

Monroe Commission Holds October Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on October 5, 2012 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

John Norman, External Affairs Manager for MonPower, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Norman shared a video with the Commissioners on MonPower's procedures on restoring power after a major outage. Mr. Norman also thanked county officials for their assistance and cooperation following the June 29th severe storm that passed through the county.

The County Clerk and Circuit Clerk advised Commissioners they are both applying for a grant through the Records Management and Preservation Board. The maximum amount of the grant is \$10,000.00 and it requires a 10% match from the county. The County Commission agreed to provide the match for both of these grants. Both the County Clerk and Circuit Clerk plan to use these grant funds to scan and index records recorded in their respective offices.

The County Commission awarded a bid to Duane Miller Construction Services to construct a handicap parking space and walkway at the 911 Center parking lot. The amount of the bid was \$9,476.00. Brown Construction was the only other bidder on the project. Duane Miller Construction Services was the low bidder. Early Voting will be conducted on the lower level of the 911 Center beginning with the November 6th General Election. Commissioners awarded a second bid to Duane Miller Construction Services to construct a handicap parking space and walkway at the Sweet Springs Rescue Squad building. Also included in this project is the replacement of two doors and adding handicap accessible hardware to another door. The bid price was \$9,104.00. Brown Construction was the only other bidder on this project, and again, Duane Miller Construction Services was the low bidder. The Sweet Springs Rescue Squad building serves as the voting precinct for the Sweet Springs community. Both of these projects are being funded from a grant from the Help America Vote Act through the Secretary of State's Office. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, wrote both grants for these projects.

Tim Wilson, Interim 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report for September; Galford's received three calls, Wilson's received two and Clarkson's and Neel's received one call each. Wilson said he had ordered 100 blankets and 50 cots purchased with funds received from the Homeland Security grant. These blankets and cots will be used in the event the county needs to open an emergency shelter. Mr. Wilson said he also purchased a utility box trailer and emergency radios with these grant funds. Wilson also reported that he and some staff members set up a booth at the Fall Festival and provided information on the county's new CodeRed system. CodeRed provides emergency notifications and alerts to county residents via voice, text or email message. To sign up for this service, please go to www.monroecountywv.net/CodeRed or call 772-3912.

Stacey Miller and Randall Mills, council members for the Town of Union, appeared before the County Commission concerning the lack of parking in town. Ms. Miller and Mr. Mills said the town was trying to create additional parking in the

town. They asked if the Commission would work with them on this matter. One idea discussed was having Courthouse employees park in the Boggs' parking lot on days court is in session. A discussion was also held about restricting parking near the intersections in town. This has presented a safety hazard for those pulling out from Route 3 or any other road in town onto US Rt. 219.

The County Commission agreed to sell the county's interest in property owned by both the Summers and Monroe County Commissions. This property is located near the Summers/Monroe county line. The Summers County Commission previously advised they are interested in selling their interest and the property would probably bring more if both interests were sold at the same time. In accordance with WV Code, the property must be sold at public auction. A sale date has not been set at this time.

Commissioners authorized a payment to the Peterstown Public Library in the amount of \$1,000.00. This appropriation was included in the county's current budget.

The County Commission changed their November meeting date from November 7th to November 14th. This change is necessary due to the General Election being held on November 6th.

Commissioner agreed to send a letter to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin requesting that broadband internet service be extended to the areas of Monroe County that presently don't have it.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that the Early Voting period begins on October 24th and runs through November 3rd. The Courthouse Early Voting location has been changed from the rear area of the Courthouse to the lower level of the 911 Center. In addition, Early Voting will be conducted at the Peterstown Town Hall in Peterstown. The town hall is located on Thomas Street.

The Ballard Volunteer Fire Department and Sweet Springs Rescue Squad have each been approved for a Governor's Community Participation Grant. The fire department will receive a \$30,000.00 grant to make renovations to the fire department building. Sweet Springs Rescue was approved for an \$8,000.00 grant to make renovation to the squad building. The County Commission signed the grant contracts with the WV Development Office for these two grants.

Commissioners adopted a proclamation declaring October 3rd as West Virginia Breast Cancer Awareness Day and October 2012 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The County Commission reviewed the Gap Mills Public Service District meeting minutes and approved entering into a lease purchase agreement for a new copier for the record room.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that he has received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency advising the county would be reimbursed for their expenditures incurred after the June 29th severe storm that passed through the county. The total reimbursement will be \$5,464.00. The Clerk said the expenditures incurred by the Health Center, Town of Union or the Division of Highways are not included in this amount as they will be reimbursed individually.

Quince Galford and Calvin Withrow, representing Union Volunteer Fire Department's Gap Mills substation, appeared before the County Commission. Mr.

Galford and Mr. Withrow inquired as to when a communications tower will be installed in the Gap Mills area. Mr. Galford said their department and other emergency responders are unable to communicate with the 911 Center when responding to a call in the Gap Mills area. Commissioners advised these gentlemen they were aware of this problem and were working with Tim Wilson, Interim 911 Director, to get a tower installed in this area. The County Commission told Galford and Withrow they would keep them informed on the progress of getting this tower installed.

Gary Taylor, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission and provided an update on Planning Commission's activities. Mr. Taylor said he planned to make an inquiry to the Attorney General's Office and request someone in this office to conduct a training session on Land Use Management and Planning.

Commissioner Clyde Gum, Project Director for the Courthouse Roof Replacement Project, advised that the contractor has removed the old Courthouse roof and is starting to put the new roof on the north side of the Courthouse. He also advised when the contractor was removing the old roof, they found that the bricks on the chimneys on the south side of the Courthouse were loose and presenting a safety hazard. Central Masonry was hired to rebuild these two chimneys and they were constructed to match the two chimneys on the north side of the Courthouse as close as possible.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on November 14th. If you need to meet with the Commission, please call 772-3096 to be placed on the agenda.