

Monroe Commission Holds August Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on August 1, 2013 at the Courthouse. This meeting date was changed from August 7th due to the County Commission Association's annual meeting conflicted with the regular meeting date.

Shane Ashley, President of the County Commission, called the meeting to order followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the WV Supreme Court advising the county has been awarded a Court Security Grant in the amount of \$118,008.00. These funds will be used to improve security at Circuit and Magistrate Court. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, wrote the grant on behalf of the County Commission.

Garry Taylor and Dale McCutcheon, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Taylor advised the Commission that the Planning Commission committee preparing the Cellular Tower Ordinance should have the ordinance ready to present to the full Planning Commission for a vote in the very near future. If passed by the Planning Commission, the ordinance is then presented to the County Commission for review. A public hearing to hear public input on the ordinance will be scheduled once the ordinance gets to the County Commission.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission, and provided an update of the 911 Center. Wilson presented the monthly Wrecker Response Report; Neel's received five calls, Galford's had three, and Smith's and Lee's received one call each. Mr. Wilson then advised the Green Bank Observatory has approved a site in the Moncove Lake area for the county to place an emergency radio communication repeater. Green Bank must approve any repeater site being considered by the county to insure such site won't interfere with their operations. Wilson said he was now awaiting the license to operate the repeater from the Federal Communication Commission. He said once the license is received, he will proceed with getting the repeater installed.

At the request of Wilson, the County Commission authorized him to prepare bid specifications and solicit for bids for enclosing the front porch area of the 911 Center. Wilson said the 911 Center and Office of Emergency Services could utilize this space.

Ann Rodes, the Director of the county's Office of Emergency Services, appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Rodes said she was working on a grant for the Local Emergency Planning Commission and familiarizing herself with the county's disaster centers and heating and cooling stations. Rodes said she planned to attend a tabletop training session at Claytor Lake in Dublin, VA due to the fact that the Town of Peterstown could be impacted if this damn would burst. She said she also planned to attend additional training, visit other Emergency Services Directors in the area and spend some time at the state Office of Emergency Services.

The County Commission awarded a bid on a 2001 Jeep Cherokee that was previously used by the Animal Control Office and had been taken out of service. The meeting minutes of the Monroe Health Department and Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts were reviewed.

WVU Extension Agent Don Dransfield advised the County Commission that the information kiosk, constructed as a project by campers at the recent 4H Camp would be installed on the Courthouse lawn toward the end of August. This kiosk will be used to provide notices to the public and upcoming community events.

Sheriff Mike Gravely appeared before the County Commission and advised he has hired Brandon McCormick as a Deputy Sheriff. The Sheriff said McCormick is a certified police officer, allowing him to start work immediately without going through the training academy.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that lightning recently struck the control panel that controls all the emergency lighting in the Courthouse. The Clerk said all lights have since been replaced. The Commission authorized the Clerk to file an insurance claim with the county's insurance provider in reference to this incident.

Assessor Norbert Netzel appeared before the County Commission and reported that his office recently had extended hours to allow for the filing of Farm Statistic Reports. Netzel said he provided the extended hours to allow those who work during the day an opportunity to file their forms. At the request of Netzel, the County Commission approved parcel consolidations for three property owners.

At the request of Shannon Parker, CEO of the Monroe Health Center, Cathi Biggs was appointed to the Health Center Board of Trustees and the following individuals were reappointed to the board; Melissa Boggs, Shirley Dixon, Rose Lasker, Justine Nall and Jeff Pritt. The Commission also accepted the resignation of George Field as a member of the board.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the county has been awarded a Governor's Community Participation grant in the amount of \$10,000.00. These funds will be used to reimburse the county for supplies and materials purchased by the county for the 14 community service projects performed throughout the county a couple weeks ago by the Boy Scouts of America. Donald J Evans, County Clerk, wrote the grant on behalf of the County Commission.

The County Commission again had a discussion with representatives of the Monroe Health Center concerning the use of a conference room located within the Health Center by the WVU Extension Office and other community organizations.

The Clerk advised that all the individuals previously appointed to the county's Historic Landmark's Commission have accepted their appointment. The members include Fred Ziegler, Helen Graves, Anna Lusk, Mary Pearl Compton and Dr. Ronald Ripley.

Commissioner Ashley advised that the Department of Natural Resources will be conducting a countywide sweep of the county, similar to the one conducted last year, in an effort to locate illegal dumps.

The County Commission approved six exonerations and nine final estate settlements. The next regular County Commission is scheduled for September 4, 2013. Anyone needing to be placed on the agenda should call 772-3096.

