

Monroe Commission Holds November Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on November 6, 2013 at the Courthouse. President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the Regional Jail Authority advising there would be no increase in the daily inmate per diem rate for the upcoming year. Counties throughout the state currently pay \$48.50 per inmate, per day, for housing inmates in regional jails. During the last fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2013, the county's jail bill averaged \$14,200.00 per month.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, advised the County Commission that the county's grant application to the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority has been completed and submitted. The county is seeking grant funds to install a sprinkler system in the Courthouse. Total project cost is \$130,000. The county applied for \$100,000, the maximum allowed through this grant program. Evans wrote the grant on behalf of the County Commission.

The County Commission adopted a resolution in reference to a grant awarded to the Monroe County Historical Society by the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program. This grant will be used to make improvements to the Old Baptist Church in Union.

A complaint filed under the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance was reviewed and a request from AT&T to co-locate on an existing cell phone tower near Creamery was approved.

Jennifer McMeekin, the Director of the county's Day Report Program, appeared before the County Commission and provided an update on the county's Day Report Program. Ms. McMeekin told Commissioners that are 14 individuals presently participating in the program. She said participants have performed community service at the Old Rehoboth Church, the former Board of Education office building, and the Town of Peterstown.

Assessor Norb Netzel met with the County Commission and advised that he was applying for a grant with WV Geological Survey in the amount of \$28,900. If awarded, Netzel said these funds would be used to digitize the tax maps in the Assessor's Office.

Garry Taylor, Chairman of the County's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission and provided an update of Planning Commission activities.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the bid notices for the Court Security Grant projects have been placed in the local newspaper. These bid notices include work to be performed at the Magistrate's Office, Courthouse and 911 Center. Funding for these projects will come from the Division of Justice and Community Services.

The County Commission accepted a proposal from Kevin Glover to remove snow from around the Courthouse and parking areas for the 2013-2014 year and scheduled a meeting for November 19th to meet with the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Enforcement Board to hear an update on complaints filed under this ordinance.

The County Clerk told Commissioners that the State of WV was starting to purchase right-of-ways for the replacement of the bridge at Peterstown on the West Virginia/Virginia border. The County Commission has been working with officials from Giles County, VA, the WV Division of Highways, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and state and federal legislators for the past several years in an effort to get this bridge replaced.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission and provided an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Wilson reported that the center received a total of 410 emergency related calls for the month of October. Of the 410 calls, 171 were for law enforcement, 209 were for emergency medical services and 30 were fire related calls. Wilson also provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report. Galford's received 12 calls, Neels 3, Clarkson's 2, and Lee's and Wilson's received one call each.

Ann Rodes, the County's Emergency Management Director, also appeared before the County Commission. At Ms. Rodes' request, the County Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding that will be used when the county has to use a privately owned facility as an emergency shelter. The MOU will detail what is expected from the county as well as the property owner. The County Commission also approved purchasing the necessary wiring and other supplies needed to hook a generator up at the Union Church of God Recreation Building. This building has been designated as an emergency shelter by the county. Ms. Rodes advised Commissioners that she plans to meet with utility company representatives in the near future to discuss emergency planning and response.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on December 4, 2013 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. Those wanting to get on the Commission's agenda should call 772-3096.