

Monroe Commission Holds June Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on June 5, 2013 at the Courthouse. Shane Ashley, President of the County Commission, called the meeting to order followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Rod Graves, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the Commission. After some discussion, the County Commission authorized the Planning Commission to proceed with preparing a cellular telephone tower ordinance for the county. It was agreed that the Moratorium on the construction of any new cell towers in the county, issued by the County Commission a couple months ago, will remain in effect until an ordinance is adopted by the County Commission. Graves reported that Rocky Parsons is working hard with the "Make It Shine Program" in cleaning up areas of the county. Commissioners agreed to contact Department of Natural Resource officials and see if they would conduct a countywide sweep like they done last year for the purpose of identifying illegal dumps.

The County Commission authorized Shane Ashley, President of the County Commission, to sign a contract with Total Tech, Inc. for the installation of an air conditioning unit in the Sheriff's Department offices on the lower level of the Courthouse. Cost of the unit is \$4,604.00.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the County Commission. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report for the month of May; Galford's had nine calls, Clarkson's received two and Offenberger's and Neel's had one call each.

Wilson reported that 911 dispatchers will begin offering Emergency Medical Dispatching on July 1st. He said he was working on a 10-year plan for the 911 Center and was beginning to look at locations to possibly construct a new 911 Center in the future. The Commission and Wilson discussed the applicants for the 911 Deputy Director position but no action was taken at this time.

Several representatives from the organization Save the Water Table appeared before the County Commission. The individuals requested the County Commission support the US Forest Service's proposed Management Plan that would prohibit fracking in the George Washington National Forest. The County Commission took no action on the request at this time.

Commissioners changed their August meeting date from August 7th to August 1st since the date conflicts with the County Commissioners annual meeting.

Bill Shiflet appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Shiflet advised he was in a meeting yesterday with Walt Helmick, Agriculture Commissioner and Mr. Helmick really wants to see something developed at the former Sweet Springs resort that would create jobs for Monroe County. Shiflet said Helmet recently visited Sweet Springs and toured the resort property. The Commission agreed to try and schedule a meeting with Mr. Helmick in the near future to talk about the ideas he has for this property.

The County Commission reviewed the meeting minutes for the Gap Mills Public Service District and agreed to take sealed bids for the Jeep Cherokee, previously used by the Animal Control Officer. The vehicle has been taken out of service and replaced with a newer model vehicle.

The County Clerk reported the new owner of the former Moody's Mobile Home Park property in Peterstown has started cleaning up the property and removing the mobile homes that were left on such property.

Assessor Norb Netzel appeared before the County Commission providing an update of the activities of the Assessor's Office. Netzel reported that several rabies clinics are scheduled throughout the county in the upcoming weeks. The location of these clinics can be found in this paper or by calling 772-3083. Netzel then spoke about the need to get the county's tax maps digitized. He said he was familiar with a company that performs the digitization and they quoted him a price of \$50,000.00. Netzel asked the Commission if there were any funding options available that would allow him to get the maps digitized. He said it would take approximately four months to digitize all the maps. The County Commission agreed with Netzel that the maps needed to be digitized and gave him a couple funding opportunities to check on.

The County Commission recognized Helen Graves, the county's Tourism Director and presented her with an acrylic plaque for her 25 years of service to Monroe County as the Tourism Director and as a WVU Extension Agent. Ms. Graves plans to retire on June 15th.

The County Commission previously agreed to enter into an agreement with Summers County to operate a joint Day Report Center, contingent on the approval of a grant that will fund the program. Jennifer McMeekin, the coordinator for the proposed program, appeared before the County Commission on this day and advised the grant application has been reviewed and it should be known in about three weeks if the grant was approved. Ms. McMeekin said the county would need to provide office space for Day Report staff and a room that could be used as a classroom.

The Clerk advised the LIVEWell Summer Steps Challenge Program began June 1st and goes through August 1st. The purpose of this statewide program is to encourage West Virginians to walk and get active. Monroe County was last year's winner of this contest logging over 900 miles. "The majority of the walkers last year were county employees and this year we are reaching out to residents of the county to participate", said Tisha Terry, an employee in the County Clerk's Office and coordinator of the county's program. Those who prefer to ride bikes or swim can count 20 minutes of physical activity as one mile. Getting started is as easy as 1,2,3. Please go to www.LiveWellWV.org and then click on "Summer Steps Challenge". On this site, you can; register for your free account, select the county for which you want your miles to count toward and track your mileage, beginning June 1, 2013 through August 1, 2013. If you don't have a computer or Internet service and would like to participate, please call Tisha at 772-3096 and she will get you registered.

The County Commission reviewed an email from the trustees of the Sweet Springs Recreation Community. The representatives requested the County

Commission designate a landing zone for a medical response helicopter. These individuals said there is land that can be used for the landing zone. However, to access this land, one must cross the creek and a new bridge will have to be constructed or a new culvert installed. The trustees asked the County Commission for assistance with the construction of the bridge or culvert. Commissioners agreed the county didn't have any funds on hand to assist with this project.

The County Commission approved six estate settlements and four exonerations. The Commission will meet again in regular session on July 3rd.