

Dilapidated & Abandoned Enforcement Agency

The Putnam County Dilapidated and Abandoned Enforcement Agency (DAEA) was established in March 2000 in order to clear properties of dilapidated and abandoned structures. In 2007, nine (9) written complaints were received and logged as new cases by the Office of Planning and Infrastructure for the DAEA. Upon inspection of a complaint, staff sends a “Notice of Complaint” letter to the property owner, providing the owner the opportunity to clear their property of the identified hazards prior to a public hearing. More and more, landowners are voluntarily clearing their property prior to DAEA or County Commission action.

Putnam County is one of the first counties in West Virginia to implement a program for the removal of dilapidated and abandoned structures. The procedures established in Putnam County have been a role model for other counties in the state. Amendments to the Ordinance were adopted in 2006, which specified more precise jurisdiction.

All nine (9) of the 2007 submitted complaints were closed by the end of the year. Staff continues to review and monitor cases from prior years. Of the one-hundred seventy-two (172) cases logged from 2000 - 2006, only seven (7) remain open. At least four of those cases were expected to be closed at the January 2008 DAEA meeting.

The DAEA consists of six members, and meetings are held quarterly (January, April, July and October) on the third Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the courthouse. Members for 2007 were Sheriff Mark Smith (ex officio), Carey Eden (health department representative), Nyle Whittington (fire department representative), Lee McCoy (county engineer representative), plus Deborah Gillispie and Trena Smith (members at large). Linda Bess serves as planning staff for this agency.

<i>DAEA Case Chart</i>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Complaints Submitted</i>	<i>Open Cases</i>
2000	32	1
2001	45	0
2002	36	0
2003	22	0
2004	11	1
2005	12	1
2006	14	4
2007	9	0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>7</i>