
THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV

JOHN NISSEL, 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**

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 streets 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 their 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 defined as an “Addressable Structure” in this Ordinance. At any time that three or more addressable structures exist or are in the process of being constructed on a right-of-way, a road name shall be applied.

Section 1.2.1 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent, is hereby authorized to approve, assign or change a name to any

street, road or subdivision in the County, as defined in the Jefferson County Subdivision Ordinance, in order to eliminate duplicate or confusingly similar names. The Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to refuse registration of any name that is already in use, confusingly similar to a name already registered, deemed confusing for purposes of emergency response, or deemed inappropriate by the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office.

- Section 1.3 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their 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 change the names of such roads or streets to eliminate such duplication or confusing similarity.

- Section 1.4 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their 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 were funded by the Jefferson County Commission for all unincorporated areas of Jefferson County only during the countywide readdressing project which ended August 2008. All sign installation, relocation or repair costs for newly created or impacted roads after the date of the third ordinance amendment, January 14th, 2010, shall be borne by the owner, resident or land development (subdivision) applicant creating the road name.

- Section 1.5 The “Jefferson County Road Name Index” shall be adopted by the County Commission and filed and maintained in the Jefferson County GIS/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 be limited to avenues, boulevards, highways, lanes, ways, and similar street types.
 - Section 1.5.1 The Subdivision Name list shall be adopted by the County Commission and filed and maintained in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. This listing shall be the official listing of names for subdivisions in Jefferson County and such subdivision are hereby assigned the names listed therein.

 - Section 1.5.2 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent, shall review all requests for new subdivision names within thirty (30) days of receipt in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent, shall provide approval or rejection for subdivision names within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.

- 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 their duly authorized agent, has reason to believe there has been or there exists a violation of this Ordinance, they 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 their agent, shall initiate necessary actions to terminate the violation through criminal or civil measures. If after receiving actual written notice a violator fails to correct the issue and the Coordinator must take legal action, the violator shall be required to pay the costs of said proceedings, including but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees.

Section 2 DEFINITIONS AS USED IN THIS ORDINANCE

- Section 2.1 For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, works and their derivations shall have the meaning that is provided in the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard Guidelines as referenced 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. Numbers are always whole. "Half" numbers are not valid, i.e. *515 ½ Example Street*
- Section 2.2.1 "Physical Location Address" is defined as the full address designation of a structure based upon its physical location. It comprises a Primary Address Number, Street Name, Street Suffix, Directional Prefixes or Suffixes (if applicable), Sub-Address (if applicable), and Postal Community (zip code), i.e. *123 South Example Street, Unit 100, Ranson, WV 25438*.
- Section 2.2.2 "Primary Address Number" is defined as the principal address number of a structure preceding the Street Name in its full address designation, i.e. "*123*" Example Street. Each separate structure shall have its own separate and unique primary address number. Separate primary address numbers may be provided for units comprising a complete, contiguous structure, (i.e. townhomes or duplexes that span multiple parcels/lots, commercial centers or retail complexes, in-law suites, or similar types) provided a separate ground-level external main entrance to each separate unit exists. Units which share a common ground level entrance shall be assigned a

sub-address as defined in the following section.

Section 2.2.3 “Sub-Address” is defined as a number or letter within the main address of a structure for a unit, suite, apartment, or room number following the Street Name in its full address designation, i.e. 123 Example Street, “Apartment 202”, “Unit 100” or “Suite 105.” Structures that are sublet or divided into multiple, distinct units shall share a common primary address but distinguish themselves by a unit, apartment or suite sub-address. Sub-Addresses must be Alpha (“Unit A”) or Numeric (“Suite 105”), but cannot be a combination of both, i.e. (“Apartment 202A,” “Unit 100-B”, and “Suite A-2”). Sub-Addresses will replace any invalid “half” address number. Sub-Addresses are not necessary for townhomes, duplexes, or similar types of dwelling units that span multiple parcels or lots provided each unit has an individual exterior ground level entrance and does not share an entrance with another sub-unit.

