

Monroe County Commission Holds August Meeting

The Monroe County Commission held their August meeting on August 5th at the Courthouse. Commission President Joyce Pritt opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Burman Clark, an insurance broker with offices in Narrows and Roanoke, VA, met with Commissioners. Mr. Clark said he was aware the county had recently solicited quotes from insurance companies who provided group health insurance for counties. The county presently has insurance coverage with the Public Employees Insurance Agency and premiums continue to increase each year. Commissioners granted Clark permission to inquire with the companies he represents to see if they can provide coverage at a lesser rate with similar benefits and deductibles.

Commissioners held a public hearing on this day. The purpose of the public hearing was to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan as prepared by Region 1 Planning & Development Council on behalf of the county. There were no public comments on the plan.

A delegation of residents from the Wolf Creek community appeared before Commissioners making a request for the county to extend the precinct boundary lines for the Bellview voting precinct. Commissioners agreed to study this request prior to making a decision on the request.

Tammy Fox, the county's Floodplain Coordinator, appeared before Commissioners and provided them with an update of her activities. Ms. Fox said she recently attended a training session in Logan and reported it was very helpful and informative. Commissioners and Bruce Power, 911 Director, discussed the amount of time Ms. Fox needed to devote to her floodplain duties. Ms. Fox is also serves as a 911 dispatcher.

The County Commission reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts. They also reviewed the quarterly wireless 911 fee distribution report for the months of April, May and June.

Sheriff Mike Gravely met with Commissioners and reported that he has hired Matthew Bradley as a Deputy Sheriff. The County Commission appropriated funding to hire an additional deputy. Deputy Bradley will attend the training academy beginning at the end of the month.

On the recommendation of Jeremy Meadows, Information Technology Manager for the county, the County Commission agreed to purchase the following domain names; monroecountywv.com, monroecountywv.info, monroecountywv.org, and monroecountywv.us. The county already owns monroecountywv.net. Even though the county doesn't have an immediate need for these domain names, Meadows recommended that the county go ahead and purchase them while the cost is inexpensive.

The County Clerk told Commissioners that representatives from US Cellular have confirmed that they plan to construct a cell phone tower in the Ballard area. They said construction would begin in the spring.

Commissioners voted to enter into an agreement with the Union Volunteer Fire Department to pay them \$1,000.00 per month rent, including utilities, for office space for the Magistrates. The Fire Department recently notified Commissioners that the rent

would increase and the county had two options; 1) the county could continue paying the \$600.00 per month rent and also pay all utilities or 2) the county could pay \$1,000.00 per month including utilities. Commissioners felt the second option would be in the best interest of the county.

The County Commission prepared a letter of support for the Monroe Solid Waste Authority in their efforts to obtain \$15,000.00 in grant funding from the State of WV.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, appeared before Commissioners and provided them with an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Power said that 85% of the structures in the county have addressed and the mapping and addressing project should be completed within the next couple of months. He said the 911 Center received 4,026 calls for the month of July of which 610 came in on 911 lines.

Commissioners asked the Prosecuting Attorney to pursue restitution against an individual who caused damage to the inside door of one of the deputy's cruisers while being transported. The individual caused approximately \$1,400.00 in damage. The Court ordered the individual to pay restitution to the county and Commissioners want to make sure the county gets reimbursed for this damage.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from the WV Department of Environmental Protection Agency advising that Jerry Pitzer of Peterstown has been reappointed to the Monroe Solid Waste Authority. Commissioners approved purchasing a cellular phone and a new computer for the Day Report Center from Home Confinement funds which are generated by the program.

Commissioners addressed two estate matters, approved eleven final estate settlements and twenty eight exonerations. The County Commission has changed their September meeting date from September 2nd to September 9th.