

Monroe Commission Hold September Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on September 4, 2013 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Walter Lockhart, President of Homeless, Inc. appeared before the County Commission to explain the mission of this organization. Mr. Lockhart said Homeless Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) organization that assists families and individuals in crisis with their daily needs of food, clothing and housing. Lockhart said their funding comes from churches, the United Way and personal and private organizations. He also said they have applied for several grants seeking funding to help provide these services. Homeless Inc. serves Monroe, Summers, Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties.

The County Commission agreed to invite a representative from Suddenlink Communications to their next meeting to discuss if Suddenlink would extend cable service to the Union area. Commissioners have received many complaints about the current cable system serving the Union community.

Steve Weir, Executive Director for the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, appeared before the County Commission and provided an update on economic development projects in the region. The GVEDC represents Monroe, Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties.

Planning Commission members Garry Taylor, Rod Graves and Robert Allen appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Taylor said the Planning Commission was still working on the draft of the Cell Phone Tower Ordinance. He said they hoped to present the ordinance to the County Commission at their April meeting for action. Mr. Allen, who serves on the Planning Commission's Economic Development Committee, provided an update of this committee's activities. He said the committee was planning to work with existing businesses in the county to see if they have any specific needs or have issues the committee can help them with.

The County Commission adopted a resolution declaring the week of September 8-15 as "Assisted Living Week" in Monroe County.

Melissa Hodges, Executive Director of the Family Refuge Network (FRN), appeared before the County Commission and asked Commissioners if they would consider renting office space for the FRN in a building presently occupied by the WV State Police. Ms. Hodges said the current FRN office, which is located on the lower lever of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, is in poor condition. The County Commission advised Ms. Hodges they would discuss her request and get back to her.

Mike Will, Director of the Monroe County Council on Aging, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Will told Commissioners that the Board of Education recently transferred the "Old Greenville School" property to the Council on Aging. Will said the council is proposing to develop an assisted living facility and an independent living facility on this property. He said there is a tremendous need for these facilities as West Virginia ranks second in the nation in the number of residents who are 65 years of age or older. Will said the facility should create 15-20 new jobs. Will said plans called for the facility to be open in two years.

At the request of Shannon Parker, CEO for the Monroe Health Center, Commissioners appointed Walter Maisden to the Monroe Health Center Board of Trustees and Sue Clewell to the Board of Health.

Summers-Monroe Day Report Center representatives Jennifer McMeekin, Sierra Tanner and Kathy Canterbury appeared before the County Commission. Ms. McMeekin reported there are ten individuals currently assigned to the Day Report Program. McMeekin said some of these individuals have been and will continue to perform community service throughout the county.

The County Clerk advised the county has received a Governor's Community Participation grant of \$3,000.00 to go toward the cost of replacing the Courthouse roof.

Commissioner Gum was appointed to the Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Board of Directors and Commissioner Ashley was appointed to the county's Emergency Food and Shelter Board.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Wilson presented the Commission with a lease agreement for a piece of property in the Moncove Lake area on which the county will install an emergency communications radio repeater. Commissioners unanimously approved this lease agreement. This repeater should improve communications between law enforcement and the other emergency service responders and the 911 Center. Wilson presented the County Commission with the monthly Wrecker Response Report. He reported that Galford's received seven calls for the month of August and Lee's received one call.

Assessor Norb Netzel appeared before the County Commission providing an update of the activities for his office. At Netzel's request, the Commission approved two parcel consolidations and several exonerations.

Commissioners approved a funding request from the Monroe Historical Society for the Carriage House Museum, reviewed the Gap Mills meeting minutes and addressed three estate matters.

The County Commission will meet again in special session on September 12, 2013 at 10:00 am.

Anyone needing to be placed on the County Commission's meeting agenda should call 772-3096.