

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on August 4, 2015 at the Courthouse. Clyde Gum, Jr., President of the Commission called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Jeremy Meadows, Chief Deputy for the County Clerk advised Commissioners of a company in Rich Creek, VA that is planning to offer internet service to the Union area. Meadows went on to say this internet service is some of the fastest available and that he would provide Commissioners additional information as he receives it from the company.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk advised the grant applications for the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority are due by October 9th and Commissioner Gum provided an update on the Home Confinement Program and the Courthouse Sprinkler Installation Project.

Jeff Jones, the county's Director of Emergency Management, appeared before the Commission. Mr. Jones provided the Commission with an update on the complaints filed under the county's Unsafe and Unsanitary and Structures Ordinance. Jones also provided a report on the property owners who have had a complaint filed against them and are attempting to comply with the ordinance. Mr. Jones said there are a couple training workshops coming up that he plans to attend. One of these workshops deals with source water protection and the other one is on safety awareness. Jones also advised that Kelly Shreve, the Health Department's Threat Awareness Coordinator, is planning to write a grant in hopes of securing funds to purchase equipment for the Medic One Paramedic Unit.

The County was given a piece of property several years ago by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This property was obtained by FEMA under their Hazard Mitigation Program. There are numerous restrictions on the property with one being that a structure cannot be built on the property due to its flooding history. Another restriction states the property must be used for the benefit of the public. Commissioners granted a request from Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, to contact some of the landowners in this area to see if there was an interest in having a playground or picnic shelter or something of this nature on the property. The Clerk stated the residents must form a non-profit corporation before the county could actually donate the land. Evans said he hoped to have some info from the neighbors by the next Commission meeting.

Sheriff Gravely reported that the three new police cruiser are now in Beckley having the radios installed. These cruisers were purchased under the State of West Virginia's contract and will be used by the newly hired Prevention Resource Officers that will be assigned to James Monroe High School, Mountain View Schools and the third officer will split his time between the two Peterstown schools.

Kimberly Gross, Regional Representative for Governor Tomblin's Office was on hand to recognize the James Monroe FFA Livestock Judging Team that recently placed first in the state. The team will now move on to national championships. Team members present were Parker King, Ty Wickline and Zachary Shumaker. The other team member Dylan MnMahan, was unable to attend. These young men were presented certificates of recognition from Ms. Gross