

JEFFERSON COUNTY
COMMISSION

LESLIE D. SMITH, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. Box 250, 124 E. WASHINGTON STREET, CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414

PHONE: 304/728-3284 • FAX: 304/725-7916

JEFFERSON COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 ADDRESSING ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE ASSIGNMENT OF NAMES TO
STREETS AND ROADWAYS AND IMPLEMENTATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF THE POSTING OF STREET SIGNS AND
BUILDING NUMBERS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA**

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

In order to uniformly assign and maintain street addresses and provide for easy identification of those numbers for various purposes and to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Jefferson, the County enacts its E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to W.V. Code § 7-1-3ii, § 24-6-5, and § 24-6-6, the Jefferson County Commission has the authority to provide for the elimination of hazards to public health and safety; to establish and regulate the naming or renaming of roads, ways, streets, avenues, drives and the like, in cooperation with local postal authorities, the division of highways and the directors of county emergency communications centers; and to assure uniform, non-duplicative conversion of all rural routes to city-type addressing on a permanent basis; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of an Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System in Jefferson County has been approved and implemented by the Jefferson County Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of such system requires the assignment of names to all streets and roads in the county, the assignment of building numbers to all buildings having telephones and/or occupancies, and the erection of appropriate street signs at intersections; and,

WHEREAS, a professional consultant experienced in comprehensive addressing has been employed to map street and roads in Jefferson County and to assign building numbers to buildings in Jefferson County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED this 25th day of April, 2002 by the Jefferson County Commission of Jefferson County, West Virginia, Ordinance Number 01-2002

Section 1: AUTHORIZATIONS

Section 1.1 The provisions of this Ordinance shall be applicable in all unincorporated areas of Jefferson County. The incorporated cities of Charles Town, Ranson, Harpers Ferry, Bolivar, and Shepherdstown shall have the option to adopt this Ordinance by each respective City and Town Council.

Section 1.2 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to assign names to any public or private road or street in the County, which provides access to three or more occupied buildings.

Section 1.3 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to negotiate with residents along streets or roads bearing duplicate or confusingly similar names in the County and to

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

change the names of such roads or streets to eliminate such duplication or confusing similarity.

Section 1.4 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to direct the placement of street signs at intersections within the County. The initial costs of such signs and installation will be funded by the Jefferson County Commission for all unincorporated areas of Jefferson County.

Section 1.5 The “Jefferson County Road Name Index” shall be adopted by the County Commission and filed and maintained in the Jefferson County Addressing Office. This listing shall be the official listing of names for streets and roads in Jefferson County and such streets and roads are hereby assigned the names listed therein. As used in the Ordinance, the terms “street” and “road” shall have the same meaning and shall also include but not limited to avenues, boulevards, highways, lanes, ways, and similar street types.

Section 1.6 In applying the guidelines specified herein, the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator shall have the authority to interpret this Ordinance to ensure a logical and efficient numbering and street addressing system.

Section 1.7 Whenever the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent has reason to believe there has been or there exists a violation of this Ordinance, he/she shall give written notice of such violation to the person failing to comply, and order the person to take corrective measures within thirty (30) days from date of notification. If such person(s) fail to comply with the duly issued order, the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her agent, shall initiate necessary actions to terminate the violation through criminal or civil measures.

Section 2 DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Section 2.1 For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning that is provided in the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard Guidelines as reference by the United States Postal Service, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Section 2.2 “Address number” shall mean the number assigned to consecutive intervals along a street or road pursuant to the Number Assignment Formula contained herein.

Section 2.3 The term “Road” or “Street” shall mean any public or private thoroughfare, used for vehicular traffic and/or any easement or right-of-way that provides sole access to more than two parcels or lots. This term

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

shall be defined as the “Street Suffix” and shall include, but is not limited to; avenue, drive, way, boulevard, highway, lane, pike or similar street types.

Section 2.4 The “Number Assignment Formula” as found herein is defined as follows:

Beginning from the point of origin a house number shall be assigned for each interval, with each interval on the right side of the roadway as one leaves the point of origin being assigned an even number, and each interval on the left side as one leaves the point of origin being assigned an odd number. Left and right shall be determined from the perspective of a traveler moving away from the road point of origin in a forward motion. The southern and western intersection or entry point of each road will be the point of origin.