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 and legally permitted access to more than two parcels or lots. Private driveways, not providing legal access to three or more addressable structures, shall not be named.

Section 2.3.1 “Street Suffix” is the suffix of the road or street and the only suffixes eligible for use shall be those listed on the “Jefferson County Street Suffix Definitions” document maintained in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office.

Section 2.3.2 “Postal Community” is defined as a United States Postal Service (USPS) Zip Code that provides rural delivery. Access to the structure within such a USPS Zip Code will determine the “Town” portion of the physical location address, not municipal boundaries, unincorporated villages or even State jurisdiction, i.e. *123 South Example Street, Unit 100, Ranson, WV 25438.*

If a property is accessed from a road entrance located in a Virginia zip code, that structure will have a Virginia physical location address. In such case, the Tax Map and Tax records will verify Jefferson County and West Virginia jurisdiction or citizenship.

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

Beginning from the road’s point of origin a structure 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. Any road not having an intersecting road along its length, also known as a dead end road, shall be assigned the point of origin at the entry point of the road. Address numbers must be sequential relative to neighboring address numbers on both sides of the road.

- 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 a residential building, mobile home park, commercial building, industrial building, office building, public building, utility, or communications tower.
- Section 2.7.1 “Addressable Structure” is defined as any place a person would “live”, “work”, “worship” or “play”. The structure must be permitted, permanently anchored, and in compliance with all applicable impact fee, building code, subdivision, and/or zoning regulations. An address is designed to identify a structure, which is primarily intended to have regular human occupancy, in the event of an emergency. An address is not designed to get mail or deliveries at otherwise predominantly vacant properties. Should the Addressing Coordinator determine that an application for a physical address is being made solely for deliveries, it can be denied.
- Section 2.7.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Addressing Coordinator to interpret this definition in accordance to the stipulations of this Ordinance and the Jefferson County Addressable/Non- Addressable Structure Guide.
- Section 2.8 “Display” as used herein is the manner in which 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, non-approved numbers, illegal or non-approved road signs, or illegal attachments to road signs.
- 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.

Section 2.12 “Addressing Office”, “GIS Office”, or “Geographic Information Systems” is the County-staffed office responsible for managing and maintaining the responsibilities for addressing, road naming and mapping in Jefferson County. The Addressing Coordinator will work within the confines of this office or department.

Section 2.13 “Access” is the primary entry point onto the property and into the structure. Access may be the driveway or a direct, perpendicular line from the front door to the street. It shall be the responsibility of the Addressing Coordinator to determine the appropriateness in any instance. The access point on the road determines the address number according to the Number Assignment Formula.

Section 3 STRUCTURE AND LOCATION NUMBERING AND DISPLAY

Section 3.1 Whenever any house, building, or addressable 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 them 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 3.1.1 Any structure situated on a “corner lot” and having roads along two sides of the structure may have two possible access points. Consequently, that structure may be addressed from the street facing the primary entry to the center of the structure, or from where the driveway leading to the structure intersects the right-of-way, whichever is more appropriate. It shall be the responsibility of the Addressing Coordinator to determine the appropriateness in this instance.

Section 3.2 An application for a building permit for a new addressable structure shall be considered an application for an address assignment. The Jefferson County Engineering Department shall coordinate with the Jefferson

County GIS/Addressing Office for the assignment of addresses. No address shall be assigned until the building permit has been issued. The address shall be issued no later than thirty (30) days following identification of address and shall be installed on the structure prior to final inspection from the Jefferson County Engineering Department.

Section 3.2.1 Per inspection requirement for building permits, an occupancy permit for any structure erected or repaired shall be withheld until the permanent and proper address numbers have been affixed to such structure in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.

Section 3.2.2 If a previously addressed structure is demolished or burned down, that address will be removed until a building permit for a new structure has been issued. The old address does not automatically transfer to the new structure. Any replacement structure is subject to the Number Assignment Formula based on current access to a named road.

