

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Westmoreland County Land Bank Selects Local Developer's Proposal for the  
Jeannette Route 30 Redevelopment Project**  
*Former Abandoned Hospital to Soon be "Jayhawk Commons"*

**GREENSBURG (August 30)** - The Board of Directors of the Westmoreland County Land Bank today announced its recommendation to accept the proposal from local developer Colony Holding Companies to develop the Jeannette Route 30 Redevelopment Project.

North Huntingdon-based Colony Holding will acquire the 6.4-acre site for \$2.1 million with plans to develop the site for "Jayhawk Commons" –a mix of commercial and retail space.

"The award to Colony is very satisfying – a very successful local organization that sees the potential for this site, with a development and construction team from entirely within Westmoreland County," said David Johnston, Westmoreland County Land Bank Chairperson.

Colony has led many other notable commercial developments in Westmoreland County, including Norwin Town Square, Huntingdon Marketplace and Office Park in North Huntingdon Township, Wildcat Commons in Unity Township, Countryside Shopping Center in East Huntingdon Township, and many other multi and single use tenant developments throughout the county.

"We are truly flattered by the Land Bank's recommendation. We have long recognized the potential for the property, but because of the liens that saddled it there had not been a potential for re-development. We are grateful for the Land Bank's hard work on this project to make it possible for our vision to be executed on this historically significant property. Jayhawk Commons will mark only the third use for the property in over 150 years, and for that we are humbled to write history on behalf of Jeannette and its citizens," said Don Tarosky, Jr. of Colony Holding Companies.

The Westmoreland County Land Bank acquired the abandoned Monsour Medical Center along Route 30 in 2014, in one of the first major actions of the new agency created by the Westmoreland County Commissioners to combat blight in the county. Following the acquisition, the Westmoreland County Land Bank worked with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation to release their \$3.2 million federal lien on the site. In addition, the Land Bank had the task of removing the \$4.7 million IRS lien associated with the property.

Through the cooperation of the Land Bank and Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, and using a combination of county, state and federal funds, over a three year period the site was cleared of liens and environmental hazards, the buildings were demolished, and the area was prepared for reuse.

“This is the Land Bank’s signature project, and it really demonstrates the significant positive impact we have on eliminating blight in our communities,” said April Kopas, Executive Director of the Westmoreland County Land Bank. “We are confident in Colony’s strong proposal and their proven history of redevelopment to make this former eyesore productive once again and contribute significantly to our local economy and the local tax base.”

Before the Land Bank enters into a formal agreement with Colony Holding Companies, the Board of Directors for Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (the Westmoreland County Commissioners) must take action on the recommendation. That is expected to occur September 7.

“I am confident the process used to select a developer successfully identified a proven performer that will have the most impact on the county and the City of Jeannette,” said Jason Rigone, Executive Director of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation. “So many partners have worked to get us to this point, and I am looking forward to making the final recommendation to bring this important project to completion.”

For more information on the Westmoreland County Land Bank and the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, visit [www.co.westmoreland.pa.us](http://www.co.westmoreland.pa.us).

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