

Monroe Commission Holds October Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on October 1, 2014 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

At the request of Debra Boggs, Dorothy Larew and Charlotte Arthur, the County Commission declared the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness month and encourages all Monroe County women to become aware that they are at risk for developing breast cancer and to discuss screening with their health care provider. In 2014, an estimated 1,340 West Virginia women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 289 will die from this disease.

The Commission reviewed and approved invoices submitted by the county's volunteer fire departments. These invoices will be paid from the Fire Levy. A proposal from Bostic's Fencing in the amount of \$7,118.30 to install a chain link fence around one of the county's emergency radio towers located on Bickett Knob was also approved.

The Gap Mills Public Service District monthly meeting minutes were reviewed and two parcel consolidations were approved as presented by Assessor Norbert Netzel.

Commissioners scheduled a special meeting for October 15th to meet with Burman Clark, the county's insurance representative, to review the county's insurance proposal for the upcoming year.

The County Commissioner agreed to send a Letter of Appreciation to David Cole, the Executive Director of Region 1 Planning & Development Council. Cole has been instrumental in assisting the County Commission acquire grant funding for various water and sewer projects, most recently the Greenville Water Project. Cole has announced his retirement effective October 30th.

Commissioners approved a grant application to the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority seeking funding to complete Phase II of the Courthouse Sprinkler System Project. Bob Hazelwood from Thrasher Engineering and Commissioner Clyde Gum, Jr. prepared the grant application on behalf of the county. Phase I of the project is currently underway and includes replacing the water line coming into the Courthouse with a bigger line and installing the sprinkler system in the Record Room on the main floor and the secondary record room located on the basement level of the Courthouse. Commissioner Clyde Gum is serving as Project Manager for the County Commission. Brewer and Company, Inc. of Charleston was awarded the bid to install the sprinkler system.

Jeff Jones, the county's Emergency Management Director, appeared before the County Commission. Jones provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report. He said Galford's and Clarkson's received four calls each and Dunbar's and Lee's received each received one call. 911 dispatcher scheduling was discussed as well as the readiness of the county's emergency shelters.

Allen and Arlene McInaray, Roger Rance and Jan Golden appeared before the County Commission expressing concerns over the annual Pink Moon Festival held September 11th-14th in Rock Camp. The Pink Moon Festival has

become an annual music event here in the county. It was reported there were over 70 bands that performed at this year's event. Those in attendance complained about the loud music 24 hours a day for the four day event, runoff from the festival site to their property, people climbing on their fence and having to keep their livestock in the barns for the entire period of the festival because the music was scaring the animals.

Commissioners held a conference call with representatives from EQT and Nextra. EQT and Nextra, in a joint venture, are proposing to install a gas line from Wetzel County to Spotsylvania County, VA, stretching a total of 330 miles. The joint venture between these two companies is called the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Preliminary maps indicate this line will pass through Monroe County somewhere around Lindside. The pipeline is scheduled to be completed in 2018. EQT and Nextra agreed to meet with the County Commission in the near future to provide additional information on the project and to answer any additional questions Commissioners may have.

Union Rescue representatives Robin Frazier, Rhonda Hall and Jody Ratliff appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Frazier previously told the County Commission the squad was in serious financial trouble and if they couldn't identify other revenue sources soon, they would have to cease operations. In an effort to keep Union Rescue operating and serving the community, Mr. Ratliff presented Commissioners with a proposal that would create a countywide ambulance authority consisting of paid EMT's, Paramedics and drivers with 24 hour a day, seven day a week coverage. Under such authority, a fee will be assessed on each homeowner in the county. This fee will help fund the authority. Commissioners agreed to schedule a meeting with Peterstown Fire and Rescue to obtain their comments and then review and discuss the proposal more thorough before taking any action.

The Commission addressed two estate matters and approved nine final estate settlements. The County Commission will meet again in special session on November 5, 2014. If you need to be placed on the agenda, please call 772-3096.