Section 3.2.3 If a landowner reconfigures their driveway, access easement, private road or significantly alters the access point location, the address number shall be changed per the Number Assignment Formula and Interval.

Section 3.2.4 The combination of such an address number, the road or street name, applicable sub addresses, and the postal community shall be the official address of such primary structure. The U.S. Post Office has adopted the physical addressing system implemented by the County. A resident may not use an alternate address for rural delivery mail that is different from their officially assigned physical address.

Section 3.3 Display of Number – Residential Structure – Each primary structure shall display the number of the address assigned to it. The street number for residences shall be in accordance with The International Residential Code (IRC) Section R319.1; Site Address Code. The numbers shall be in Arabic numerals at least four (4) 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, so that it is visible from both directions of travel. Address numbers are to be a contrasting color to the background on which they are mounted.

Section 3.4 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 3.5 Display of Number – Commercial and Industrial Structure – Address numbers for commercial and industrial structures shall follow International Building Code (IBC) Section 501.2; Address Identification code regulations of at least four (4) 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-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 3.6 Display of Number – Apartments and Similar – The address number assigned to a single building number shall be displayed on each structure according to specifications in Section 3.5, Display of Number – Commercial and Industrial Structure. 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 according to specifications in Section 3.3, Display of Number – Residential Structure.
- Section 3.6.1 Display of Number – Mobile Home Park and Similar – If applicable, the main address to the mobile home park must be posted at the entrance of the park according to specifications in Section 3.5, Display of Number – Commercial and Industrial Structure. In all cases, individual mobile homes must be posted according to the specifications in Section 3.3, Display of Number – Residential Structure.
- Section 3.8 All costs to individuals or households in complying with this section of the Ordinance shall be borne by that individual or household.
- Section 3.9 Effective with amendment #3, January 14th, 2010, all sub-address numbers assigned to a unit, suite, apartment, etc. shall follow the Jefferson County Addressing Model Guidelines.
- Section 3.10 Temporary addresses will be available only for construction trailer offices and for similar purposes. Anyone desiring a temporary address shall execute an agreement with the GIS/Addressing Office that acknowledges that the address being provided is a temporary address to be used for not more than one year from the date of issuance. Temporary addresses cannot be relocated, reassigned, re-accessed or made permanent at the discretion of anyone other than the Addressing Coordinator or their duly authorized agent.

To obtain a temporary address, the applicant shall provide a small area map which contains the location of the temporary addressable structure, the nature of the structure and the vehicular path by which one accesses

the temporary structure from the closest named road.

Section 4 ROAD AND SUBDIVISION 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 4.1.1 Road names listed as “reserved” on the “Jefferson County Road Name Index” shall be held in reserve status for no longer than five years from the date the road name was approved and placed into reserve. After such time, the GIS/Addressing Office will review the project status for the purpose of identifying road names for removal from or retention in the official Road Name Index.

Section 4.2 No street within the County, currently shown on a recorded deed, subdivision plat or assigned to a new subdivision plat, shall be considered official until such name is registered with the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office, approved, and added to the Jefferson County Road Name Index.

Section 4.2.1 The Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, shall have final authority exclusive in the area of road naming within the entire County in order to ensure that road names are not duplicated or confusingly similar to a name already registered, deemed confusing for purposes of emergency response, or deemed inappropriate by the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office.

Section 4.2.2 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator or their duly authorized agent, shall review all requests for new road names within thirty (30) days of receipt in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. In accordance with the Jefferson County Road Naming Petition, The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator or their duly authorized agent shall provide approval or rejection for road names, within thirty (30) days from receipt of the request.

Section 4.3 Road names shall not duplicate road names already assigned, regardless of road name prefixes or suffixes, except for roads located within different corporations and grandfathered into the road network and approved by the County Commission as inclusion in the Road Name Index at the time the Road Name Index was first approved by the County Commission on February 23, 2003. The four cardinal points of the compass may be used as a prefix, but not a suffix, to designate portions of a continuous street.

Section 4.3.1 All named roads must intersect and have defined connections to another

named roadway within the road network.

