

Monroe Commission holds May Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in special session on May 5th at the Courthouse. Commission President Joyce Pritt called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

The County Commission unanimously agreed to submit an application to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Region 1 Planning and Development Council administers this program and actual funding comes from Federal Stimulus funds. Commissioners plan to seek funding to replace the lighting in the Courthouse, 911 Center and Prosecuting Attorney's Office, replace the Courthouse boiler with a more efficient heating system, and replace the heating and air conditioning system in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. West Virginia University students have agreed to work with the County Commission in identifying the savings that will be realized with the mentioned upgrades. The county must report such savings in their grant application.

The County Commission reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and the Monroe Board of Health.

Commissioners agreed to submit a Change of Scope to the WV Development Office for a Governor's Community Participation Grant that was recently awarded to the County Commission in the amount of \$14,000.00. Commissioners want to use the grant funds to renovate the employee's ladies restroom on the main floor of the Courthouse and construct a restroom to be exclusively used for drug screening of participants in the Day Report Program.

The County Commission approved a request from Cindy Laws, Library Director at the Peterstown Public Library. Ms. Laws asked the County Commission if they would go ahead and give the library the \$1,000.00 in funding that was appropriated for the library in the county's 2010-11 budget. Ms. Laws said the library was having trouble meeting payroll obligations.

Commissioner Ashley reported that Union Volunteer Fire Department has received a settlement from their insurance company for the damage that was caused to their Gap Mills substation and truck due to a fire. Ashley said the fire department plans to purchase property in Gap Mills and construct a new two-bay substation.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from Dr. Josh Hunter, DMV. Dr. Hunter expressed concern over recent legislative action that will require owners to have their animals vaccinated every three years instead of every two years. Dr. Hunter said the county has had numerous reports of rabid animals and asked the County Commission to adopt a county ordinance continuing the vaccination cycle every two years. Commissioners will check into the legalities of adopting such an ordinance.

Commissioners adopted resolutions of support for four Governor's Community Participation grants and reviewed a letter from the Division of Criminal Justice Services acknowledging the Sheriff's grant application requesting funding to hire a Prevention Resource Officer for James Monroe High School.

Dr. Craig Mohler, Project Coordinator for the Potts Valley Trail in Waiteville, provided Commissioners with an update on the Pott's Valley Trail in Waiteville. He

reported that the students of Mr. Quinton Crawford's carpentry class at the Vo-Tech School have completed the construction of the picnic tables and signs for the trail.

The County Clerk reported that the balance of the county's Regional Jail bill is now \$322,264 and the balance due to the attorneys who represented the County Commission and Assessor in reference to Mountain America's tax assessment appeal is \$118,411.00.

The County Commission approved a Hazard Mitigation Grant application for Jesse Arthur of Alderson, reviewed the upcoming legislative interim meeting schedule and heard a report from Scott Wickline, the Director of the County's Day Report Program.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, reported that the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) is scheduled to be in operation around June 14th. Commissioners and Power also discussed the idea of the Office of Emergency Management conducting Flood Plain determinations.

The Clerk also reported that the county's 2010-11 has been approved by the State Auditor's Office. He also reported that FEMA officials have notified him that the county's floodplain ordinance needs to be updated. Commissioners plan to review the current ordinance and make the necessary changes at their next meeting.

Two estate matters were addressed; nine final estate settlements were approved as was eleven exonerations. The County Commission will meet again in regular session on June 2nd.