Section 2.5 An “Interval” is defined as the distance along a roadway of 5.28 feet, there being 1000 intervals per mile (5,280 feet).

Section 2.6 “Point of Origin” shall mean that end point of a road, which is the starting point for a numbering sequence.

Section 2.7 As used herein, “Primary Structure” shall include but not be limited to residential building, mobile home park, commercial building, industrial building, office building, public building, utility, communications tower.

Section 2.8 “Display” as used herein is the manner the numbers are affixed to a structure or otherwise displayed when affixing to a structure.

Section 2.9 “Non-Compliance” is any failure to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance including, but not limited to, by way of example: a number out of sequence, odd or even number on wrong side of street, rural box numbers in a 9-1-1 address area, numbers improperly affixed, numbers illegible, numbers unclear, numbers obstructed, numbers not visible, numbers not present, numbers of improper size, numbers not in contrast with immediate background, weatherworn numbers, wrong numbers, and non-approved numbers.

Section 2.10 “Occupant” is any person, firm, entity, partnership, trust, corporation, association or other organization that is occupying or leasing a building or other property for a period exceeding thirty (30) days.

Section 2.11 “Owner” is any and all persons, firms, entities, partnerships, trusts, corporation, associations, or other organizations that own the fee title to, or have an undivided interest in, any building or property, which is subject to the provisions of this Ordinance.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Section 3 STRUCTURE AND LOCATION NUMBERING AND DISPLAY

- Section 3.1 Whenever any house, building, or structure shall be erected or located after the initial establishment of the uniform numbering system as provided herein, it shall be the duty of the property owners to procure the correct number or numbers for the property and to affix these numbers to the building in accordance to this Ordinance. The owner shall place or cause to be placed upon each house or building controlled by him the number or numbers assigned under the uniform number system within thirty (30) days of notification of the assigned address. The cost of posting the address shall be the responsibility of the property owner.
- Section 3.2 An application for a building permit for a new building shall be considered an application for an address assignment. The Jefferson County Planning, Zoning & Engineering Department shall coordinate with the Jefferson County Addressing Office for the assignment of addresses. No address shall be assigned until the footer is in place and properly inspected. The address shall be issued not later than sixty (60) days following identification of address and installed on the structure prior to final inspection from the Jefferson County Planning, Zoning & Engineering Department.
- Section 3.3 Display of Number – Residential Structure – Each primary structure shall display the number of the address assigned to that address. The street number for residences shall be in accordance with The BOCA National Property Maintenance Code, Section PM-303.3, Exterior Structure, Premises Identification. The numbers shall be in Arabic numerals at least three (3) inches in height, and of a durable and clearly visible material. The numbers shall be placed on, above, or at the side of the main entrance so the number is clearly visible from the public right-of-way. Whenever a residence entrance is greater than fifty (50) feet from a public right of way, or not clearly visible from the public right-of-way, a number shall also be placed along a driveway, or property entrance. Address numbers are to be a contrasting color to the background on which they are mounted.
- Section 3.5 The owner or person in charge of any house, building, mobile home, or other structure to which a number has been assigned shall affix the number as outlined in this Ordinance within thirty (30) days after the receipt or notification of such number.
- Section 3.6 Display of Number – Commercial and Industrial Structure – Address numbers for commercial and industrial structures shall follow BOCA PM 303.3 code regulations of at least six (6) inches in height. The number shall be placed above or on the main entrance to the structure when possible. If such number is not clearly visible from the public right-of-

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

way, the number shall be placed along a driveway or on a sign visible from the same. Address numbers are to be a contrasting color to the background on which they are mounted.

Section 3.7 Display of Number – Apartments and Similar – The address number assigned to a single building number shall be displayed on each assigned structure following the BOCA PM 303.3 code. Numbers and/or letters for individual apartments or units within these complexes shall be displayed on, above, or to the side of the main doorway of each apartment or unit.

Section 3.7.1 Display of Number – Trailer Park and Similar – The address number assigned to a trailer within an organized trailer park shall be one address number for the trailer park with each trailer assigned a lot or space number. The lot or space number must be posted and permanently affixed to the lot identifying the lot or space number. The main address to the trailer park must be posted at the entrance of the park. Address numbers are to be a contrasting color to the background on which they are mounted.

Section 3.8 The combination of such an address number and the road or street name shall be the official address of such primary structure.

