

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on October 7, 2015 at the Courthouse.

The County Commission agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Education in regards to the reimbursement of expenses for the three Prevention Resource Officers. The Board agreed to the Commission's request to reduce the dollar amount that will be subtracted for the reimbursement amount for the days when an officer is absent. The board originally wanted to deduct \$404.65, per officer, per day, from the reimbursement amount if an officer had to be off from work. The Commission agreed to this amount the first year of the levy and then the amount will decrease to \$235.85, per officer, per day in years two through five of the levy. The Commission agreed to advertise for a part time, certified, law enforcement officer who can fill in for the Prevention Resource Officers when they have to be off. . It was agreed the hiring of this individual will be more cost effective than the Board deducting the specified amount from the county's reimbursement amount.

Rocky Parsons advised Commissioners that a caver had to be recently rescued from the Scott Hollow cave. He said the caver fell while inside the cave and broke his leg. Parsons praised the county's emergency service agencies on how they handled this particular call. He said they were very professional and everyone on scene worked extremely hard in helping to get this caver out.

Commissioner Gum reported the 911 Center Expansion Project bids will be opened on October 15th and presented to the County Commission for their action.

At the request of Dorothy Larew, the County Commission adopted a resolution declaring the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Monroe County. The Commission thanked Ms. Larew and the organization that promotes early detection. In 2015 an estimated 1,360 West Virginia women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and approximately 276 women will die from the disease. Breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer related deaths among WV women.

Commissioner Gum reported that the Hoke Brothers Construction has begun digging the foundation and constructing forms for the foundation for the Solid Waste Authority's future recycling center at the HAM Landfill. Gum, who is serving as Project Director on behalf of the County Commission, reported the contractor should begin pouring the foundation next week. This project is being funded by a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection Agency.

Burman Clark, the county's group health insurance representative, meet with the Commission and advised that Coventry, the company the county currently has group health insurance with, has been purchased by Aetna. Clark said the county and its employees should see a reduction in the amount they are currently paying for health insurance. Currently, the county pays 65% of the premium for an employee with single coverage and the employee pays the remaining 35% and they pay 45% of the premium for those with a family plan with the employee paying the remaining 55%.

Residents of the Heinz Place Apartments, located in Union, appeared before the County Commission. These residents expressed concern over new rules that were recently implemented by the owner of the apartments. Some of these residents felt these new rules

were taking away their privileges. Residents complained they can no longer hang a wreath on their apartment door nor could they get together and have a barbecue on premises. The County Commission agreed to contact the owner, RJR Managements and request they send a representative and speak to the residents about these new rules.

The County Commission discussed the upcoming auction of the McGuire Building. The county plans to sell this building at public auction on November 7, 2015 at 10:00 am at the building site. The Commission has entered a contract with Kermit Morgan to sell this property.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Wilson said the 911 Center received 173 law enforcement calls for the month of September, 183 EMS, and 35 fire related calls. He then provided the Wrecker Response Report; Galford's received seven calls, Clarkson's three, Neel's two and Offenberger's, Wilson's and Gore's each received one call. At the request of Wilson, the County Commission voted to enter into an annual service contract with Greener Pastures, Inc., to maintain the 911 Center's three generators. The Commission authorized Wilson to request a proposal from Anderson and Associates detailing how much they would charge to assist the 911 Center in completing the 911 Physical Address conversion. Wilson reported that most areas of the county have been converted to a physical style address except for areas in the southern part of the county including Lindside, Peterstown and Ballard.

Jeff Jones, the county's Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Commission. Jones provided an update on the complaints filed under the county's Unsafe and Unsanitary and Structures and Refuse Ordinance. He said the Monroe and Greenbrier County Local Emergency Planning Committees are still discussing holding a joint mock exercise on the Greenbrier/Monroe county line.

The County Commission accepted the resignation of Larry Mustain from the Solid Waste Authority and reviewed the meeting minutes of the Gap Mills PSD.

At the request of Jim Nelson, CEO of the Monroe Health Center, the Commission authorized the installation of fiber optic at the Health Center's three locations.

The County Commission reviewed and approved invoices from the county's fire departments that will be paid from fire levy funds. The total amount of invoices submitted for the first quarter of 2015-2016 and approved by the County Commission for the respective departments were: Union VFD \$27,915.84, Ballard VFD \$20,575.18, PVD \$1,094.60 and Lindside VFD \$36,907. Each department receives 1 approximately \$45,774 annually in revenue generated from the excess fire levy.

Joe Aucermine, who was recently named as the Interim Executive Director of the Monroe/Summers Day Report Program, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Aucermine reported the Community Corrections Board is reposting the Executive Director position and they have appointed him as the Interim Director through December. He said he is willing to listen to any concerns the county has on the operation of the program and he is committed to doing everything he can to make the program functional and accountable and looks forward to the Commission's input.

Assessor Norb Netzel appeared before the County Commission. At the request of Netzel, the County Commission approved three parcel consolidation requests and three exonerations.

The County Commission adjourned at approximately 2:55 pm. The Commission's next regular meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015 beginning at 5:30 pm. To be placed on the County Commission agenda please call 772-3096.

