

Monroe Commission Holds April Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on April 1, 2015 at the Courthouse. Commission President Clyde Gum, Jr., opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The County Commission held a second public hearing to receive comments on the Commission's intention to file a Small Cities Block Grant application seeking funds to extend public water to the Adair Road near Ballard. Attending the hearing was Wayne Morgan, PE, representing Thrasher, Inc., the Project Engineer, and Jason Roberts, representing Region 1 Planning and Development Council. This is a 2.2 million project and will bring public water to 116 customers.

The Commission agreed to ask the Department of Natural Resources if they will conduct a countywide sweep, similar as they did a couple years ago, identifying open dumps in the county.

The County Commission reviewed a report from the State Fire Marshall's Office, which identified deficiencies in the McGuire Building that was recently purchased by the County Commission.

Bid specifications for the construction of a foundation for a future building to house the Solid Waste Authority's recycling center were approved by the County Commission. HAM landfill gave the Solid Waste authority a long-term lease on a piece of property located at the landfill on which to construct the center. Bid specifications are available in the County Clerk's Office.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before the Commission. Wilson provided Commissioners with the center's Monthly Call Report. He said the center received 181 law enforcement calls for the month of March, 173 EMS calls, and 44 fire related calls. At Wilson's recommendation, Commissioners approved the annual service agreement with Motorola. This agreement covers equipment within the 911 Center.

The County Commission reviewed invoices submitted by the county's volunteer fire departments to ensure such invoices were authorized expenditures of the Fire Levy. Invoice totals for this quarter by department were as follows; Peterstown VFD \$21,343.20, Union VFD \$9,362.97, Ballard VFD \$11,206.82 and Linside VFD \$17,069.13. Each department must submit paid invoices to the County Commission each quarter to receive the levy funds.

At the request of Doris Taylor and Cathy Abernathy, representatives of the county's Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS), the County Commission Commissioner adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of May 17-23, 2015 as Community Educational Outreach Service Week in Monroe County.

Commissioners also declared the week of April 12-18 as Volunteer Appreciation Week in Monroe County.

Frontier representatives Mike Swatts and Scott Yates appeared before the County Commission providing an update on the areas in the county in which Frontier has extended Internet service. These gentlemen stated while Frontier has made great strides in bringing service to various communities in the county, they realize some areas are still not served. Frontier hopes to bring Internet service to these areas in the future. The County Commission thanked Frontier for the money

they have invested in Monroe County and they look forward to Frontier extending service to those areas in the county that are not yet served.

Kelly Shreve, the Director of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and some of the CERT members appeared before the County Commission. Ms. Shreve advised Commissioners that the WV Citizen Corps recently recognized ten of the county's CERT's for volunteering over 50 service hours to our community. These volunteers were; Laurie and Bill Caudill, Janet and Marc Goldin, Wilda Kay Glover, Denise Deskins, Roger Rance, Diane Fischer, Lorraine Jones and Brenda Lee Reynolds. Together, these volunteers dedicated 2096 hours in 2014. They participated in training, they took on-line disaster courses, knocked on neighbor's doors for the Monroe County Safety Check Project, hauled water for our neighbors in Greenbrier County, crocheted to raise money to support volunteer efforts and continue to prepare for a disaster. Ms. Shreve also reported that Brenda Lee Reynolds was recognized as "Volunteer of the Year" by WV Citizen Corps and the Monroe County Community Response Team has more members than any other CERT group in the state. The County Commission thanked these individuals for all they have done and continue to do and told them they are very much appreciated.

Jeremy Meadows, Elections Manager for the County Clerk's Office, advised the County Commission that five of the county's voting precinct boundary lines needed to be minimally adjusted due to the new 911 addresses being provided by the US Postal Service. These precincts include Precinct 3 Wolf Creek, Precinct 5, Locust Grove, Precinct 12, Union Board of Education Office and Precinct 30 Peterstown Elementary School. In accordance with WV Code 3-1-7, the County Commission cannot make any adjustments to any precinct boundary prior to providing public notice. The Commission authorized the Clerk's Office to provide public notice of these adjustments in the local newspaper. Meadows went on to say that any voter affected by the changes will be notified by the County Clerk's Office.

The next meeting of the County Commission will be held on May 6, 2015 beginning at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. Please call 772-3096 if you would like to get on the agenda.