Section 3.9 All costs to individuals or households in complying with this section of the Ordinance shall be borne by that individual or household.

Section 4 ROAD NAMING

Section 4.1 The “Jefferson County Road Name Index” shall be the official listing of names for streets and roads in Jefferson County. The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to assign names to roads.

Section 4.2 No street within the County shall be assigned a name on a subdivision plat or otherwise until such name is registered with the Jefferson County Addressing Office, approved, and added to the Jefferson County Road Name Index. The Jefferson County Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to refuse registration of any name already in use, confusingly similar to a name already registered, deemed confusing for purposes of emergency response, or deemed inappropriate by the Jefferson County Addressing Office, or by the County Commission.

Section 4.3 No street currently shown on a subdivision plat filed with the County or otherwise shall be implemented by a subdivision owner until such name has been registered with the Jefferson County Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, approved and added to the Jefferson County Road

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Name Index. The Jefferson County Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to refuse registration of any name already in use, confusingly similar to a name already registered, deemed confusing for purposes of emergency response, or deemed inappropriate by the Jefferson County Addressing Office, or by the County Commission.

- Section 4.4 Road names shall not duplicate road names already assigned, irrespective of road name prefixes or suffixes except for roads located within different corporations. The four cardinal points of the compass may be used as a prefix or suffix to designate portions of a continuous street.
- Section 4.5 A street name shall not be differentiated using the same name by changing the street suffix such as a street or avenue except that those duplicate streets having different suffixes must be directly accessible from the street having the same name with the different suffix. An example would be Birch Court must be accessible from Birch Street.
- Section 4.6 A street shall have only one name throughout its entire length unless approved as an exception by the County Commission.
- Section 4.7 Following the completion of the address conversion project as determined by the County Commission, there shall be a moratorium on changes in road and street names in the unincorporated parts of the County for a period of two (2) years.

Thereafter, a petition requesting a change in name, signed by owners of eighty percent (80%) of the parcels on the street whose name is proposed to be changed, shall be filed with the Jefferson County Addressing Office. Such petition should not be filed until the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, confirms the availability of the proposed name, but, not later than ninety (90) days following such confirmation.

Documentation such as a tax bill or deed, showing the ownership of each signatory to the petition must accompany the petition at the time of filing.

A non-refundable deposit in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) shall accompany the petition. Upon approval of the name change, the petitioner shall be obligated to pay to the County for the actual costs incurred by the name change.

Residents along the affected road or street shall be responsible for advising the United States Postal Service of such road or street name change.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Section 5 STREET SIGNS

- Section 5.1 All new street signs erected within Jefferson County shall be in conformance with the specifications of this section. A typical street sign installation will designate two streets using four nameplates.
- Section 5.2 The owner of any subdivision or other development where a street sign is required shall erect or cause to be erected street signs in conformance to the exact standards of street sign specification in this Ordinance. To ensure uniformity of street signs throughout Jefferson County, the signs shall be in conformance to the type, size, style, color, material, placement, and any other specifications mandated by the County Commission or its representatives. The owner of any subdivision, any property, or any other development where a street sign is required shall provide funds per the street sign fee schedule and the County will initiate the installation of the street sign(s). Any signs not in conformance to the specifications of this ordinance shall be removed and signs that are in conformance shall be erected, all at the expense of the owner or party responsible for the subdivision, property, or other development.
- Section 5.2.1 The third addressable structure built on a right-of-way not otherwise named causes the right-of-way to be named. The addressing office shall coordinate and oversee the naming of the right-of-way. The addressing office shall provide road name petitions to all owners of parcels affected by the road name change and shall provide a specific timeframe for response. Through majority vote and within the stipulated timeframe per the petition, the owners of parcels affected by the road name change shall agree upon a road name and submit the road name for approval. If agreement of a road name does not occur, the County shall have the authority to name the road. The owner of the newly built addressable structure shall be responsible for any and all fees to install any and all signs on the newly named road and shall provide the funds to the County per the street sign fee schedule. The County will initiate the installation of the street sign(s). All signs shall conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and to the specifications of this Ordinance.
- Section 5.2.2 Except as approved by the County Commission, no other sign of any type shall be attached, permanently or temporarily, to any road name signpost. At no time shall a stop sign be mounted to a road name signpost. All stop signs on state-maintained or private/subdivision roadways shall be individually mounted to its own post.
- Section 5.3 Sign Specifications – State Maintained Roadway - All signs erected on a roadway adopted by the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways shall be in conformance at minimum to the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways as defined

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

in the “Standards for the Design and Installation of Road Name Signing” published March 1999 (Appendix A). Ideally, all signs placed within Jefferson County shall be in conformance to the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration rules as published in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Millennium Edition however the State of West Virginia shall have the final authority as to the type and size of sign erected on their right-of-way.

