

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on July 20, 2016 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse. Commission President Clyde Gum, Jr., called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

At the request of Sheriff Mike Gravely and Assessor Norb Netzel, the County Commission approved a proposal for the Assessor's Office to sell one of their vehicles to the Sheriff's Department. Assessor Netzel stated his Office no longer had a need for this vehicle.

Prosecuting Attorney Justin St. Clair introduced Andrew Isabell as a new part time employee in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Mr. Isabell previously served as a Law Clerk for Judge Robert Irons.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that grant applications are now being accepted for the WV Courthouse Improvement Authority. The deadline to submit an application is October 7th. Funds from this grant can be used to make renovations to Courthouses or annex facilities.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk advised Commissioners that he was recently invited to participate in a conference call hosted by US Senator Joe Manchin. Other government entities and organizations having representatives on the call were FEMA, National Guard, Small Business Authority, Volunteer WV, Red Cross, Homeland Security, county representatives and US Senator Shelly Moore Capito and Congressman Evan Jenkins. The purpose of this call was to hear an update from each entity and organization on the flood recovery efforts. Participants were able to ask questions of the representatives and advise of any specific assistance they needed.

The County Commission reviewed and approved invoices presented by the county's volunteer fire departments that are to be paid from the fire levy. Each department is allotted \$45,

At the request of Donald J. Evans, the County Commission approved a request to purchase electronic poll books to be used at each of the voting precincts. The tablets will eliminate the need for the Clerk's Office to print paper poll books which is very expensive and time consuming. Another huge benefit is if a voter shows up to a precinct to vote and they aren't registered to vote in that particular precinct poll workers can conduct a quick search and find out the precinct the voter is actually registered in. These poll books are also capable of providing various reports that will be beneficial to the Clerk's Office. These poll books will be used in the November General Election.

Indian Creek Watershed Association representatives Judy Azulay, Howdy Henritz and Nancy Bouldin appeared before the County Commission. These individuals presented Commissioners with a summary of a report titled Geologic Hazards in the Karst Regions of Virginia and West Virginia: investigations and Analysis Concerning the Proposed Mountain Valley Gas Pipeline. This report was conducted by Ernst Kastning, Ph.D, P.G., retired professor of Geology at

Radford University, Certified Professional Geologist, and a recognized authority on karst in the Appalachian region. The regional focus of the report includes Summers and Monroe counties in West Virginia, as well as Giles, Craig, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties in Virginia-all of which are marked by karst and mountain terrain. Key points made by Dr. Kastning are that karst, by itself, is a significant risk factor in sitting a gas pipeline, especially one of this size. Other significant hazards in the region include: land instability and steep slopes, weak soils, and seismicity(the pipeline passes through the center of the Giles County Seismic Zone. Dr. Kastning stated that when two or more of the factors are involved, the hazards are “compounded and exacerbated. In his Executive Summary, Dr. Kastning stated “the karst and associated hazards constitute a serious incompatibility with the proposed pipeline and the effect of these threats of the line on the natural environment, renders this region as a **No-Build Zone** for the region.

Conference Call With Senator Joe Manchin

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, advised Commissioners that he participated in a conference call this morning hosted by US Senator Joe Manchin. The purpose of the call was to provide an update on flood recovery efforts following the June 23, 2016 floods that affected several areas of the state. Also participating were other county officials, representatives from FEMA, Small Business Administration, Red Cross, the National Guard and others.

Electronic Poll Books

At the request of Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, Commissioner Ashley made a motion to purchase 16 electronic poll books to be used during the election. The total cost of these poll books including the necessary training and shipping is \$22,327.00. Ashley further moved the county finance the cost of these poll books with ES&S, the manufacturer, making five annual payments with this first payment due within 30 days of contract execution. Commissioner Miller second these motions. Vote was unanimous. Evans said these poll books have several benefits. If the voter enters a precinct and it's not their correct precinct, the poll workers can search the voters name and let them know the precinct they are registered in. These poll books can provide a number of reports throughout the day related to turnout that will be very beneficial to the Clerk's Office.

Fire Levy Summary

The County Clerk provided Commissioners with a summary of the fire levy funds spent by each department for year ending June 30, 2016. The departments and amounts expended are Brooke. Each department, excluding Alderson VFD, was allotted \$45, 774.00. Alderson VFD is allotted \$5,000 per year since they only provide service to a small portion of Monroe County.

Union VFD	\$45,441.40
Peterstown VFD	\$45,774.00
Ballard VFD	\$45,842.10
Lindside VFD	\$45,645.31

Buddie Spicer, Sr. Estate

The County Commission reviewed a petition filed by Buddie Spicer, Jr., son of the late Buddy Spicer, Sr., and Vivian G. Snyder and April Setina objecting to the appointment of Susan Dodson as Administratrix by the County Commission. The Commission previously appointed Sheriff Mike Gravely as the Administrator of this estate but after a ruling was issued by the Circuit Court of Monroe County, the County Commission removed the Sheriff and appointed Ms. Dodson. The County Commission took no action on this petition at this time and agreed not to take any action until the Circuit Court ruled on any other matters involving this estate.

Indian Creek Watershed Association – Mountain Valley Pipeline

Indian Creek Watershed representatives Judy Azualy, Howdy Henritz and Nancy Bouldin appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Azualy informed the Commission that Ernst Kastning, Ph.D, P.G, a retired professor of Geology from Radford University, a Certified Professional Geologist and a recognized authority on karst in the Appalachian region, recently prepared a report stating that the karst and associated hazards constitute a serious incompatibility with the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. Professor Kastning said that this region including Monroe and Summers counties, should be considered a “no-build” zone for the pipeline. These individuals also provided the Commission with some written material detailing

how their Interactive Environmental Map, which is available online, will help identify hazards and risks posed by the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. In closing, these individuals asked the County Commission to 1) submit a follow up letter to FERC for an independent comprehensive hydro geological study of the water resources of Monroe County before issuing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement or approving an MVP route through Monroe County 2) Request the WV Geological Society Survey and WV DEP undertake and complete a thorough mapping and study of the complex karst region at the base of Peter's Mountain. 3) Request that the US Army Corps of Engineers and the WVDEP wait until a final route has been determined before issuing any permits, and issue only individual permits for the 404, 401, and Stormwater permits. The County Commission advised they would discuss their request to write these letters and get back with them.

Estate of Homer Keith Wickline by Rhonda Wickline, Administratrix
Estate of Maxine Prater by Kathy Garland and Paula Prater, Co-Administrators
Estate of Sharon Newman by Karen Price, Administratrix