

Monroe Commission Re-elects Ashley as President

The Monroe County Commission held their first meeting of the New Year on January 2, 2014. This meeting date was changed from January 1st due to the New Year's holiday.

The first order of business for the County Commission was to elect a President for the upcoming year. Commissioner Shane Ashley was again reelected as President of the County Commission.

Commissioner Ashley then called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Commissioner agreed to represent the County Commission on the following committees and boards for the upcoming year; Region 1 Planning and Development Council- Commissioner Ashley, Farmland Protection Board – Commissioner Gum, Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Committee- Commissioner Gum, Mountain RC&D – Commissioner Gum, WVU Extension Board – Commissioner Miller and Council on Aging – Joyce Pritt for the County Commission.

The Clerk advised Commissioners that a legal notice was recently placed in the local newspaper advising the County Commission was seeking Expressions of Interest from those architects and engineers who are interested in designing the sprinkler system for the Courthouse. The County Commission was recently awarded a Governor's Community Participation Grant in the amount of \$100,000 for the purpose of installing a sprinkler system.

At the request of Debbie Boggs, the County Commission adopted a proclamation declaring the month of January as National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in Monroe County.

The County Commission accepted a proposal from Greener Pastures to install a timer on the Courthouse boiler. Commissioner Gum advised this timer would save the county money on Courthouse heating costs.

Assessor Norbert Netzel appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Netzel previously made the County Commission aware that his office applied for a grant in the amount of \$28,500.00 to digitize the county's tax maps. Netzel said he should hear sometime next week if his grant application was approved. Netzel said he received two proposals to perform the digitization of these maps. One was from Atlas Geographic Data in the amount of \$46,298.00 and the other proposal was from Anderson and Associates for \$89,895.00. Netzel advised he has selected Atlas Geographic to perform this work. Netzel stated he had secured other funding separate from the grant if such grant should be approved. The County Commission thanked Netzel for his efforts in trying to get these maps digitized.

Keith Wickline of Lindside appeared before the County Commission to advise Commissioners that he was planning on running for House of Delegates in the 26th Delegate District in the upcoming May 2014 Primary Election.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from Dave McClure, President of Highland Towers. In his letter, McClure said the installation of the cell phone tower just south of Lindside is complete.

Sierra Tanner, Case Manager for the Summers/Monroe Day Report Center, appeared before the County Commission to provide an update of Day Report Center. Ms. Tanner said Monroe County presently has 22 participants in the program and some participants are taking various classes and were performing community service throughout the county.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report; Galford's received three calls, Neel's two and Clarkson's and Wilson's received one call each. Wilson reported the 911 Center received 116 law enforcement related calls for the month of December and 224 Emergency Medical Services calls and 35 fire calls. For the year, Wilson said the Center received 1,237 law enforcement calls, 2,663 EMS calls and 428 fire calls. Wilson reported that he has hired two part time dispatchers and both are working out well thus far. At Wilson's request, the County Commission authorized Anderson & Associates to provide refresher training to 911 staff on the postal conversion process.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that he recently submitted a drawdown invoice in the amount of \$5,600.00 to the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program. The county received a \$10,000.00 grant to reimburse the county for the supplies and materials purchased for the Boy Scout Community Service Projects performed throughout the county back in May.

Ann Rodes, Director for the Office of Emergency Services, appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Rodes provided the Commission with the projects she had completed and the training she has acquired during her first six months of employment. Ms. Rodes also presented her goals for 2014 for the Office of Emergency Services.

In accordance with WV Code 11-3-24, the County Commission scheduled the annual Board of Equalization and Review hearings. They are as follows; January 31st, February 6th and February 12th. All hearings will be held at 6:00 pm in the Commission's meeting room at the Courthouse in Union. The purpose of Board of Equalization meetings is for the board to review and equalize tax assessments made by the Assessor. Taxpayers who feel their real estate tax assessment is incorrect or unfair may appeal their tax assessment to the Board of Equalization and Review at one of these meetings.

The Board of Equalization has determined that the best evidence to prove, by clear and convincing evidence, that the Assessor's tax assessment is incorrect is to provide the board with an appraisal of the subject property, performed by a certified real estate appraiser, dated within the last three years.

The Board is prohibited from addressing concerns over property classification at these meetings. Classification issues must be addressed with the Assessor. The Board is also prohibited from addressing the issue of a taxpayer failing to file their Farm Census Form with the Assessor by the deadline set by WV Code. To schedule a hearing with the Board of Equalization, please call 772-3096.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on February 5, 2014 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse.