For signs placed in conformance to the FHWA, all nameplates shall use aluminum sign blanks of .080 thickness, alloy to be 5052H38, degreased and etched, ready to accept pressure sensitive materials. Corners shall be radius and six mounting holes shall be punched prior to application of the reflective sheeting. The sheeting shall be 3M brand High Intensity Scotchlite applied using either the 3M silk screening process or the 3M ElectroCut (EC) method.

The sign size for a primary roadway shall be nine (9”) inches high x 30”, 36”, 42”, 48”, or 54”.

The sign size for a secondary roadway shall be six (6”) inches high x 24”, 30”, 36”, 42”, or 48”.

The sign color (reflective sheeting) shall consist of white lettering on a green background for any state-maintained roadway.

The letter size and type shall conform to the FHWA “Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs”, Series C, uppercase. Should the road name not fit on the longest sign length, the Series shall be reduced to a “B” width. Should the road name still not fit on the longest sign length, the text height shall be reduced by ½” increments until the road name fits. Abbreviations may be used as a suitable alternative however the addressing office shall have final inspection and approval on signs that require a reduced letter size or abbreviation. The normal spacing between words shall be the width of the letter “H” in the same series and height used in the street name.

For a primary roadway, the standard text height of the road name shall be six (6”) inches for the primary road as well as for those roads intersecting the primary roadway. The standard text height of the prefix and suffix shall be three (3”) inches.

For a secondary roadway, the standard text height of the road name shall be four (4”) inches for the secondary road as well as for those roads intersecting the secondary roadway. The standard text height of the prefix and suffix shall be two (2”) inches.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Section 5.3.1 Sign Specifications – Private / Subdivision – All signs erected shall be in conformance to the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Millennium Edition (December 2000). The County Commission shall have final authority for the size, style, and color of the sign to be erected.

All nameplates shall use aluminum sign blanks of .080 thickness, alloy to be 5052H38, degreased and etched, ready to accept pressure sensitive materials. Corners shall be radius and six mounting holes shall be punched prior to application of the reflective sheeting. The sheeting shall be 3M brand High Intensity Scotchlite applied using either the 3M silk screening process or the 3M ElectroCut (EC) method.

The sign size for a roadway intersecting a state-maintained primary roadway shall be nine (9") inches high x 30", 36", 42", 48", or 54".

The sign size for a roadway intersecting a state-maintained secondary roadway or intersecting another private/subdivision roadway shall be six (6") inches high x 24", 30", 36", 42", or 48".

The sign color (reflective sheeting) shall consist of white lettering on a brown background.

The letter size and type shall conform to the FHWA "Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs", Series C, uppercase. Should the road name not fit on the longest sign length, the Series shall be reduced to a "B" width. Should the road name still not fit on the longest sign length, the text height shall be reduced by ½" increments until the road name fits. Abbreviations may be used as a suitable alternative however the addressing office shall have final inspection and approval on signs that require a reduced letter size or abbreviation. The normal spacing between words shall be the width of the letter "H" in the same series and height used in the street name.

For a roadway intersecting with a primary roadway, the standard text height of the road name shall be six (6") inches for the roadway, as well as the intersecting primary roadway. The standard text height of the prefix and suffix shall be three (3") inches.

For a roadway intersecting with a secondary roadway or another private/subdivision roadway, the standard text height of the road name shall be four (4") inches for the roadway, as well as the intersecting secondary road and intersecting private/subdivision road. The standard text height of the prefix and suffix shall be two (2") inches.

Section 5.3.2 Sign Post Specifications – For both state-maintained and private/subdivision roadways, the nameplate signpost shall consist of an

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

upper signpost and a lower base post or anchor. The upper signpost shall be a two-inch by two-inch (2" x 2") square post ten (10') feet in length. The signpost can either be the QUIK PUNCH post or 4-hole post as manufactured by Allied Tube and Conduit. The initial sign project signposts shall be the 4-hole post specification.

