

## Monroe Commission Hold March Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on March 7, 2012. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Larry Johnson of Cooks Run Road appeared before the County Commission and presented them with a petition containing the signatures of individuals who live near him and who are requesting public water. Mr. Johnson inquired why water couldn't be extended to his house and his neighbor's house from the new Greenville Water System. Bob Hazelwood, the Project Engineer for this project, was in attendance and told Mr. Johnson the area where his and his neighbor's houses are located were not included in the original application for funding. He said water extension to Mr. Johnson's house and his neighbor's houses would have to be done in a separate project if the County Commission and Red Sulphur PSD approved such project and if additional funding should become available at a later date.

The County Commission adopted resolutions supporting the efforts of the Monroe Historical Society and the Monroe County Assessor's Office in their efforts to obtain grant funding from the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from the Monroe County Health Department advising that they have revoked Moody's Mobile Home Park's permit to operate. Moody's Mobile Home Park is located in Peterstown. The permit was revoked for the failure of the owner to address deficiencies previously noted in a Health Department inspection. The County Commission has filed a petition with the Circuit Court asking such Court to close this park due to public health and safety concerns.

The County Commission opened sealed bids for the construction of a sidewalk at the new Gap Mills voting precinct. Duane Miller Construction Services and DCI / Shires each submitted a bid. The bid was awarded to Duane Miller Construction Services in the amount of \$7,600.00. This project is funded from a grant from the Help America Vote Act written Donald J. Evans, County Clerk.

County Clerk employee Tisha Terry provided the County Commission with a budget report of all of the county's accounts and line items.

Acting on numerous complaints from county residents, the County Commission voted, by a 2 to 1 margin, to enact an Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance to go into effect May 2, 2012. Commissioners Shane Ashley and Clyde Gum, Jr. voted in favor of the ordinance and Commissioner Bill Miller voted against enacting the ordinance. The ordinance can be viewed at [www.monroecountywv.net](http://www.monroecountywv.net).

The County Commission approved a request from Sgt. Mickey Sylvester of the Department of Natural Resources to relocate a plaque honoring Officer Wesley Frame; a DNR officer assigned to Monroe County and was killed in the line of duty in 1978, to Courthouse property. Sgt. Sylvester said the plaque is located in an area now where it's not visible. He said the DNR wants to place it in

a location where it can be seen and maintained. Sylvester said the DNR would take care of any cost associated with the placement of the plaque.

The County Commission opened sealed bids for the replacement of the Courthouse roof. Two bids were received; one from Tri-State Roofing in Charleston and the other was from J. M. Miles & Sons, Inc. from Chesapeake, VA. No action was taken on these bids.

The County Commission agreed to pay the travel expenditures for two individuals to attend a County Commission meeting for the purposing of sharing their knowledge of wind turbines with the County Commission. Presently, there are two proposals being discussed to install wind turbines in Monroe County. One site is located in between Peterstown and Lindside on Little Mountain and the other site is located on Wolf Creek Mountain.

Commissioners approved a request from Jill Young, the county's representative on the Mountain RC&D board, to transfer from the water committee to the agriculture committee within the RC&D organization.

Steve Rawlings, representing the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool (WVCORP) appeared before the County Commission. Monroe County is a member of this risk pool and has their liability and casualty insurance and worker's compensation insurance through WVCORP. Mr. Rawlings provided an overview of the county's annual lost ratios for liability and worker's compensation. He said the county presently has one of the lowest loss ratios in the entire pool. Thirty-four of the fifty-five counties throughout the state are now members of WVCORP.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the WV Division of Labor that was sent to all County Commissions across the state. In the letter, the Division of Labor was advising that Volunteer Fire Departments are considered public agencies and therefore are required to pay prevailing wages on any construction project they undertake. Commissioners asked the Clerk to forward a letter to the Governor, Legislative leaders and legislative representatives relaying their opposition to this ruling and requested they take whatever steps they need to take that would exempt volunteer fire departments from paying prevailing wages on any construction project.

Commissioner reviewed a letter from the Division of Criminal Justice Services advising they have received the Sheriff's grant application seeking funds to maintain the Prevention Resource Officer position. The monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts were also reviewed.

On the recommendation of Bruce Power, 911 Director, the County Commission voted to enter into a contract with Anderson & Associates. Anderson & Associates will assist the 911 Center in the E911/GIS Conversion. Power also recommended the Commission purchase a new digital recorder that records all phone lines in the 911 Center and radio communications. This request was also approved.

Planning Commission members Rod Graves, Rocky Parsons and Jim Menard appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Graves said the current location where the Planning Commission is holding its meetings is not working

out. Graves said they meet in a room in the Monroe Health Center and the doors to the meeting room have automatic locks on them. He said when the door closes it locks. Commissioners advised the Planning Commission they need to try and find another location because if someone attended a meeting and couldn't get in the door, it could possibly be a violation of the Open Meetings Laws. Commissioners and those Planning Commission members present talked about other locations for the Planning Commission to meet. Graves said a representative of the WV School of Law recently attended a Planning Commission meeting and offered his assistance to the Commission. The Planning Commission is also developing policies and procedures so it will be clear on the way the Planning Commission conducts business. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Peterstown Public Library.

The County Commission reappointed Lewis Buckland to the Monroe County Solid Waste Authority, reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and approved a drawdown request for the Greenville Water Project.

On the recommendation of Bruce Power, 911 Director, the County Commission voted to enter into a contract with Anderson & Associates to assist the 911 Center with the E911 / GIS conversion.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly gasoline usage report for those employees who have been assigned a county vehicle. The certification figures, as provided by the Assessor, that will be used for the 2012-2012 budget, were also reviewed.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that the annual Court Security Grant application is due March 30<sup>th</sup>.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on April 4, 2012 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse.