WEST VIRGINIA:

At a regular session of the County Commission, held for the County of Mercer, at the Courthouse thereof, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021,

Present: Gene Buckner, President

Present: Greg Puckett, Commissioner

Present: Bill Archer, Commissioner

RE: OATH – PROSECUTING ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Andrea Bailey to serve as Full-Time Legal Assistant for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

RE: OATH – PROSECUTING ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Katie Lambert to serve as Full-Time Receptionist for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

RE: OATH – SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Alvin Gravely to serve as Full-Time Correctional Officer for the Sheriff’s Department.

RE: OATH – HOME CONFINEMENT

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Employment and Oath of Office for Jason Woods to serve as Full-Time Home Confinement Officer.

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE DAVID KNIGHT

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Honoring the Life of Judge David Knight.

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**JUDGE DAVID KNIGHT**

**Whereas**, retired Mercer County Circuit Court Judge David Wesley Knight, a pillar of the Mercer County legal community, passed away at the age of 85 on February 20, 2021. Judge Knight was born in McDowell County, but grew up in South Bluefield, graduated from Beaver High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Debate Team, National Forensics League, and Thespian Association. After graduating at BHS, Judge Knight attended (then) Concord College where he majored in Pre-Law with an emphasis in Political Science and Government. Judge Knight earned his Juris Doctorate from the West Virginia University School of Law in 1959; and

**Whereas**, soon after returning to Mercer County, Judge Knight started his career in public service on April 4, 1960, as an assistant prosecuting attorney. Soon after, Judge Knight worked in the private practice of law in the office of Princeton Attorney W. Robert Carr. In 1962, Judge Knight tested the political waters as a candidate for the Democratic Party’s Primary Election to the House of Delegates. However, in November 1968, Judge Knight earned election as the Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney – a post he held for 21 years until 1989 when West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton appointed him to serve on the bench of the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Mercer County; and

**Whereas,** although Judge Knight was highly respected for his success at both bar and bench, David Knight was known as a good citizen, true to his family, faith, community and fellow citizens regardless of their station in life. While he served as a Sunday School teacher at First United Methodist Church in Princeton, he was comfortable in all churches of all denominations. He was just as likely to show up at a Hungarian Cabbage Roll Dinner at St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church in Pocahontas, Va., as at a Democratic Bean Dinner at the Mercer County 4-H Camp; and

**Whereas,** Judge Knight had both an understanding of Mercer County’s diverse history and citizenry as well as a steadfast dedication to seeking justice for both those who were wronged and those who may have been wrongly accused. As a jurist, he had few equals. As a public servant, he had no peer. Yet from the bench or from the prosecutors table, from the golf course, church or stadium … he was always David Knight, a man who greeted friend and foe alike with a smile.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission – along with the grateful community that he loved and served so well -- extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Judge David W. Knight. It was an honor knowing you … Your Honor.

**Dated this 9th day of March, 2021.**

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

**Gene Buckner, President**

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

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

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE OF JAKE HATCHER

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a Resolution Honoring the Life of Jake Hatcher.

**RESOLUTION HONORING**

**THE LIFE OF JAKE FORREST HATCHER**

**Whereas,** on February 20, 2021, one of Mercer County’s most patriotic citizens, Jake Forrest Hatcher, passed away at 103 years of age. Mr. Hatcher, a 20-plus year veteran of the US Navy, continued his life of service upon his retirement from the military to serve as director of the Mercer County Human Services Agency and later worked as a realtor becoming fully retired where he dedicated his life to community service; and

**Whereas,** Jake Hatcher was born on August 10, 1917, the son of Jacob and Etta Hatcher, of Princeton. After coming of age, Jake followed the same path many young men of the area took and got a job working at a McDowell County coalmine. However, when a mine accident took the life of one of his fellow miners in 1937, he enlisted in the Navy. Military service was a way for Hatcher to see the world, but when he visited Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, he was transformed into a true patriot; and

**Whereas,** during World War II, Jake distinguished himself as the Chief Torpedoman on the USS Stanley in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres of the war – surviving a Kamikaze attack in the Solomon Islands. During the Korean War, Jake served as Gun Director Control Officer aboard the Destroyer USS Orleck. He earned special Naval commendations in both wars; and

**Whereas,** after retiring from the military with 21 years of service, Mr. Hatcher attended both Bluefield State College and Concord (now) University and devoted the next 40-plus years of his life to public and community service. While the list of agencies he served as a volunteer is long, it is significant that he devoted his time, talents and incredible energy to helping others; and

**Whereas,** in recent decades, Jake found great pleasure on painting rocks and giving them to people he encountered. He discovered his passion for smooth stones while visiting Bluestone Lake, but gave life to the smooth stones through his paintings of flowers, angels, rainbows and more. He often distributed the painted stones as he paraded through Princeton dressed as Uncle Sam, but he distributed his stones to people – young and old – wherever folks gathered. Jake “Rockman” Hatcher was a ubiquitous participant in many activities … always smiling and always receiving smiles in return.

