

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on May 4, 2016 at the Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Clyde Gum, Jr., President of the Commission followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Melissa Hodges, the Executive Director of the Family Resource Network, appeared before the Commission. Ms. Hodges spoke to the Commission about watering coming into the office when it rains. She said there is also some mold on the wall. Commissioner Gum agreed to speak with Kevin Fullen to see if a draining system could possibly be installed there to drain the water away from the building. The Clerk stated this had been a problem at that office for many years.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that he received word that the Peterstown Preservation Group was able to acquire the former Terry building in Peterstown. He said he planned to invite a member of this group to the next County Commission meeting to talk about their future plans for the building.

The Clerk reminded Commissioners that canvass proceedings for the May 10, 2016 Primary Election will begin Monday, December 16th at 8:30 am.

Commissioner Gum reported that the Boy Scout will be in the county next year performing community service projects as they did two or three years ago. Anyone interested in serving as County Champion should contact the Commission. The Champion, which is a volunteer position, oversees and coordinates all the projects the scouts will be working on here in the county.

The County Clerk reported that the renewal for the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool, which is the county's insurance provider, has been completed and mailed and the county should be receiving a quote soon on the premium for the year 2016-2017.

A public hearing was held on this day to allow public comments on the county submitting a grant to the WV Office of Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Program. The county is seeking funding to purchase two generators to be used in a weather emergency or other disaster. Jeff Jones, the county's Director of Emergency Management and Region One Planning and Development Council is assisting with preparing the application.

The County Clerk reported that all voting machines have been tested and are ready to use on Election Day.

The County Clerk reported that the amount of delinquent taxes currently total \$544,000 of which \$136,000 is the county's portion and the balance is the Board of Education's portion.

Commissioner Ashley reported that Richard Miller, Chief of Lindside Volunteer Department, is in the process of preparing an excess levy call, which if approved by the voters, would provide

funding to the county's rescue squads. The County Commission would have to approve the levy before placing it on the General Election ballot.

The County Commission agreed to enter into a contract with RAJCO from Parkersburg. RAJCO will review the County's phone bills to see if the county is getting what it's paying for. In addition, they will check to see if the county is getting the best available rates. This audit is no cost to the county since RAJCO receives their payment from 50% of the savings they find for the county. If no savings are found, RAJCO receives nothing. This is the third audit RAJCO has performed for the county over the years.

The Clerk advised Commissioners that the Division of Criminal Justice and Community Services recently conducted an on site review for the Prevention Resource Office Grant Program. The Clerk advised the county received a great rating for the review. Participating in this review was President Gum, Superintendent Joetta Basile, Officer Mike Heller and Donald J. Evans, County Clerk.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, advised Commissioners that the cost to publish the May 10, 2016 Primary Election was going to be very expensive. Evans said the Delegates to the National Convention will be on the ballot and there are 23 pages of these candidates. He said the County Clerk's Association previously spoke to State Republican Party leaders about electing their delegates at a convention similar to what the Democrat Party does but they refused. Evans said he is in the process of collecting figures from each county as to how much additional cost their county incurred due to having these delegates on the ballot. There are also additional cost to the county be electing these delegates at an election, said Evans. The labor cost is more for the absentee Clerk's who enter the absentee ballots into the electronic voting machines. Evans, who is President of the WV County Clerk's Association, said the Association plans to take these additional cost back to the leadership to see if they will reconsider their decision.

The County Commission reappointed Sue Clewell to the Monroe Board of Health, approved two exonerations and two parcel consolidation requests and seven final estate settlements.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the Commission. Wilson provided the mostly Wrecker Response Report. It is as follows; Clarkson's received five calls and Neel's and Galford's received four calls each. Wilson reported that the 911 Center received 148 law enforcement calls for the month of April, 38 fire calls and 149 EMS calls. At the request of Wilson, 911 Director, Commissioners approved the purchase an upgrade to the current recorder at a cost of \$11,000.00. This recorder is used to record all 911 radio traffic. Wilson advised Commissioners that a new cell tower is being proposed to be installed near the Monroe/Summers county line. Wilson said the Planning Commission is considering not approving the installation of this tower until the cell companies get a couple of the towers previously installed in the county operational.

Jeff Jones, the county's Director of Emergency Management, appeared before the County Commission. Jones provided the Commission with an update on the complaints filed under the

county's Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance. He reported that part II of the THIRA grant is due June 30th. Jones reported that recently submitted a grant to purchase new mobile radios for law enforcement cruisers. He said the request was for \$75,000 and he received a call last week asking if he could work with \$60,000. Jones said he advised he could. He also reported that he was working with Deputy Heller on a exercise at James Monroe sometime in June. Jones said he planned to have a booth at Farmers Day and provide handouts to adults and children.

The County Commission agreed to plan a celebration at the Courthouse for the Robotics team who finished first in the National Championships. More info on this celebration will be announced in the near future.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on May 18, 2016 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse. To be placed on the agenda please call 772 3096_