

Monroe Commission Holds July Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on July 3, 2013 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The County Commission, along with members of the Planning Commission, discussed the Cellular Telephone Tower Ordinance presently being prepared by the Planning Commission, at the request of the County Commission. William Winfrey, an attorney from Princeton, was also present representing AT&T. Once the ordinance is presented to the County Commission, a public hearing will be scheduled to provide the public an opportunity to comment on such ordinance.

The Commission voted to reorganize the county's Historic Landmark Commission and appointed the following individuals to serve on the Commission; Helen Graves, Mary Pearl Compton, Dr. Ronald Ripley, Fred Ziegler and Anna Lusk.

Commissioners approved the resignation of Jill Young from the Mountain RC&D Board of Directors and approved a proposal presented by Don Dransfield for the construction and installation of an Information Kiosk that will be placed on the Courthouse lawn. Dransfield explained the kiosk would actually be constructed by students attending this year's 4-H Camp, as a community service project, under the supervision of Joey McGuire. Once constructed, the kiosk will then be brought to the Courthouse lawn for installation. The County Commission agreed to pay for the necessary supplies and materials to construct and install the kiosk for a cost of \$1,202.88.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority grant application is due by October 4, 2013.

The Clerk also advised he hasn't received word on the county's grant application submitted to the Court Security Board seeking funds to improve security at Magistrate and Circuit Court. He also said he hadn't heard anything from the Division of Criminal Justice Services on the county's grant application seeking funds to hire two Prevention Resource Officers. If this funding is approved, an officer will be assigned to James Monroe High School and another officer will be assigned to Peterstown Middle and Elementary Schools.

At the request of the Monroe Public Library Board of Trustees, the County Commission appointed Betty Dransfield to the library's Board of Trustees. The Commission agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Rocky Parsons for all his work with the "Make It Shine Program".

Assessor Norbert Netzel appeared before the County Commission and advised the Assessor's Office would be open a couple evenings a week from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm as a convenience for those needing to file their Farm Exemption Reports. Netzel said he would be providing notice of the days his office will have extended hours in this newspaper. Mr. Netzel also advised he was continuing to seek funding to have the county's maps digitized. He reported the total cost of this project is about \$60,000.00.

Commissioners approved a proposal from Helen Graves, Tourism Director, to have informational brochures printed to give to the Boy Scouts when they come to the county to perform various community service projects. These brochures will provide information on Monroe County and they are something the scouts can take home with them.

House of Delegate representatives Roy Cooper and Boogie Ambler met with the County Commission and several other elected officials. Delegates Cooper and Ambler talked about this past legislative session and issues that affect county government.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, and Ann Smith, the newly hired Deputy 911 Director and Director of the Office of Emergency Services, appeared before the Commission. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report. Galford's received five calls, Neel's four and Clarkson and Smith's received one call each. At the request of Wilson, Commissioners agreed to let Ballard Christian School use an emergency two-way radio. In the event of an emergency at the school, officials will be able to communicate with the county's 911 Center. The County Commission approved a request from Ms. Smith to attend a training session on Floodplain Management at Flatwoods. In addition, Smith and Wilson were authorized to attend an Emergency Management conference to be held at Pipestem. The Commission, Wilson and Smith also discussed the possibility of expanding the 911 Center.

The County Commission met with representatives of the Monroe Health Center to discuss having a Memorandum of Understanding prepared between the two parties. The county owns the Health Center property through the Building Commission. A discussion was also held in reference to community organizations using the conference room in the Health Center for meetings and the future of the WVU Extension Office occupying office space in the center.

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

Eight final estate settlements were approved, as were two exonerations. The Commission agreed to change their August meeting from August 7th to August 1st due to the County Commission's Annual meeting scheduled for August 5-8.