Section 4.3.2 A “court” shall be considered a road ending in a dead-end, such as a cul-de-sac, and cannot have any other roadway along its length except for the road that the court originally intersects.

Section 4.4 Identical or confusingly similar road names shall not be differentiated by changing the road name suffix. (i.e., Birch Street and Birch Avenue) nor by adding a cardinal point suffix (i.e., Example Street and Example Street North).

Section 4.5 A road shall have only one name throughout its entire length unless approved as an exception by the County Commission. A road name can only change names at defined intersections where a traffic control device exists, such as at an intersection controlled by a stop light or stop signs. An example of this is a 4-way stop sign controlled intersection. The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to interpret and apply as appropriate.

Section 4.5.1 Wherever possible, a road name shall continue directly straight across at any intersection and not turn right or left on a different path or direction as it approaches the intersection. Road names that are disconnected or not continuous in a direct and straight forward path, but rather turn at intersections are opportunities for confusion when travelling along the road.

Section 4.5.2 The third addressable structure built on a right-of-way not otherwise named causes the right-of-way to be named. The GIS/Addressing Office shall coordinate and oversee the naming of the right-of-way. The owners of any parcels legally accessing a recorded right-of-way required to be named have the naming rights of the right-of-way, as do the owners of any parcel the recorded right-of-way traverses. The GIS/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. All unique property owners shall have only one (1) vote regardless of how many lots are owned along the road. The County requires proof, by official County petition form, that all parties involved have a part in the petition process. If agreement of a road name does not occur within the stipulated timeframe, the County shall have the authority to name the road.

Section 4.6 Any change to an existing, official road name in the unincorporated parts of the County must be initiated by a petition requesting the change in name and signed by owners of eighty percent (80%) of the parcels on the street whose name is proposed to be changed. The petition to change shall be

filed with and reviewed by the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. Such petition should not be filed until the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent, confirms the availability of the proposed name, but not later than thirty (30) 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 make payment to the County for the actual costs incurred by the name change, including the total costs for all road signs affected 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.

- Section 4.7 Subdivision name approval is required for all “conventional” subdivision projects as defined by the Jefferson County Subdivision Ordinance (Sec 20.202).
Subdivision names are not required for “minor” subdivisions or family transfers as defined by the Subdivision Ordinance (Sec 20.201). The Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office, or the duly authorized agent, shall have final authority exclusive in the area of subdivision naming within the entire County in order to ensure that subdivision names are not duplicated or confusingly similar to a name already registered, deemed confusing for purposes of emergency response, or deemed inappropriate by the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office.
- Section 4.7.1 No subdivision name currently shown on a subdivision plat or land development application filed with the County shall be implemented by a subdivision owner or developer until such name has been registered with the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office, approved, and added to the Jefferson County Subdivision Name Index. The Jefferson County GIS/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 GIS/Addressing Office.
- Section 4.7.2 The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator or their duly authorized agent, shall review all requests for new subdivision names within thirty (30) days of receipt in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator or their duly authorized agent shall provide approval or rejection for subdivision names, within thirty

(30) days from receipt of the request.

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. Basic dimensions are illustrated in the Jefferson County Subdivision Ordinance Standard Details. 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 with the standards of street sign specifications in this Ordinance. To ensure uniformity of street signs throughout Jefferson County, the signs shall be in conformance with 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 owner of the newly built addressable structure or newly subdivided lot 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. 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 5.2.2 Except as approved by the County Commission, no other object or 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 their own post. Neither sign blades nor posts shall be altered in appearance or in installation location other than by the County.
- Section 5.2.3 Any sign displaying the name of a subdivision, property name, family name, or structure name (i.e. historic structure) shall not resemble a street name sign nor in any way be confused with a Jefferson County street sign. Any such sign shall not have in it any street name suffix. Any private signs

that resemble road name signs, and thus could be confusing to emergency responders, must be removed upon request of the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office. Further, all signs must comply with all Jefferson County signage ordinance requirements.

