

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. President Clyde Gum, Jr., called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

President Gum, who also is serving as the Project Director for the Courthouse Sprinkler System project, provided an update on the project. Gum said the current Phase II of the project is near complete. The phase included installing the system on the main floor of the Courthouse. Phase III calls for the installation of the system in the Courthouse attic and this will complete the project. Gum said he hopes Phase III can start here in a couple months. Brewer and Company, Inc. is the contractor installing the system.

At the request of the Magistrate's Office, the County Commission approved a new phone system for their office. The county's monthly phone bill for the Magistrates will actually decrease with the purchase of this new system. A new system was also recently installed in the Courthouse. Commissioners also approved the purchase of a new server for the Sheriff's Tax Office and new software that will enable the Tax Office and County Clerk's Office to share information related to county revenues and expenditures.

Ron Robinson, representing American Electric Power, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Robinson stated he is the contact for local government entities. He provided the Commission with a new program offered by AEP. He said customers can now receive an email or text alert detailing estimated restoration time if the power is out in the area in which they live. Customers must visit AEP's website and sign up for this service.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission providing an update of 911 Center activities. He said for the month of June the center received 180 law enforcement related calls, 147 EMS calls and 38 fire calls. For the monthly Wrecker Response Report Wilson stated that Galford's received five calls, Neel's three and Clarkson's, Dunbar's and Anthony's each received one call. Wilson then reported he has ordered the new radios for the three vehicles that will be used by the recently hired Prevention Resource Officers. The Board of Education will be reimbursing the county for this expense from the School Excess Levy. Mr. Wilson advised that Chuck Nikolaus, a 911 dispatcher, has resigned. He said he would promote one of the part-time ~~dispatchers~~ into the position previously held by Nikolaus.

Jeff Jones, the county's Emergency Management Director, appeared before the County Commission. Jones advised Commissioners that the county has received "Storm Ready" designation. The Storm Ready program helps community leaders and residents better prepare for hazardous weather and flooding. Counties that receive this designation have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes. Phil Hysell, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist with the National Weather Service stated "Monroe County has demonstrated it is prepared to deal with hazardous weather before, during and after a significant weather event". The County Commission commended Jones on his efforts in getting this designation declared for Monroe County. Monroe is one of only nine other counties in the state to receive this designation. Jones also provided the Commission with an update on the complaints

filed under the county's Unsafe and Unsanitary and Structures Ordinance. He also advised the Office of Emergency Management set up a booth during Farmer's Day and it was very successful. Jones said he handed out a lot of material and signed individuals up for the Code Red System. Jones advised he has the Threat Assessment grant application complete, which is due July 15th.

The County Commission reviewed the monthly meeting minutes for the Gap Mills Public Service District and the county's insurance renewal information for fiscal year 2015-2016.

The County Commission held a public hearing on this day to receive input on the county's proposed Cellular Tower Ordinance. No one attended. A second public hearing is scheduled for July 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse.

The Commission recognized Mark Canterbury, aka Henry O. Godwin, formerly one half of the tag team duo The Godwins, for being inducted into the WV Wrestling Hall of Fame. The Godwins were two-time World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) tag team champions. Canterbury, who is originally from Peterstown and now lives in Lindside with his wife Tracey, spent 21 years as a professional wrestler.

President Gum advised the September meeting of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation will be held at Fountain Springs Golf Course.

In other action, the Commission reappointed Becky Irons to the Monroe Public Library Board of Trustees, reviewed the Assessor's annual Valuation Budget, and approved four final estate settlements and two exonerations.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on Wednesday, July 15th at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse. To be placed on the Commission's agenda, please call 772-3096.