

Monroe Commission Holds November Meeting

The Monroe County met in regular session on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at the Courthouse. This meeting date was changed from November 5th due to the General Election.

At the request of the County Commission, Steve Weir, Executive Director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation appeared before the Commission. The GVEDC owns a building and the Veteran's Administration leases office space in a portion of the building. Several individuals have filed complaints of an odor in the Veteran's Administration side of the building and some even reported getting sick from such odor. Mr. Weir said the building has been inspected on several occasions and no hazards can be found. The County Commissions of Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe provides funding annually to the GVEDC.

Garry Taylor, Chairman of the Planning Commission, appeared before Commissioners and advised the Commissioners the Planning Commission had two vacancies at the present time. Taylor provided a few names of individuals who may be interesting in serving.

Robin Frazier, Executive Director of Union Rescue along with Bob Williams, Board Member and Paramedic Rhonda Hall once again appeared before the County Commission concerning the financial woes of Union Rescue. Ms. Frazier told Commissioners she has made some personnel cuts and eliminated about \$100,000 in expenses. A Countywide Ambulance Authority was again discussed. Under this authority a surcharge would be assessed against every home in the county and revenue derived from this surcharge would be used to fund the authority. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, said he met with representatives from Peterstown Fire & Rescue and they had no interest in being a part of a countywide authority. These members told Evans that many individuals had worked hard to keep the Peterstown Rescue Squad as an all volunteer department and this is the way they wanted to keep it. Union Rescue pays its members for their services. Ms. Frazier said Union Rescue would try to continue to operate in the short term with the cuts she made.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the Commission. Wilson provided the Monthly Wrecker Response Report. It is as follows Galford's received eight calls; Neel's received four and Wilson's received one call. He also provided the 911 Center Monthly Call Report. The center received 145 law enforcement calls, 230 emergency medical services' calls and 47 fire calls. Mr. Wilson reported the fence surrounding a county owned tower on Bickett Knob has been completed. There was also a discussion if the county and Wilson wanted to relocate the 911 Center to the building the county just purchased which formerly housed the Broyles McGuire Funeral Home.

Commissioners reviewed the Board of Health meeting minutes and the Loss Run Report provided by WV Counties Risk Pool, the county's insurance provider and voted to renew the employees' group health insurance coverage with Coventry.

The Commission set the annual Courthouse Open House for December 12th from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm and the employee Christmas dinner for December 17th at 12:00 noon. Courthouse hours for the holiday season are as follows. The Courthouse

will close at noon on December 24th and will not reopen until Monday, December 29th. In addition, the Courthouse will be closed on January 1, 2015 for New Years'.

Commissioners approved an appropriation to the county's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and adopted a resolution declaring November 29, 2014 to be GFWC WV Peterstown's Women's Club Day in Monroe County. The Peterstown Women's Club was organized in September 1994 and federated with the General Federation of Women's Club on November 29, 1949.

The County Commission adopted a resolution affirming the county wishes to continue participation in the Local Economic Development Grant Program and designated the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation to represent Monroe County for the purpose of participating in this program.

Representatives from Mountain Valley Pipeline were on hand at this meeting to offer information on a proposed 42" natural gas pipeline that is proposed to run from Wetzel County, WV to Pittsylvania County, VA and will pass through Monroe County. Greg Bowyer, Brian Brown and Matt Makin were in attendance representing EQT and NextEra. The project is a joint venture of EQT and NextEra. This line is being constructed to take natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale regions to markets in the Mid and South Atlantic regions. Construction is projected to begin on late 2016. There was a huge crowd in attendance with most opposing the proposed pipeline. Several individuals in attendance asked questions and voiced their opposition to the proposed pipeline. An individual from Peterstown also shared the negative experiences she and her family have encountered with a gas line being constructed through their property. She said the construction workers installing the line have urinated in her yard instead of using porta johns on site, tore up and blocked their road and basically didn't do anything they said they would prior to the start of construction. She said she would call to complain they never could speak with the same individual and at the end of the day, no one assisted with her comp