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Mercer County Commission extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Jake Forrest Hatcher for his lifetime of service, his unyielding patriotism and the joy he gave to others. His was a life well-lived.

**Dated this 9th day of March, 2021.**

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

**Gene Buckner, President**

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

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

**Bill Archer, Commissioner**

RE: DRAWDOWN – MERCER/SUMMERS IV-B ELGOOD WATER PROJECT

This day on motion of Bill Archer, Commissioner, seconded by Greg Puckett, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to accept Drawdown #42 in the amount of $6,974.14 for the Mercer/Summers IV-B Elgood Water Line Extension Project. This final request is for administrative services.

RE: ESTATE – MANUELLA BAILEY – DECEASED

***BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA***

**IN RE: MANUELLA BAILEY, DECEASED.**

**O-R-D-E-R**

On the 9th day of March, 2021, before the Mercer County Commission, came the matter of the Estate of Manuella Bailey, deceased, upon request of Ryan Flanigan, Fiduciary Commissioner, requesting that the Sheriff of Mercer County, T. A. Bailey, be appointed Administrator DBN CTA of said estate, and that the Executrix, Kira Bailey Sims, be removed for failure to complete her duties as Executrix.

After a discussion and review of this matter by the Commission, upon proper motion and second, and it appearing proper to do so, the Commission **ORDERS** that the Sheriff of Mercer County, T. A. Bailey, shall qualify as Administrator DBN CTA over the estate of Manuella Bailey, deceased. No bond being required under the provisions of said will.

All of which was accordingly **ADJUDGED** and **ORDERED.** The Clerk of this Commission is **DIRECTED** to take whatever actions he deems necessary to effectuate this Order**.**

Dated thisthe9th day of March, 2021.

**ENTER:**

/s/A. Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A. GENE BUCKNER, PRESIDENT**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION**

**ATTEST:**

/s/Verlin T. Moye\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**VERLIN T. MOYE, CLERK**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION**

RE: ESTATE – RONALD E. FLEMING, JR. – DECEASED

***BEFORE THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA***

**IN RE: RONALD E. FLEMING, JR., DECEASED.**

**O-R-D-E-R**

On the 9th day of March, 2021, before the Mercer County Commission, came the matter of the Estate of Ronald E. Fleming, Jr., deceased, upon request of Wayne Stonestreet, Fiduciary Commissioner, requesting that the Sheriff of Mercer County, T. A. Bailey, be appointed Administrator DBN of said estate, and that the Administratrix, Brenda Fleming, be removed for failure to complete her duties as Administratrix.

After a discussion and review of this matter by the Commission, upon proper motion and second, and it appearing proper to do so, the Commission **ORDERS** that the Sheriff of Mercer County, T. A. Bailey, shall qualify as Administrator DBN over the estate of Ronald E. Fleming, Jr., deceased. Bond in the amount of $2,000.00 to remain.

All of which was accordingly **ADJUDGED** and **ORDERED.** The Clerk of this Commission is **DIRECTED** to take whatever actions he deems necessary to effectuate this Order**.**

Dated thisthe9th day of March, 2021.

**ENTER:**

/s/A. Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A. GENE BUCKNER, PRESIDENT**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION**

**ATTEST:**

/s/Verlin T. Moye\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**VERLIN T. MOYE, CLERK**

**MERCER COUNTY COMMISSION**

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – PROJECT GRADUATION

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve funding requests from Bluefield High School, Montcalm High School, Pikeview High School, and Princeton High School. Funding in the amount of $500 for each school will be taken from the Video Lottery Fund for 2021 Project Graduation.

RE: FUNDING REQUEST – MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

This day on motion of Gene Buckner, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve a funding request from Mercer County Public Service District for operating expenses. Funding in the amount of $3,500 will be taken from the Coal Reallocation Fund

RE: SECOND READING – ABANDONED & DILAPIDATED BUILDING ORDINANCE

This day on motion of Greg Puckett, Commissioner, seconded by Bill Archer, Commissioner, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Second Reading of the Proposed Abandoned & Dilapidated Building Ordinance. Third and final public meeting will be held March 23, 2021.

PETITION FOR CANCELLATION OF ERRONEOUS CHARGES

DATE 3/2/2021

Tax Year 2020

Rock District

TICKET # NAME REASON AMOUNT

40072 Gayle I. Gregg Double assessed on back tax. $ 13.76

38628 Daren Brummett Should not be taxed for 2020. 8.20

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 #74329-74417 Void #74397

COAL SEVERANCE - Check #4060-4068

HOME CONFINEMENT - Check #2496-2497

HOTEL MOTEL - Check #4168-4179

COURTHOUSE ANNEX - Check #1713-1720

VIDEO LOTTERY - Check #1431-1437

COAL REALLOCATION - Check #1027

MCDRC FEES - Check #5396-5417

ASSESSOR REAPPRAISAL - Check #6457-6471

FINANCIAL STABILIZATION - Check #1043-1044

TEENAGE PROGRAM - Check #223

DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT - Check #290

It is ordered that this Commission be and is hereby adjourned until Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

/s/ Gene Buckner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT