

Monroe Commission Holds December Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met on December 4, 2013 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. Shane Ashley, President of the County Commission, called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the county's grant application to the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority in the amount of \$100,000 has been approved. These funds will be used to install a sprinkler system in the Courthouse. In accordance with the grant guidelines the county must provide a 20% match of the awarded amount. The Commission authorized the solicitation of bids for the design and installation of the sprinkler system. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, wrote the grant application on behalf of the County Commission.

At the request of the County Commission, Andy Feeney, Regional Vice-President for AT&T appeared before the County Commission. The Commission invited Mr. Feeney to the meeting to explain why AT&T's cell service in the Union area has been poor for the past three weeks. Mr. Feeney explained that AT&T was upgrading the Union area from 2G service to 3G and while performing this upgrade a subcontractor for the owner of the tower made some errors while performing the upgrade. Feeney apologized for the inconvenience this caused to AT&T customers. He went on to say that AT&T would be upgrading the 3G service to 4G in Union in late 2014.

The County Commission agreed to close the Courthouse $\frac{1}{2}$ day on December 24th, and all day on December 25th, 26th and 27th. In addition, the Courthouse will be closed on January 1, 2014 for New Years.

Assessor Norb Netzel appeared before the County Commission and provided an update of the activities of his office. Mr. Netzel advised he is presently accepting Requests for Proposals to digitize the county's tax maps.

At the request of Ann Rodes, the Director of the County's Office of Emergency Services, the County Commission agreed to enter into an agreement with JH Consulting to have a county-wide hazard analysis performed. Ms. Rodes also advised Commissioners that she was applying for an Emergency Management Planning Grant in the amount of \$25,640.00. These funds will be used to pay a portion of Ms. Rodes' salary and to purchase furnishings for the office of the Director of Emergency Services.

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

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and the annual minutes of the county's Building Commission.

The County Commission awarded a bid to Bays' Service to perform security improvements at the Magistrate's Office and Courthouse. Bays was the only bidder for this project. The Commission awarded a second bid to improve security at the Magistrate's Office to Duane Miller Construction Services. Duane Miller Construction Services was the only company to place a bid on this project. These improvements are being funded from a grant from the Division of Justice and Community Services

Court Security Program in the amount of \$118,000. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, wrote the grant on behalf of the County Commission.

The County Commission adopted Resolutions of Support for the Circuit Clerk's Office and the Monroe Public Library for their efforts in obtaining grant funding. The Circuit Clerk is applying for funding to purchase furnishings for the jury room. The library plans to purchase a new computer with their grant funds. Both entities are applying for this funding through the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program.

Due to the New Year's Holiday, the County Commission has changed their January 2014 meeting from January 1st to January 2nd. Anyone needing to get on the County Commission's agenda should call 772-3096.