

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at the Courthouse. President Clyde Gum, Jr. called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. The County Commission voted unanimously to file as an intervenor with the Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in relation to the application recently filed with FERC for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. As an intervenor, the County Commission will receive copies of any and all documents and filings related to this application process that are filed with FERC. In addition, intervenor status will allow the County Commission to file briefs or other legal documents in the matter if they so desire.

The Commission announced that the annual Courthouse Open House will be December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am till 1:00 pm. The Courthouse will be closed Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas and January 1, 2016 for New Year's.

Commissioner Gum reported that a couple individuals have contacted him and shown an interest in purchasing the McGuire Building. At a public auction held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the County Commission didn't accept the amount that was bid on the property. The Commission purchased this property in 2014 to house the newly formed Drug Court, the Day Report Program and possibly the Magistrates. After an inspection by the State Fire Marshall, it was determined that the cost to bring the building into compliance with state regulations was more than the County Commission wanted to put into it. The County Commission then voted to sell the property.

Joe Aucermine, the Interim Director of the Summers/Monroe Day Report Program, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Aucermine provided the County Commission with a financial report of the program and a list of the projects that have been completed by those individuals assigned to the program. Some of these projects include; cleaning of the streets in both Peterstown and Union, painting at Peterstown Town Hall and Board of Education, cleaning at State Police office, Magistrate Offices, Courthouse and Family Court, and raking and bagging leaves at Old Rehoboth Church and the Courthouse.

The County Commission reviewed and approved a proposal from Aetna to provide group health insurance coverage for county employees. Coventry, the company that previously provided this insurance, was recently purchased by Aetna. With the savings the county will realize on the amount paid toward health insurance premiums, the Commission voted to provide a short term disability policy for all full time employees. Employees, at their own expense, will be provided an opportunity to purchase a long term policy as well.

The County Commission denied a request from an employee to be paid for a portion of their accumulated annual leave due to the county's current policy doesn't allow for the purchase of such leave.

The Commission again discussed the financial problems of the Union Rescue Squad. Commissioners have been advised the Squad's Board of Directors recently voted to decrease the operating hours of MedicOne from 84 hours per week to 40 hours a week. Additional cuts to this program are expected in December. Commissioners previously voted to appoint a committee to provide the County Commission with a

recommendation of how emergency medical services should be provided throughout the county in the next five and ten years. The Commission agreed to appoint individuals to this committee at their December meeting.

The Commission agreed to a payment plan to address the county's delinquent regional jail bill. Commissioner Gum reported he and the County Clerk met earlier in the day with officials with the Regional Jail to address this bill. The plan will be submitted to jail officials for their action. The county's monthly jail bill is averaging around \$20,000.

The County Commission addressed one estate matter and approved six final estate settlements. The next meeting of the County Commission will be December 2, 2015 beginning at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. To be placed on the Commission's agenda, please call 772-3096.