

Monroe Commission Holds October Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met October 7th at the Courthouse. President Joyce Pritt opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

County Clerk Donald J. Evans advised the Commission that the funds needed to complete the Greenville / Wikel Water project have been appropriated by Governor Joe Manchin. Once completed, this project will extend public water service from Colture's Chapel to Wikel on to Greenville. The Clerk also advised Commissioners that the Board of Education has called for a special election for January 30, 2010 for the purpose of renewing their current excess levy.

The County Clerk told Commissioners that the prescription discount cards can be obtained at 18 different businesses throughout the county. These cards can be used by individuals who don't have any insurance to pay for prescriptions. The cards are free and there are no age or eligibility requirements. The County Commission recently agreed to participate in this Prescription Discount Card program in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (NACO). NACO reports that the average savings when using the card is per prescription is 22%. The cards can be obtained at the following locations; Union: Courthouse, Union Senior Center and Ashley's Food Pride, Gap Mills: Barn Store and Cheese and More, Lindside: Bob's Grocery and Lindside Senior Center, Peterstown: Boggess Hardware, Hometown Restaurant, Peterstown Pharmacy and Peterstown Town Hall, Greenville: Old Country Store, Alderson: Alderson City Hall, Alderson's Store and Alderson Pharmacy, Ballard: McBride's and Pat Broyles store.

The County Commission adopted a proclamation declaring October as "Breast Cancer Awareness" month and heard a request from Magistrates Kevin Miller and Crews for funding to install a chair lift at the Magistrates office. The Magistrates reported that this lift can be used by individuals who cannot climb the steep steps to the Magistrate's office which is located on the second floor of the Union Fire Department building.

A representative from the US Census Bureau met with Commissioners and explained how the county could assist with the 2010 Census. The County Commission agreed to serve as a partner with the Census Bureau in an effort to get everyone counted during the census.

Commissioners reviewed a financial statement from the Town of Peterstown as well as the monthly minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and the Community Corrections committee.

A couple appeared before Commissioners objecting to 911 officials naming the road that they live on. They also were opposed to Department of Highway officials placing a sign on this road reflecting the road name. These individuals stated that this road was not a "public road" but was an easement and by placing a sign on the road would increase traffic by their house. Commissioners explained that the naming of this road was part of the 911 Mapping and Addressing project and was being done so that emergency responders could locate their residence in the event of an emergency. Commissioners agreed to ask Prosecuting Attorney Justin St. Clair to research the issue about the naming of the road and the placement of a sign. The couple also made a complaint in reference to the 911 surcharge fee placed on all phone lines in the county.

Members of the Monroe County Planning Commission appeared before Commissioners and presented them with the first ever draft of a Comprehensive Plan for the county. Commissioners now have 90 days to accept the plan, reject it or ask the Planning Commission to modify it. The County Commission has scheduled a public to be held on December 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Courthouse for the purpose of hearing input and comments on the draft plan. You can view the plan on the county's website at www.monroecountywv.net then click on Comprehensive Plan.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that a representative from US Cellular has informed him that US Cellular plans to construct a 400 foot cell phone tower near Rock Camp at the intersection of US Rt. 219 and Rt. 122. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2010.

The County Commission authorized the Clerk to contact Frye Roofing to inquire if they can provide an inspection of the Courthouse roof. Leaks have been found in the Circuit Courtroom.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, met with Commissioners and provided an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Power reported that long time dispatcher Mary Evelyn Hylton has retired and Harvey Flint, another long time employee, plans to retire on November 1st. Power reported that the 911 Center has achieved 100% for assignment of addresses throughout the county and their next goal is to obtain 80% return rate for the postcards that were mailed to residents of the county. Commissioners authorized Power to negotiate a lease agreement with a landowner near Gap Mills for the purpose of placing a radio repeater on the individual's property. This repeater will improve emergency radio communications for the county's emergency responders when responding to this area of the county.

The Clerk reported that the Superintendent Lyn Guy has notified him that the Board of Education has called for a special election to be held on January 30, 2010 for the purpose of renewing their excess levy.

Commissioners addressed three estate matters and approved six exonerations. The County Commission will meet again on December 2nd at the Courthouse.