

## Monroe Commission Holds February Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on February 5, 2014 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the Town of Peterstown advising that Scott Boggess has resigned as Mayor and the town council has appointed Town Recorder Mike Lively as Mayor. Council member Richie Holiday was appointed as recorder.

Assessor Norb Netzel met with the County Commission and advised his grant application to WV Geographic Survey was denied. Netzel was seeking funding to digitize the county's tax maps. He said he would proceed with this project as he has some funding available in his Assessor's Valuation budget and the company that has been selected to perform the work, Atlas Geographic Data, has offered Netzel a lease/purchase agreement with a low interest rate and a down payment.

At the request of Magistrates Kevin Miller and Nancy Crews, the County Commission approved the installation of an additional phone line in the Magistrate's Office. Miller said the office was getting a new computer system installed and this additional line is needed for this new system.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts and reviewed the Loss Run Report provided by the WV Counties Risk Pool, the county's insurance provider.

County Clerk Donald J. Evans provided a report on the Statewide Preservation Project. This project is being conducted by the WV Records Management and Preservation Program, a division of WV Culture and History, and consists of scanning the deed books that haven't been scanned in the Courthouse record room, dating back to when the county was formed in 1799. Evans reported that 70 books have been scanned to date. The scanning of these deeds will provide a digital backup of the deeds. In addition, the Clerk announced that he has been awarded a second grant from the Records Management and Preservation Board in the amount of \$10,000.00. Evans said these grant funds will be used to pay Clerk's staff overtime for indexing the deeds that have been scanned by the Statewide Preservation Project. This indexing must be performed in the evenings and weekends and cannot be performed during the Clerk's staff normal working hours. Once the deeds have been indexed they can be searched via the Clerk's Office Document Inquiry System. Evans said by having the ability to search deed records electronically will save wear and tear on the deed book and pages since they won't have to be handled to be copied.

The County Commission signed grant contracts for the Circuit Clerk's Office and Monroe Public Library. These two entities have been approved for grants from the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program. The library will receive \$1000.00 to purchase a new computer and the Circuit Clerk's Office will receive \$4,500.00 to replace the furnishings in the Jury Room.

Acting on a previous request, the County Commission agreed to change the name of the John Dowdy road to the Becky Jane Holler road. Tim Wilson, 911 Director, named this road when he was conducting the 911 Mapping and

Addressing. The County Commission, sometime later, received a petition from several residents asking the Commission to change the name of this road back to the Becky Jane Holler road, the name the road had always been referred to.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the design bids for the Courthouse Sprinkler System are due Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk said he has received inquiries from two companies thus far concerning the bids. The Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority recently awarded the County Commission a \$100,000 grant to install such sprinkler system.

Bill Shiflet appeared before the County Commission and advised the northern part of the county needed a public water system. Commissioners explained the process to Shiflet on how to get such a project on the list for funding consideration from the Small Cities Block Grant Funding Program.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners, that Jeremy Meadows, an employee in his office and the county's Technology Specialist, has designed a Voter's Registration Precinct Location Map. This map, which is posted on the county's website, will allow an individual to find their house, click on it and find which voting precinct they have been assigned to and directions to such precinct. The Clerk said this is another resource that can be used by voters if they are unsure which precinct they have been assigned to. The Clerk said voters are still welcome to call the Clerk's Office to obtain this information.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission providing an update of 911 Center activities. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report. He said Galford's received seven calls, Neel's had six, Clarkson received three calls and Dunbar's and Wilson's each received one call. Wilson also reported the 911 Center received 123 Law Enforcement related calls for the month of January, 217 Emergency Medical Service calls and 43 fire calls. The County Commission accepted a proposal from Greener Pastures, Inc. to provide maintenance on the generator at the Emergency Communications Tower on Bickett Knob. At the request of Wilson, Commissioners authorized two dispatchers to attend training in Institute, WV.

The County Commission reviewed an Appraisal Report containing the appraised values of all county-owned property. American Appraisals conducted the appraisals at the request of the WV Counties Risk Pool, the county's insurance provider.

A public hearing was held on this day to hear public input on the proposed Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance as prepared by the county's Planning Commission. Attending the hearing was Planning Commission members Garry Taylor, Chuck Nikolaus, and Rocky Parsons, Richard Ettleston, Justin St. Clair, Prosecuting Attorney, and Tim Wilson, 911 Director. Mr. Ettleston of Waiteville spoke and said he didn't want to see cellular towers ruining the beauty of Monroe County and he certainly didn't want to see a red light flashing in his house at night. The Commission told Mr. Ettleston that one benefit of the ordinance was the fact that the County Commission would have to approve any location proposed for a cell tower. No action was taken on the ordinance as the County Commission asked the Prosecuting Attorney to make some changes to the ordinance before they act on the ordinance.

The County Commission approved 12 final estate settlements and four exonerations.

The next regular meeting of the County Commission will be March 5, 2014 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. To be placed on the Commission's agenda, please call 772-3096.