

Monroe Commission Holds April Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on April 6, 2011 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

The County Commission began their meeting by approving the March 2nd minutes and reviewing a letter from Governor Earl Ray Tomblin advising that the County Clerk's Office has been awarded a Governor's Community Participation Grant in the amount of \$12,527.00. These funds will be used toward the purchase of a Document Scanning System for the Clerk's Office.

Commissioners sold a parcel of land at public auction on this day. This property is located near Moncove Lake in the Sweet Springs taxing district and was an asset of the now defunct Moncove Lake Public Service District. On June 11, 1992, the Public Service Commission of WV issued an order approving the dissolution of the Moncove Lake PSD and ordered the Monroe County Commission to sell any assets owned by the Moncove Lake PSD. The subject property consists of two parcels. One parcel contained 0.64 acres. The other parcel contains 6,690.94 or 0.151285 acres. Lonnie Warwick, the only individual who was present at the auction, purchased this property.

Commissioners reviewed the meeting minutes of the Monroe Health Department and the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts.

The County Clerk reported that the State Auditor's Office has issued a "conditional approval" of the county's 2011-2012 budget. The Clerk said there were two expenditure line items that needed to be revised. He said he has made the necessary changes and submitted such changes to the State Auditor.

The Clerk also advised Commissioners that the county's Court Security Grant application has been submitted. The County Commission is seeking funding to purchase two walk through metal detectors, one for the Circuit Court and the other one for Magistrate Court. County Clerk Donald J. Evans, prepared the grant application.

Commissioners reviewed a letter from the Friends of Second Creek. This organization made a request for the County Commission to adopt a resolution designating the entire Second Creek Watershed a County Historic District. Commissioners asked the Clerk to invite this organization to their next meeting to discuss this request.

Commissioners approved a request from the Monroe County Quilt Trail Committee to include the Monroe County Bicentennial Quilt, which is displayed at the Courthouse, to be included on the Quilt Trail. The Commission also approved a drawdown request for the Greenville Water Project in the amount of \$336,646.00.

Sheriff Gravely advised that he has submitted the grant application to the Division of Criminal Justice Services to fund the salary of the Prevention Resource Officer at James Monroe High School for next year.

Helen Graves, the county's Tourism Director, met with the County Commission and provided an update on what she was doing to promote tourism in the county. Ms. Graves said a committee had been formed for the purpose of

developing a Farm Heritage Center to be located on property owned by the WVU Farm on Willow Bend Road. Graves said she and several others were scheduled to meet with officials from WVU in Morgantown to present this proposal. She said the Center would include a science center, amphitheater, walking trails, barn, picnic shelter, play area and historic farm equipment. Ms. Graves also said she was trying to come up with a way to get visitors to the PGA Tournament at The Greenbrier to come to Monroe County. Several ideas were discussed and Ms. Graves said she would continue to work on this.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that Jerry Berry, President of the Summers County Commission, had called him concerning a piece of property owned jointly by the Summers and Monroe County Commissions. This property, consisting of approximately 31 acres, is located near the Summers / Monroe County line. Berry said the Summers Commission has discussed the idea of developing a regional training facility for volunteer fire departments on such property. He said he would get back to the Monroe Commission when he knew more about such development.

At the request of Shirley Hall, Executive Director for the Monroe County Coalition for Children and Families, the County Commission designated the week of April 10-16 as the "Week of the Child".

Rod Graves, Rocky Parsons, Jim Menard and Garry Taylor, all representing the County's Planning Commission, met with the County Commission to provide an update of the Planning Commission's activities. Mr. Graves expressed concern over the County Commission making appointments to the Planning Commission without first notifying the Planning Commission. Commissioner Miller said the code was very clear on the procedure for appointing members to the Planning Commission and the County Commission followed such code. There was also a discussion on three ordinances the Planning Commission has prepared but hasn't been adopted by the County Commission. Commission President Shane Ashley suggested a special meeting be held on April 25th for the purpose of reviewing these ordinances.