



Monroe County Commission

West Virginia

Melvin Young, President
Kevin Galford, Commissioner
Kenny Mann, Commissioner
Jeremy E. Meadows, County Clerk

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN MONROE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA DUE TO A STRUCTURAL FIRE AT THE COURTHOUSE AND AUTHORIZING THE EXEMPTION FROM THE STATE-BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE MITIGATION OF FIRE AND WATER DAMAGE.

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2024, at approximately 3:30 AM, a significant structure fire occurred at the Monroe County Courthouse, resulting in extensive fire and water damage to the building, threatening public safety and the preservation of important records and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the citizens, employees, and officials of Monroe County is a primary concern, and immediate response actions are required to minimize further damage, restore operations, and protect vital public resources; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County recognizes the urgency of taking immediate action to mitigate fire and water damage to the Courthouse, including the stabilization of the structure, remediation of hazardous materials, and restoration of essential systems and functions; and

WHEREAS, under normal circumstances, state law and county policy require that the county follow a competitive bidding process for procurement of services for public works and repairs; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Commission has determined that immediate and expedited action is necessary to preserve public health, safety, and the integrity of the Courthouse, and that bypassing the standard bidding process is in the best interest of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Commission, in accordance with its powers and authority, can declare a State of Emergency and waive certain procedural requirements to address urgent matters related to the Courthouse fire and water damage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Commission, West Virginia:

1. **State of Emergency Declaration:** The Monroe County Commission hereby declares a State of Emergency in Monroe County, West Virginia, effective as of January 11, 2024, at 6:15 AM, due to the significant fire and water damage sustained by the Monroe County Courthouse.
2. **Exemption from Bidding Process:** The Monroe County Commission hereby authorizes the immediate suspension and exemption from the state-required competitive bidding process for procurement of services necessary to mitigate and repair the fire and water damage at the Monroe County Courthouse. This exemption is granted for the sole purpose of facilitating rapid and efficient response to the emergency situation.
3. **Authorization to Procure Services:** The County Commission, in consultation with County staff, legal counsel, and relevant experts, is hereby authorized to engage qualified contractors and service providers to immediately begin the necessary repairs, restoration,



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and mitigation work. Such services may include but are not limited to fire damage remediation, water damage restoration, structural repairs, electrical system restoration, and the securing of the courthouse.

4. **Emergency Expenditure:** The Monroe County Commission authorizes the use of available emergency funds to cover the costs of repairs, mitigation, and restoration efforts, as deemed necessary by the County Commission, to address the fire and water damage at the Monroe County Courthouse.
5. **Duration of State of Emergency:** The State of Emergency shall remain in effect until the Board of Monroe County Commissioners determines that the immediate threats to public safety and the structural integrity of the Courthouse have been mitigated and that normal operations may resume.
6. **Reporting and Documentation:** The County Clerk shall report to the County Commission on the progress of mitigation and restoration efforts and shall ensure that all necessary documentation is maintained in compliance with state and local laws.
7. **Severability:** If any provision of this Resolution is found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
8. **Effective Date:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 11th day of January, 2025, by the Monroe County Commission.



Melvin Young, President



Kevin Galford, Commissioner

Kenny Mann, Commissioner

Attest;



Jeremy Meadows, County Clerk



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