

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on January 6, 2016 at the Courthouse. Commission President Clyde Gum, Jr., called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The first item of business was to elect a President and Vice-President of the Commission for the upcoming year. Commissioner Gum was reelected as President and Commissioner Bill Miller was reelected as Vice President.

The County Commission appointed Kevin Belcher to the Red Sulphur Public Service District Board of Directors. Mr. Belcher has extensive experience in public water systems. He will replace Jerry Pitzer on the board. Mr. Pitzer didn't wish to be reconsidered for reappointment when his term expired on January 7th. There were two other individuals besides Belcher who submitted their names to the County Commission for consideration of this appointment.

The County Commission reviewed invoices from the county's volunteer fire departments. These invoices, which cover the period of October, November and December 2015, will be paid from fire levy funds. The total of invoices broken down by department is as follows; Peterstown VFD \$11,976.94, Ballard VFD \$9,380.31, Lindside VFD \$17,252.37 and Union VFD \$9,234.72. Each department receives approximately \$45,000 annually from the fire levy. Invoices are submitted to the County Commission quarterly for their review and approval.

The Commission revised the monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts, a letter from Suddenlink advising of a rate increase, and voted to take sealed bids on the Animal Control Officer's truck that was recently taken out of service.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from Peterstown Fire and Rescue advising that effective January 4, 2016, Peterstown Ambulance will either have a paid emergency medical technician or paramedic on station from 7:00 am till 7:00 pm. The letter went on to say that during the times noted above, this paramedic will be the primary medic for Peterstown Ambulance and the medic will be in charge of patient care for Peterstown and any other medics will be utilized at the discretion of the Peterstown medic.

The County Clerk provided Commissioners with mid year budget report for their review. The Clerk said the county's revenues and expenditures were running pretty much in line with the amounts budgeted for each for the current year. He said he would have a couple budget revisions to present for approval at the next meeting to bring revenue received from a couple state grants into the budget.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, provided the monthly and annual 911 Center Call Report. For the month of December the center received 136 law enforcement calls, 131 EMS calls and 28 fire related calls. For the year, the center received 2,064 law enforcement calls, 1,995 EMS calls and 454 fire calls. The monthly Wrecker Response Report for December is as follows; Galford's

received four calls, Neel's three and Clarkson's received one. Wilson said the recorder used to record all calls coming into the Center is due for its annual maintenance however he planned to attend a webinar next week to look at the newest recorders available. He said he would report back to the Commission at their next meeting.

James Jackson and his wife of Wolf Creek appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Jackson said that an individual, who later was determined to have health problems, had his truck across the road they live on and no one could get in or out. He inquired why it took so long for a Deputy Sheriff to respond after he called 911. Sheriff Gravely told Mr. Jackson said he was awaiting a report from the particular deputy and would provide him an answer once he has the report.

House of Delegate Dave Perry appeared before the County Commission. Delegate Perry introduced himself and told Commissioners he was running for the WV Senate and is seeking the seat currently held by Senator Bill Laird. Laird has elected not to seek reelection. Monroe County is included in this particular senate district that Perry is running for. The County Commission asked Delegate Perry his stance on several issues directly related to Monroe County.

The County Commission adopted a resolution designating the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation to represent Monroe County for purposes for participating in the Local Economic Development Grant Program.

The Commission entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Region I Planning and Development Corporation for the purpose of establishing a commitment from and a cooperative working relationship between the county and Region 1 in the development and implementation of the Region 1 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Jeff Jones, the county's Director of Emergency Management, appeared before the County Commission. At the request of the County Commission, Jones said he recently visited the Second Creek area to see if someone was damming up the creek. Jones said there was no one "damming up the creek". Jones said an individual who owns property joining the creek is stabilizing the banks of the creek with rocks. He said the property owner had all the required permits from the Army Corps of Engineers required to be in the creek and the Department of Environmental Protection r senced conducted an on-site visit of the project. On another matter, Jones said he was planning to have the county's Emergency Operation Plan updated and would keep the Commission briefed as this project moves along.

The County Commission reviewed a list of individuals who are going to be asked to serve on the EMS committee. The Commission is charging this committee to come up with a recommendation on how emergency medical services should be provided throughout the county in the next five and ten years.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from Suddenlink advising that Suddenlink customers here in the county would see a rate increase in the near future. The Clerk reminded Commissioners that the annual WVACo meeting is February 7-9 and Board of Equalization meetings are scheduled for February 1st, February 5th, February 11th and February 17th. All meetings will be held at 6:30 pm in the Commission's meeting room at the Courthouse. To meet with the Board to appeal your tax assessment, as assessed by the Assessor, please call 72-3096 to schedule an appointment at one of these meetings.

Jim Nelson, CEO of the Monroe Health Center, appeared before the Commission. Mr. Nelson inquired about the property boundary lines for the Health Center in Union. Nelson said the parking lot at the Health Center in Union needs to be expanded and there was some discussion of adding on to the center. The Clerk told Mr. Nelson a survey of Health Center should be recorded in the record room and he would check to see.

The Commission reviewed two estate matters and approved five final estate settlements.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on January 20, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse. To be placed on the County Commission's agenda please call 772-3096