

Monroe Commission Holds November Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on November 2, 2011 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Commissioner Gum reported that he recently attended meetings at Sinks Grove and Wolf Creek concerning the closure of their post offices by the US Postal Service. Commissioner Gum advised postal authorities that these post offices in smaller communities are vital to the communities and the County Commission was opposed to such closures

Commissioners scheduled a public hearing for the purpose of hearing input on the proposed Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance. The hearing is scheduled for December 8, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Circuit Courtroom in the Courthouse. The ordinance can be viewed on the county's website at www.monroecountywv.net and copies of the ordinances are available in the County Clerk's Office. If you would like a copy of the ordinance mailed to you, please call the Clerk's Office at 772-3096.

Rod Graves, Chairman of the county's Planning Commission, met with the County Commission and provided an update of the activities of the Planning Commission. There was a discussion of holding the Planning Commission meetings in different areas of the county. Graves reported that the Commission has previously held meetings in Alderson and Peterstown. Commissioners advised Graves they would like to see the Planning Commission continue to meet in other areas besides Union. Mr. Graves also reported that the Planning Commissioners recently met and elected officers for the upcoming year and reported he has been invited to attend a Marcellus Shale summit at Penn State University.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes for the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and the Monroe Board of Health and approved the policies and procedures for the county's Purchasing Card Program.

The County Commission asked Bruce Power, 911 Director, to contact two companies who offer the Reverse 911 System and ask them to attend a Commission meeting for the purpose of providing a presentation and cost of their systems. Power reported that he will be submitting an application to the Wireless Tower Assistance Fund in an effort to get an emergency communications tower installed in the Gap Mills / Sweet Springs area. Commissioners reviewed a letter from Senator Jay Rockefeller noting his support for this project.

The County Commission voted to start purchasing gas for county owned vehicles at businesses in the county. The county presently purchases gas at the Department of Highways. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, recommended several months ago that the county should consider this change. The Clerk said gas prices at county businesses were actually a little cheaper than what the county pays at the Department of Highways. In addition, Evans said the County Commission would be supporting the businesses in the county. Evans said another benefit would be that the county will pay for the gas with a credit card and will receive a 1% rebate on all purchases made with the credit card. The

county has been using credit cards for other expenditures for a couple of years. Evans estimated it would take a couple of weeks to get this change in place. The credit card program, which is referred to as a P-Card, is administered through the WV State Auditor's Office.

The County Commission accepted the resignation of Dr. Ron Ripley from Region 1 Planning and Development Council. The Commission asked the Clerk to prepare a letter to Dr. Ripley thanking him for his years of dedicated service to the council.

The Clerk advised Commissioners that the Court Security Grant Program recently provided notice that there were additional funds available for projects to improve court security. The Commission asked the Clerk to prepare a grant application to the Court Security Fund to purchase six "Prisoner's Benches". Individuals that are waiting to appear in court can be secured to these benches. The benches will be installed in Circuit and Magistrate Courts and in the inmate holding cell at the Courthouse.

Commissioners authorized the Clerk to file an additional claim with the county's insurance company for additional damages found when the contractor was completing the original repairs. Damage is estimated at \$10,000.00. This damage was caused from a storm a couple months ago. With this recent damage, the total damages to equipment in the Courthouse and 911 Center is approximately \$30,000.00.

The County Commission discussed the funding for the Prevention Resource Officer. The Sheriff reported that the House of Delegates and the Senate appropriated \$15,000.00 each for the PRO program. He said the House's \$15,000.00 had actually been mailed to the Board of Education and the board has since forwarded these funds to the county. The county has yet to receive the Senate's portion of the funding. Commissioners agreed to contact Senator Ron Miller and see what the delay is on receiving this funding from the Senate.

Commissioners reviewed the annual Loss Run Report from the WV Counties Self Insurance Pool and the quarterly franchise fee report from Suddenlink Communications.

The County Commission agreed to pay for damages caused to the Greenville Ruritan building from someone stealing the copper lines. The Commission agreed to pay for the damages since the county owns the property. A representative of the Ruritan is working on getting an estimate of damages. The theft is under investigation by law enforcement.

Commissioners authorized repairs to the vehicle assigned to the Day Report Center and approved recommendation orders on three estates as presented by Susan Cobb, Fiduciary Commissioner.

Commissioners accepted a request from residents in Glace to attend a Meet & Greet reception in their community. Commissioners authorized the Clerk to work out a date with the community for such meeting. The County Commission has committed to holding events like this in different areas of the county.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, reported that the county's website now features a public meeting calendar. Government entities or agencies can now post their meeting dates, times and locations at one central location. The Clerk's

Office will post the information on the website. Evans said this calendar would give residents a single location to go to and find out when a public entity or agency is meeting.

Evans also said that in the near future, the website will feature different businesses located in the county. The feature will provide information about the business such as what the business offers, hours, location and more. Any business owner who wants to have their business featured on the website can obtain a "Business Feature" form from the county's website. The form must be completed and submitted to the County Clerk's Office.

The County Commission scheduled the annual Courthouse Open House for December 16th from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm and authorized the closure of the Courthouse on December 23rd and December 26th in observance of Christmas.