

Monroe Commission Holds May Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on May 7, 2014 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Dale McCutcheon, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission. McCutcheon reported the Planning Commission was in the process of making the revisions to the Cell Tower Ordinance that were recommended by Justin St. Clair, Prosecuting Attorney. He said the ordinance should be ready to present to the County Commission for action at their June 6th meeting.

County Clerk Donald J. Evans, advised that WI FI has been installed in the Circuit Courtroom and two additional complaints have been filed under the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance. Commissioners agreed to meet on with the members of the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Enforcement Board to review these complaints.

At the request of Assessor Norbert Netzel, the County Commission signed a contract with Atlas Geographic to digitize all of the Assessor's tax maps. Netzel provided the Commission with an update of this project and advised he has hired Roger Johnson as a part time Field Appraiser. The Commission, also at the request of Netzel, approved three parcel consolidations.

Acting on a request from Fred Ziegler, a member of the Monroe Historical Society, the County Commission unanimously agreed to give the Monroe County Historical Society a \$3,000.00 appropriation to be used on the construction of the new Carriage House in Union.

The Clerk advised the County Commission that the county has received two checks from the WV State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Program. One check was for \$423.02 and the other one was for \$250.00. Commissioner Clyde Gum has been working diligently on obtaining these funds on behalf of the county from the State Treasurer.

The County Commission appointed Derick Houchins of Lindside to represent Monroe County on the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation. Oliver Porterfield of Bozoo was also reappointed to the county's Solid Waste Authority.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the Board of Health has invited them to their May 28th meeting as they plan to consider making revisions to the county's Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

Commissioners reviewed an email from Bob Hazelwood, representing Thrasher Engineering. Thrasher is the architect selected by the county to design the Sprinkler System for the Courthouse. Hazelwood advised the design was taking a little longer than planned but should be completed soon. The county was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority to install this system. The county must provide a 20% match.

The County Commission reviewed a recent ruling by the US Supreme Court advising it was permissible to hold prayer at government meetings.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission providing an update on 911 Center activities. Wilson reported the center received a total of

421 calls for the month of April. Of this 421, 235 emergency medical service related calls, 141 calls for law enforcement and 45 fire calls. For the monthly Wrecker Response Report, Wilson said Galford's and Neel's received two calls each and Lee's received one. The County Commission selected Greener Pastures, Inc. to provide the annual maintenance on the county's 150 kW generator at a cost of \$645.00 per year.

The Clerk advised Commissioners the security improvements have been completed at the Magistrate's Office. These improvements were paid from a Court Security Grant. Total cost of the renovations was approximately \$112,000.

At the request of Dale McCutcheon, Chairman of the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee, the County Commission approved the installation of a Water Disinfection System at the Sweet Springs Rescue Squad building. Commissioners agreed to install this system as the building has been designated as an Emergency Shelter in the event of a countywide emergency or disaster. The system, estimated to cost approximately \$2,000, will be paid from a Governor's Community Participation grant.

Commissioner Gum agreed to replace the awning at the downstairs entrance to the Courthouse. Commissioners approved allocating \$500.00 for the materials for this project. Commissioner Gum is volunteering his labor and will not be paid.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from the Division of Culture and History advising that the Gap Valley Historic District (Gap Mills vicinity) will be considered by the WV Archives and History Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The letter stated that the listing of the Gap Valley Historic District provides recognition of the district's historic importance and assures protective review of Federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the district. The letter went on to say that listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the Federal government. It also stated that public visitations are not required of owners and the Federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. The letter also served as an invitation for the County Commission to attend the Archives and History Commission meeting on May 30, 2014 at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg.

Commissioners signed an agreement with the WV Records Management and Preservation Board for a \$10,000.00 grant the County Clerk was awarded to index deed records that were recently scanned under the Statewide Preservation Project.

The County Commission approved six final estate settlements.

The Commission will meet again in regular session on June 6, 2014 beginning at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. If you would like to be placed on the County Commission's agenda, please call 772-3096.