

## Monroe Commission Meets

A delegation of individuals appeared before the County Commission in reference to the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. Dr. Stephen Miller, DO, served as spokesman for the group. Dr. Miller asked the Commission if they would consider sending a second letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking them 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. The County Commission previously sent FERC a letter making this request but received no response. In this same letter this group asked the Commission to 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. In addition, the Commission will ask FERC to have 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 Commission advised those in attendance that earlier this month the Indian Creek Watershed Association previously made the same request of the County Commission and they have forwarded a letter to FERC containing the questions both groups requested. Also in attendance for this meeting was Howdy Henritz, Nancy Bouldin, Sterl and Cynthia Morris, Jim Gore and Kevin Belcher, a member of the Red Sulphur PSD who was invited to this meeting by Dr. Miller.

Tony Reed, Acting Director of the Monroe/Summers Day Report Center, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Reed said there are presently 11 participants in the program. These individuals have been sentenced to this program versus being sentenced to jail. Mr. Reed provided an update of the program and provided a list of projects the participants have completed. Some of these include the painting of the inside of the Peterstown Town Hall, painting the curbs in Peterstown, picking up over 400 bags of trash along county roads. Reed also said participants have mowed and performed weed eating at public properties. The County Commission discussed purchasing additional tools for the participants. Reed says the program now has two vans which will be used to transport participants to the various work sites. He also advised the program has hired a part time employee.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that the reenactment titled "War Comes to Union" is scheduled for August 26-28. Encampments will be located on the fields surrounding the Confederate Monument and a cannon fire will take place at this location Friday night. Open living history tours will also be available. Saturday events will include the Federals entering Union, a mock bank robbery, military demonstrations, Victorian Tee at Elmwood, a Civil War Dance at Mountain View Schools, and a "Period Church Service" will be held on Sunday morning.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that their fall board meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Mardi Gras Casino and Hotel in Cross Lanes.

The next meeting of the County Commission will be August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Union Senior Center. This meeting will be held jointly with the county's Planning Commission to hear a proposal from a company that is interested in providing Emergency Medical Services here in the county.