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 with the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways as defined in the “Standards for the Design and Installation of Road Name Signing” published March 1999 (Appendix A). 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 current edition of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices 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 with 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 GIS/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.

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 current edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. 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 GIS/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 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 ¼" x 2 ¼" 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 GIS/Addressing Office shall have the authority to identify and cause installation of the proper amount of signs at a given intersection as deemed necessary.

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.

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

Where possible, the County or its contractor shall place signs within established rights-of-way. If a sign cannot be placed within a right-of-way due to general guidelines involving safety and line of sight, the County may place a sign on private property.

Section 5.3.4 Sign blades must be clear of vegetation, debris or any other object that may obstruct its view from motorists. The County may, but is not required to, clear vegetation as necessary to ensure visibility of any road sign.

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.

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 GIS/Addressing Office. The maps and explanatory matter thereon may be amended, modified, or changed at the direction of the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator, or their duly authorized agent.

Section 6.2 Mapping accuracy and consistency in the application of this ordinance is imperative for delivery of emergency services. As the Addressing Coordinator strives to improve such accuracy and consistency, they or the duly authorized agent, is authorized to correct any found errors or inconsistencies.

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

Section 7.1 Any requests concerning road name changes, addressing complaints and/or general administration of this ordinance will first be directed to the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator within thirty (30) days from the time of road name or address assignment. The Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator will review the requests or complaints and will make a decision pursuant to the terms of the Ordinance.

Section 7.1.1 If the decision of the Jefferson County Addressing Coordinator does not

satisfy the individuals' concern, they may appeal the decision to the Jefferson County Commission for final disposition; provided, however, that all such appeals must be filed in writing 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. Only misinterpretation, misapplication of the ordinance, or staff error may be appealed. All such appeals shall be decided on or before 30 days after the appeal is filed or heard, whichever is later.

- Section 7.2 Past decisions by the Addressing Coordinator do not set precedent for future determinations in mapping, addressing or administration of this ordinance.
- 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.
- Section 7.4.1 The Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office will comply with all West Virginia state policies, statutes, and regulations regarding addressing, road naming, street signage, and dissemination of addressing data.
- 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 7.6 Relationship between physical location address and tax map or legal Deed description – The physical location address is a label to identify an addressable structure or unit(s) within a structure. This address may function as a mailing address for onsite or rural delivery services. It does not legally designate a property, parcel or lot by itself. It may support the identity of a property in conjunction with the Tax District, Map and Parcel number of the lot as defined by the Jefferson County Assessor's Office. The legal description of a property shall be identified by the boundary description in the Deed first and then the Tax District, Map and Parcel number second. The physical location address of any structure on said lot is non-essential to the legal description. Where a physical location address exists in any legal document that does not match the correct physical location address, the GIS/Addressing Office can provide the correct

address to the proper authority.

- Section 7.7 Cross References –
- National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Standard Guidelines
 - International Building Code (IBC) 2012
 - adopted by Jefferson County 9/1/13
 - International Residential Code (IRC) 2009
 - adopted by Jefferson County 9/1/13
 - Standards for the Design and Installation of Road Name Signing (March 1999 Appendix A).
 - Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs (FHWA)
 - Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (USDoT, FHWA)
 - Jefferson County Subdivision Ordinance
 - *Jefferson County Addressable/Non-Addressable Structure Guide
 - *Jefferson County Addressing Model guidelines.
 - *Jefferson County Street Suffix Definitions
 - *Jefferson County Road Name Index
 - *Jefferson County Road Naming Petition
 - *Jefferson County Subdivision Name Index
 - * maintained as policy documents in the Jefferson County GIS/Addressing Office

Section 8 CRIMINAL 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. The criminal violation is in addition to any civil remedy available to enforce compliance with the Ordinance.

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 .


Amended on the 14th day of January, 2010 .

Amended on the 19th day of May, 2016 .

Amended on the 1st day of December, 2022 .

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

Amended this 1st day of December, 2022 .

BY: 
President of the Commission

This document supersedes Book 1175
Page 571, originally recorded 6/27/2016.

ATTEST: 