

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on July 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse. President Clyde Gum called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Jim Nelson, CEO of the Monroe Health Center, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Nelson presented the Commission with a copy of the Health Center's Needs Assessment Survey recently conducted by the Health Center. Commissioners agreed to renew the lease agreement with the Health Center for the upcoming year and not to increase the lease payment but rather to leave it at the current amount. At the request of Mr. Nelson, the County Commission authorized the Health Center to apply for a Service Area Competition grant. Nelson then provided with what he felt were the strengths of the Health Center as well as the challenges ahead.

The County Commission held a public hearing on this day to hear input on the county's proposed Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Ordinance. Richard Ertleston of Waiteville was the only individual to attend this hearing. Mr. Ertleston provided Commissioners with some concerns he had with the ordinance. At the close of the hearing, the County Commission unanimously agreed to adopt this ordinance and to possibly work some of Mr. Ertleston's concerns in the actual rules for the ordinance.

The County Commission adopted a resolution supporting the Monroe Day Care Center in their efforts to obtain a \$5,000 grant from the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program. These funds will be used to replace the roof on the center.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from the Town of Alderson inquiring if the County Commission wanted to provide any comments on the town's proposed Comprehensive Plan for the town. The Clerk will check with the town and see if an electronic copy of the plan is available to review.

Commissioners denied a request from Union Rescue requesting an appropriation of \$6,000. The County Commission has been giving Union Rescue \$1,000 a month due to their financial hardships. Commissioner Ashley said the squad asked him if they could get six months of funding at once. Commissioners agreed the county's cash flow is low this time of year and appropriating the \$6,000 all at once could cause a hardship on the county,

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that one of the Deputy Sheriff's recently hit a deer with his cruiser causing approximately \$1,900 in damages. The Commission authorized the Clerk to file a claim with the county's insurance provider.

Sheriff Mike Gravely appeared before the County Commission requesting funding to purchase a building to be placed at the Sheriff's Department's gun range. The Sheriff said he could pay half of the cost of the building from one of his funds if the county could come up with the rest. Commissioners denied this request at this time since the county's cash flow is low at this time of year. The advised the Sheriff to make the request again in October.

Commissioner Gum provided an update on the Red Sulphur Public Service District's water situation. Gum said that a few days ago customers began complaining of a gas smell in the water. He said since this time the district was purchasing water from Rich Creek, VA and this is very expensive. Gum advised the district continues to follow instructions from the Health Department and will continue the testing of the water. Gum said he offered assistance to the district on behalf of the county as soon as he was made aware of the problem. Jeff Jones, the county's Director of Emergency Management, visited the district and spoke with PSD board members. He will continue to update county officials on this situation.

Circuit Judge Robert Irons and Jennifer McMeekin, Director of the Drug Court Program, appeared before the County Commission. Commissioners relayed some concerns they are having with the Day Report Program. Ms. McMeekin said the Community Corrections Board for Monroe and Summers counties is presently interviewing for the Day Report Executive Director position. She assured the Commission their concerns will be addressed as she planned and she plans to oversee the program.

The County Commission addressed two estate matters and approved five final estate settlements. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month beginning at 9:00 am and on the third Wednesday beginning at 5:30. To be placed on the County Commission's agenda, please call 772-3096. The Commission's next scheduled meeting is August 5th at the Courthouse beginning at 9:00 am.