

Monroe Commission Holds April Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on April 7, 2010 at the Courthouse. Commission President Joyce Pritt called the meeting to order followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Rod Graves and Jim Minard, representing the County's Planning Commission, appeared before Commissioners providing them with an update of the activities of the Planning Commission. Mr. Graves advised Commissioners that the Planning Commission still needs office and storage space. The County Commission approved a request from Graves to fund an exploratory trip to Pennsylvania for the purpose of learning more about the gas drilling business. He said this trip would be beneficial since several county residents have signed gas leases with various companies. Graves said that Planning Commission members would like to talk with operators, landowners and community leaders in an effort to learn more about the gas drilling process.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the State Auditor's Office has issued a conditional approval of the county's 2010-11 budget. Commissioners authorized the Clerk to make the minor revisions to the budget.

Commissioners rejected the only bid submitted for the construction of the parking lot at the Potts Valley Trail in Waiteville. The bid amount exceeded the amount of money that had been appropriated for the construction of the parking lot.

Amy Maloney appeared before the County Commission for the purpose of introducing herself to the Commission and telling them the programs and projects she is presently involved in. Ms. Maloney asked Commissioners if she could invite the President of the WV Humane Society, who lives in Princeton, to a County Commission meeting. Commissioners advised Ms. Moloney they would welcome the director at one of their meetings.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, met with Commissioners and provided them with an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Mr. Power said all dispatchers have attended the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) training. He also said the dispatchers have visited the Raleigh County Emergency Operations Center to view their CAD system. Power said he wanted the county's dispatchers to have an idea as to how the system works before the county's CAD system is installed. He reported that the 911 basement renovation project was coming along very well.

Commissioners agreed to place the County's Animal Control Officer under the supervision of the Sheriff and asked the Clerk to invite the members of the County's Historic Landmark Commission and the Second Creek Watershed Historic Landmark Commission to their next meeting on May 5th. The County Commission was recently notified by the WV Division of Culture and History that only one Historic Landmark Commission in the county would be eligible for grant funding and Commissioner want to discuss this matter with the members of each Commission.

The County Clerk advised that Department of Highway officials recently met with the Mayor of Peterstown concerning the replacement of the bridge in Peterstown on the West Virginia / Virginia border. Highway officials indicated that they hoped the bridge replacement would go out for bids this summer or fall.

Commissioners agreed to draft a letter to Governor Joe Manchin asking for his assistance in developing additional camping sites and making some improvement at

Moncove Lake State Park. Commissioners and the Clerk both said they have received several complaints about the park not having adequate number of camping sites, the pool being too cold, and the need to make various improvements to the park. Commissioners agreed if the county was going to promote tourism in the county we couldn't have campers coming to the lake only to be told that all the lots were full forcing them to go elsewhere to camp and spend their money when there is adequate land readily available to develop more lots. Commissioners also discussed the projects and improvements previously completed at the lake by the Moncove Lake Foundation.

At the request of Shirley Hall, Executive Director of the Family Resource Network, Commissioners adopted a proclamation declaring the week of June 11 -15 as the "Week of the Young Child".

Commissioners reviewed a letter from Justin St. Clair, Prosecuting Attorney, advising that he was still researching the issue of a right of way to the Wayside Community Center. The county actually owns this property and a dispute over access has arisen and Commissioners previously asked Mr. St. Clair to research the matter and try to come up with a legal agreement that will be acceptable to all parties.

The County Commission reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts, the Board of Health and the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation. Resolutions of support were also adopted for the Medic One Program and the Monroe Animal League. These two organizations are being considered for a Governor's Community Participation Grant.

Larry Mustain of Second Creek met with Commissioners reiterating that the fact that he thought the "Old School" property at Second Creek should revert back to their heirs of the individual who first donated the land to the Board of Education. Mr. Mustain said he still wants to relocate the old school building onto a parcel on land he owns and make the school assessable to the public.

Commissioners held a hearing in reference to an estate matter, approved seventeen final estate settlements and seven exonerations. The County Commission will meet again in regular session on May 5th.