whereas**, Taylor will serve as an ambassador to others in Mercer County in the continued fight against destructive decisions, and a positive peer mentor to others at her school and community;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission wishes to extend its highest gratitude and acknowledgement to Taylor Wright, in the hopes that she may continue to aspire for greatness, and encourage others to join her in creating a healthier, safer, and drug free Mercer County.

**Dated this 14th day of July, 2020.**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION:** /s/ Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Buckner, President**

/s/ Greg Puckett\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Greg Puckett, Commissioner**

/s/ Bill Archer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE CABLE TV RESOLUTION

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the Bluefield State College Cable TV Resolution.

**BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE**

**CABLE TV RESOLUTION**

**Whereas**, the Mercer County Commission constantly strives to keep the citizens of Mercer County well informed about our efforts on their behalf. While we encourage citizens to attend our meetings in person, in recent months since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were forced to close our courtroom for both regular and special meetings and fulfill our public meeting mandate via ZOOM and on Facebook; and

**Whereas,** this Commission received many positive and a few negative comments from citizens who were kept informed of our activities via these online broadcasts. However, during our March 10, 2020, commission meeting, the President of Bluefield State College, Dr. Robin Capehart asked our commission to consider broadcasting our meetings on the public service channels of the two cable television stations – Comcast and Suddenlink – that serve residents of Mercer County: and

**Whereas**, after the BSC presentation, this Commission agreed to prepare a resolution in support of BSC’s request and formally ask both Comcast and Suddenlink to provide access to the College to broadcast Mercer County Commission meetings on a regular basis; and

**Whereas**, both Comcast and Suddenlink are highly respected entities in our community and both companies provide access to local, state, national and international news, weather, sports, educational and entertainment programming to residents of Mercer and surrounding counties. This Commission thinks that providing the BSC broadcast team with an on-air schedule to broadcast meetings at a time when citizen viewers can view and stay informed regarding matters of importance to this area, our state and nation.

**Now**, **Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission requests the county’s cable television providers – Comcast and Suddenlink – to provide Bluefield State College with access on its Public Service channel to broadcast Mercer County Commission meetings and to consider potential additional public service broadcasting in the future.

**Dated this 14th day of July, 2020.**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION:** /s/ Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Buckner, President**

/s/ Greg Puckett\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Greg Puckett, Commissioner**

/s/ Bill Archer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: AGREEMENT – APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Pole Attachment License Agreement with Appalachian Power Company for Cumberland Industrial Park Broadband Expansion Project.

RE: CONTRACT OF LEASE – DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS ASSISTANCE

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the 1-year lease of $100/month for the Department of Veterans Assistance office space in the Memorial Building.

RE: PETITION – MERGER OF BLUEWELL PSD AND BRAMWELL PSD

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Petition for Merger of Bluewell Public Service District and Bramwell Public Service District as presented by William S. Winfrey, II.

RE: PETITION – ABANDONMENT OF ROADWAY

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Petition of Phyllip W. Burton and Raymond James Asbury, Jr. for Abandonment of Roadway as presented by Phillip B. Ball.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – REGION ONE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a request from Region One Planning & Development Council for a short-term loan to Lashmeet PSD, Mary Branch Water Extension, Phase II, IJDC Project # 2018W-1728 . Funding in the amount of $80,000 will be taken from the Coal Reallocation Severance Tax fund and will be paid back upon closing the DWTRF Loan.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a funding request from Mercer County Public Service District. Funding in the amount of $3,500 per month for 3 months (total $10,500) will be taken from the Coal Reallocation Severance Tax fund to offset the Town of Matoaka operations until the sewage plant transfer can be resolved.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – COVID-19 STOCKPILE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the purchase of PPE equipment and supplies for “COVID-19 Stockpile”. Funding in the amount of $50,000 will be taken from the COVID 19 fund.

RE: PRINCETON RESCUE SQUAD – FORESTRY SCIENCES LAB

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Gene Buckner, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to provide a station for Princeton Rescue Squad at the Forestry Sciences Lab free of charge until December 31, 2020.

PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF ERRONEOUS CHARGES

DATE 7/7/2020

Tax Year 2019

Plymouth District

TICKET # NAME REASON AMOUNT

911056 B&J Charolais Out of business 7/1/2018. $ 498.74

This day the following accounts were presented against the County of Mercer, and the Commission having examined each and all of them, doth allow payment from the different accounts, check numbers listed below:

GENERAL COUNTY - Check #73397-73481 Void #73431

COAL SEVERANCE - Check #3991-4002

JUSTICE FINES - Check #5350

HOME CONFINEMENT - Check #2473-2474

HOTEL MOTEL - Check #4077-4099

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - Check #1657-1663

VIDEO LOTTERY - Check #1408-1409

COAL REALLOCATION - Check #1023

MCDRC FEES - Check #5266-5277

ASSESSOR REAPPRAISAL - Check #6390-6395

FINANCIAL STABILIZATION - Check #1039

DRUG FORFEITURE - Check #237

SHERIFF DRUG FUND - Check #1094

DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT - Check #282

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

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