

Monroe Commission Holds June Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on June 6, 2012 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

On the recommendation of Shannon Parker, CEO of the Monroe Health Center, the County Commission appointed Shelby Jennings to the Board of Health. Ms. Jennings will replace Helen Graves who, after many years of dedicated and faithful service to the board, decided not to seek reappointment.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts.

At the invitation of the County Commission, Fred Ziegler, President of the Monroe Historical Society, appeared before the Commission. Commissioner Clyde Gum Jr., Project Manager for the Courthouse Roof Replacement Project, provided Mr. Ziegler with an overview of the proposed roof replacement project. Gum said he and other Commissioners have worked with the contractor to ensure the new roof will be as similar as possible to the existing roof. The roof replacement project should commence around the first of August.

At the request of the Monroe Public Library, the County Commission approved a funding request for \$3,600.00 to be used in a collaborative effort with New River Community and Technical College (NRCTC) to host a "One Room University" (ORU) in the Library's Agnes Campbell Roles Learning Center. NRCTC will be providing a part time instructor/proctor and the necessary technology related to hosting high-speed internet and video access. The funds approved from the County Commission will pay for additional costs related to increased utilities, custodial upkeep, consumables and supplies required by the additional utilization of the Learning Center. According to NRCTC there are 143 students from Monroe County currently enrolled at NRCYC. The "One Room University" will provide an opportunity for some students as well as other citizens of Monroe County to take college classes without the time and expense of driving to the Lewisburg campus.

The County Commission signed a contract with the WV Development Office in reference to a grant the Assessor's Office is to receive from the Governor's Community Participation Grant Program.

Tim Wilson was appointed as Acting 911 Director and Commissioners agreed to prepare a job description for the 911 Director/Office of Emergency Services Director position at their June 18, 2012 special session meeting. The position will then be advertised.

The County Clerk reported the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority is planning to conduct a facility survey of each of the 55 Courthouses in the State. The following will be assessed during such survey; life safety, structural architectural (interior and exterior), mechanical systems, doors and windows, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. Once the surveys are complete, the CFIA plans to ask the Legislature to issue bonds to help pay for some of the deficiencies noted in the surveys.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly 911 wrecker call response report for May. Galford's received seven calls, Dunbar and Neel's received two calls each and Clarkson's, Wilson's and Offenberger's each received one call.

The County Clerk advised the County Commission the county has received the insurance check in the amount of \$4,065.47 from the WV Counties Risk Pool, the county's insurance provider, to repair damages suffered to one of the Assessor's Office vehicles. An individual came across the center line and struck the Assessor's vehicle. The Clerk reported that no one was injured in the accident.

Tisha Terry, Accounts Payable / Receivable Clerk for the County Clerk's Office, appeared before the County Commission and provided them with a financial report for the county.

The County Commission approved a budget amendment for the Greenville Water Project and signed a grant application for a Governor's Community Participation Grant for Sweet Springs Rescue Squad in the amount of \$8,000.00.

The County Commission reviewed the Purchasing Card rebate report from the State Auditor's Office. The county receives a 1% rebate on all purchases made with the Purchasing Card. The Clerk reported the rebate was approximately \$600.00 more this quarter than it has been and this can be attributed to county employees are now required to purchase gas at businesses in the county and pay for their gas with the Purchasing Card. The county previously purchased gas at the Division of Highways.

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the County Commission approved a request to temporarily paint the parking lines pink at the parking lot at the Monroe Health Center.

Gary Taylor, representing the county's Planning Commission, appeared before the County Commission. The County Commission and Mr. Taylor discussed the county's current floodplain requirements and procedures used to determine if property or a structure is located in a floodplain. A discussion was also held on County Route 4. The WV Division of Highways has received a request to close this road but DOH officials have yet to act on such request.

Larry Thomas and Frank O'Hara, representing the Allegheny Highlands Alliance, appeared before the County Commission. The Allegheny Highlands Alliance (AHA) is a consortium of citizen/environment organizations with membership in five states along the Allegheny Front. The AHA is in the process of discovering the facts about industrial wind; it's potential to reduce green house gases, its economics and the impact of industrial wind energy project installations on the ecology and human health. Mr. Thomas said WV is 32th in the nation in producing wind and the best wind can be found in the Midwest. It was suggested the county consider enacting an ordinance setting some guidelines and restrictions on wind turbines. Thomas said the decommissioning of these turbines need to be addressed because once a company is through using a turbine, they should be made to remove it. He also said there is a misconception about the number of jobs created as a result of installing wind turbines. In reality, he said the county could expect five or six people to be hired to maintain a

turbine. Thomas said the following are critical concerns for County Commissions in dealing with these turbines; sitting location, forest/habitat fragmentation, decommissioning of the turbines, carbon offset and zoning approval authority. Presently, two different companies have anemometers, a device used to measure wind speed, installed in the county. One is on Little Mountain between Lindside and Peterstown and the other is on Wolf Creek Mountain. Officials with these companies say they must measure the wind speed for a one-year period to see if the wind speed at these particular locations is adequate for a wind turbine.

The County Commission approved 16 final estate settlements and eight exonerations. The Commission's July meeting has been changed from July 4th to July 11th due to Independence Day.