The base post shall be a thirty-six (36") inch, 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" anchor, driven into the earth to a depth of at least thirty-two (32") inches. The base post shall not extend more than four (4") inches above grade.

The street name signs shall be fastened utilizing four aluminum pop-rivets, plastic washers and plastic sign spacers. One pop-rivet shall be fastened through each corner of each sign face, through the plastic sign spacer, then through the second (back to back) street name sign plate. Two 3/8" drive rivets and two plastic sign washers shall be utilized to fasten each street name sign to the 2" x 2" x 10' signpost. The signpost shall be fastened to the base post with one 3/8" drive rivet and one special corner bolt. The corner bolt shall be utilized to secure the signpost to the base post while the drive rivet is utilized to reduce vandalism. A pyramid rain cap shall be installed at the top of the signpost.

Section 5.3.3 Sign Post Installation – On all roadways, all street name signs shall be located on diagonally opposite corners and mounted with their faces parallel to the streets they identify. Only the sufficient amount of street name signs is needed to properly identify the roadway. The addressing office shall have the authority to identify and cause installation of the proper amount of signs at a given intersection as deemed necessary.

The Miss Utility locating service shall be notified to mark all locations where a street name sign is placed.

For a roadway identified as a "dead end" roadway not having any other intersection with any other road, only the name of the "dead end" roadway shall have a sign installed, commonly referred to as a one-way sign.

Street name signs shall be located to assist the motorist in locating the street name while not blocking the view of motorists exiting onto the street from which they are traveling.

Section 5.4 Signage which is damaged or destroyed shall be the responsibility of the individual(s) causing such damage or destruction, whether by negligence or otherwise. The agency or individual(s) responsible for maintenance of the damaged sign shall have the authority to recover the costs of replacing the sign from the individual(s) causing such damage or destruction.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Section 5.5 Any such person found to be responsible for damage or destruction of any road or street sign shall pay to the County all of the costs for such damage or destruction, including but not limited to, costs for sign removal and replacement. Failure to pay for damage or destruction may result in legal action against the responsible party for all costs, such as court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

Section 6 MAPS

Section 6.1 All properties or parcels of land within Jefferson County shall hereafter be identified by reference to a uniform numbering system, as shown on maps maintained in the Jefferson County Addressing Office. The maps and explanatory matter thereon may be amended, modified, or changed at the direction of the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or his/her duly authorized agent, or by the County Commission.

Section 7 APPEALS, AMENDMENT, CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS, VALIDITY

Section 7.1 During the initial project stage and prior to the completion of the project, any requests concerning road name changes and/or addressing complaints will first be directed to the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator within thirty (30) days from the time of road name or address assignment. If the initial contact does not satisfy the individuals concern, he or she may appeal the decision to the Jefferson County Commission for final disposition provided, however, that all such appeals must be filed no later than 10 days after the decision. The Commission may, at its discretion, hear such appeals as oral argument or may rule based upon the written appeal. All such appeals shall be decided on or before 30 days after the appeal is heard.

Section 7.2 After implementation of the address conversion system, any concerns, problems, or complaints regarding the naming and numbering system will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator.

Section 7.3 Amendment - By legislative procedure, the Jefferson County Commission may, from time to time, amend, supplement or change the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 7.4 Conflict With Other Laws - Where the provisions of this Ordinance impose greater restrictions than those of any other ordinance or regulation, the provision of this Ordinance shall be controlling. Where the provision of any statute, other ordinance or regulation imposes greater restrictions than this Ordinance, the provisions of such statute, ordinance or regulations shall be controlling.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

E9-1-1 Addressing Ordinance

Section 7.5 Validity – If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any other part thereof.

Section 8 PENALTIES

Section 8.1 It is unlawful for any person to violate this Ordinance. When it appears that a violation of this Ordinance has occurred, the responsible party shall be notified by means of a written Violation Notice. The Violation Notice shall specify the nature of the violation and shall request that the violation be terminated within 30 days from the date appearing on the notice. After thirty (30) days of non-compliance from the time of written notification, the violation of any section of this Ordinance shall be deemed a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 9 ADOPTION AND SIGNATURES

Section 9.1 This Ordinance shall be effective July 1, 2002.

Adopted the 25th day of April, 2002 .

Amended on the 12th day of December, 2002 .

Amended on the 24th day of July, 2003 .

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION