

## Monroe Commission Meets in Regular Session

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on May 6, 2015 at the Courthouse. Commission Vice –President Bill Miller called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Commission President Clyde Gum, Jr., was absent due to illness.

Anthony Brown, representing the Thrasher Group, appeared before the County Commission providing an update on the installation of the Sprinkler System Project ongoing at the Courthouse. Brown also advised that the Adair Road Water Extension Project didn't qualify for funding through the Small Cities Block Grant Program.

On the recommendation of the Gap Mills Public Service District Board of Directors, the County Commission appointed Bobby Jones to fill a vacancy on the board. Meeting minutes for the PSD were also reviewed.

The County Commission reviewed a Decision Memo from the National Forest Service advising they have authorized EQT, the company proposing to construct a pipeline through the county, to conduct field routing, environmental, cultural resource, and civil surveys within the boundaries of the Jefferson National Forest. It should be noted that the Forest Service expanded the area of surveys on Peters Mountain to include the areas between the proposed route and the boundary of Peters Mountain Wilderness. According to the Forest Service, this expansion will allow evaluation opportunities to cross the Appalachian Trail. This approval does not include actual construction of the pipeline through the National Forest. Such approval requires a separate decision.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Wilson reported the 911 Center received 180 law enforcement calls for the month of May, 170 EMS calls, and 42 fire calls. In his Monthly Wrecker Response Report, Wilson said Neel's received five calls; Galford's had four and Dunbar's received two calls. Wilson said he has received the necessary equipment to install a second workstation in the 911 Center, allowing both dispatchers to run a license check at the same time. He said he hoped to have the equipment installed soon.

Emergency Management Director Jeff Jones appeared before the County Commission. Jones reported that he recently attended a conference at Pipestem State Park covering all types of emergencies. Jones said he obtained some good info at the conference. Jones also advised he at 911 Director Tim Wilson recently a workshop in Beckley on Threat Preparedness.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from Dr. Josh Hunter, DVM, advising he would no longer accepting animals on behalf of county. Commissioner Gum reported that the Animal Control officer has agreed to board the dogs at her residence until permanent solution is worked out.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the National Forest Service advising they have authorized EQT, the company that is proposing to construct a pipeline through the county, to conduct field routing, environmental, cultural resource and civil surveys within the boundaries of the Jefferson National Forest.

Commissioners reviewed and approved the county's insurance proposal for the upcoming fiscal year as prepared by WVCORP, the county's insurance provider.

Travis Jackson of Mountain Motorcycles appeared before the County Commission. Mountain Motorcycles is a motorcycle resort located near Rock Camp on the 500 acre Testerman Farm. Jackson said the resort is currently open on weekends by membership. Members have the opportunity to ride and stay overnight in the newly built cabins on site. Meals are also provided for overnight guests. Jackson said they aren't just targeting the type of motorcyclist who likes dirt riding but they want to serve as an overnight stopping point for those motorcyclists who ride solely on the highway. Jackson, who has previously worked at the Hatfield and McCoy Trails and at Burning Ride ATV, says he understands what it takes to make a resort like this successful. He said there are plenty of places for those with ATV's to ride but not many motorcycle resorts. Jackson said he is joined in the business venture by his brother Adam and mother, Pam.

At the request of Preserve Monroe, the County Commission voted to send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting a 90-day extension to the scoping period for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. The current period is scheduled to close on June 16, 2015.

At the request of Sheriff Mike Gravely, the Commission authorized overtime pay for deputies for Farmer's Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades at Lindside and Alderson. This ensures that each event will have adequate law enforcement coverage.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that the deadline to submit bids to construct the foundation for a future recycling center at the HAM Landfill due May 29<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 pm. HAM provided the county's Solid Waste Authority a 50 year renewable lease on a piece of property on which to construct this center. The County Commission applied for and was awarded a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection Agency to assist with the construction of the foundation for the building.

The County Commission authorized a minor change in the Precinct #31, Red Sulphur, boundary lines. This change was necessary due to the county converting to the 911 style physical addresses. This change will not affect any voters registered in this precinct.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on June 3, 2015 at the Courthouse. Anyone wanting to get on the agenda should call 772-3096.