

Monroe Commission Holds August Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Representatives from the Mills Group appeared before the County Commission. Michael J. Mills reported that his company has been retained by the State Historic Preservation Office to monitor the various projects in which the Preservation Office has provided grant funding for. The County Commission was recently awarded a grant to assist in replacing the Courthouse roof. Mills said he would visit the Courthouse when work begins to make sure the county is getting what they are paying for from the contractor.

Rod Graves and Garry Taylor, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Graves reported that the Planning Commission has prepared a draft document titled "Procedural Rules for Writing Ordinances." Graves asked Commissioners to review the draft and relay any comments they may have to the Planning Commission. If adopted, these rules will set specific guidelines the Planning Commission will follow when preparing an ordinance that will be sent to the County Commission for consideration.

The County Commission adopted resolutions supporting the Monroe Historical Society and the Ballard Volunteer Fire Department in their efforts to obtain grant funding from the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program.

Commissioners met with Wes Sheridan, a member of the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance Enforcement Board. Mr. Sheridan advised the County Commission the board has received three complaints under this ordinance and the board will be investigating such complaints in the near future.

The County Commission approved the solicitation of bids for a Reverse 911 System. This system has the capability to send important messages to county residents in the event of an emergency or severe weather. The system is designed to call thousands of landlines in a matter of minutes. Residents can also elect to receive such messages on a cell phone, by text message and email. Also included with this type of system is a Weather Warning System. This system is connected to the National Weather Service and will notify residents if a severe storm is heading in the direction of their residence. Officials can send these important messages to all residents of the county or to just those in a particular area of the county.

Vic Bowman and Roseanne Berry, representing the Greenbrier Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, appeared before the County Commission. The Greenbrier Chapter serves Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe counties. A discussion was held on what the Red Cross could do to assist the county or what they could provide in the event of a county emergency or a severe storm like the one that passed through the county on June 29th. Bowman said the main thing they need right now is volunteers from Monroe County. He said that the recent

storm was so widespread the Red Cross had trouble getting their volunteers into the state. Mr. Bowman asked the County Commission to try and get the word out to residents of Monroe County that they needed to be self sufficient for 72 hours after a severe storm or emergency. Bowman also said the Red Cross needed an individual to act as a liaison to the Red Cross from Monroe County. Anyone interested in serving as the county's liaison should contact the Red Cross or the County Commission.

Tammy Fox, the County's Floodplain Coordinator, appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Fox said she is in the process of obtaining her required annual training. The County Commission authorized Ms. Fox to travel to Marshall County to a training session for the purpose of receiving the additional training she needs. New legislation requires Floodplain Coordinators to have six hours of training each year.

The County Commission authorized the solicitation of bids for a generator that will operate the entire 911 Center in the event of a power outage. Bid specifications for this project can be found on the county's website at www.monroecountywv.net or by calling Commissioner Clyde Gum at 772-5782. The deadline to submit a bid is September 3, 2012 by 4:00pm.

Tim Wilson, Interim 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission and provided the Wrecker Call Report for the month of July. Wilson reported that Galford's received eight calls; Neel's had five and Offenberger's and Clarkson's received one call each.

The County Commission approved a quote from Duane Miller Construction to paint the railing located on the Courthouse roof. The roof replacement project will begin later this month and Duane Miller advised they will have the painting project completed before the replacement of the roof starts.

Commissioners agreed to send a letter to the Division of Highways in Charleston asking for their assistance in getting a "slip" repaired on Rt. 122. County Department of Highways officials said they have submitted the project for repair.

Acting on a previous request, the County Commission authorized a \$1,000.00 payment to the County's Solid Waste Authority to help purchase an additional recycling trailer. A request to purchase a Trauma Kit for each law enforcement officer in the county was also approved. The kits cost \$150.00 each.

The County Commission delayed any action on a previous request to change the name of the John Dowdy road to the Becky Jane Holler road until they can confer with the county's 911 Director.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of Monroe Board of Health and the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts and signed letters of appreciation to the Energy Express students who help with storm recovery efforts.

The County Commission adopted a resolution approving the transfer of a cable television franchise from Suddenlink to Cequel Communications and discussed the expenditures the county incurred as a result of the severe storm that passed through the county on June 29th.

Commissioners agreed to apply for a WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement grant for the purpose of making improvements to the Circuit Courtroom and the jury and conference rooms.

A total of seven exonerations were approved, as were eight final estate settlements.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on Wednesday, September 5th at 9:00 am at the Courthouse.