

Monroe Commission Meets

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on August 3, 2016 at the Courthouse. President Clyde Gum, Jr., called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

At the request of the county's Farmland Protection Board, the County Commission approved the purchase of a conservation easement for property owned by Bates Monroe, LLC. The purchase price of the easement was \$683,800 with the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services contributing \$244,800 toward the purchase price and the WV Agriculture Land Protection Authority contributing the remaining \$439,000. This property consists of 546.429 acres and is located in Springfield District.

The Commission awarded a bid to Greener Pastures, Inc. to upgrade the wiring at the McGuire Building. The amount of the bid was \$33,270.00. Greener Pastures was the only company that submitted a bid for this project.

The County Commission agreed to retain the services of Region One Planning and Development Council to prepare a grant application to the WV Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority. The Commission plans to seek fund to perform renovations to the McGuire Building. The deadline to submit an application is October 7th.

An invitation to attend the dedication of a bridge in Greenville was reviewed. This bridge will be dedicated to Everette R. Johnson, who was killed in Vietnam. The dedication ceremony will be September 3, 2016 at 11:00 am.

The County Commission reviewed a letter from Robert Calhoun, CEO of Greenbrier Valley Hospital. In his letter, Mr. Calhoun encouraged the County Commission to adopt an ordinance that would allow a fee to be placed on residences in the county for the purpose of funding county emergency medical services.

The County Clerk reminded Commissioners that the annual in service training for Commissioners is scheduled for August 21 and 22 at Flatwoods.

The County Commission tabled a request from a individual to appoint a committee to work with the county's Tourism Director to promote tourism here in the county.

Ashby Berkley, the owner of the former Sweet Springs Resort, appeared before the Commission. Mr. Berkley advised he has been approved for a grant from WV Division of Culture and History to assist with renovations at the resort. He said he has been in contact with an individual who may be interested in making s movie at the historic resort. Mr. Berkley went on to say that the resort was recently featured in the WV South Magazine.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly financial report and the meeting minutes from the Gap Mills Public Service District.

At the request of Assessor Norb Netzel, the County Commission approved three parcel consolidations. Netzel also advised Commissioners of a co-op program that will be available this school year at James Monroe High School. He said selected students will work a half of day and attend school the other half. Netzel said Courthouse offices are eligible to obtain a co-op student if they so desire.

Commissioner Gum reported that Sheriff Mike Gravely recently expressed concern to him over a factory recall that affects two of his cruisers. He said the factory has advised the parts for the recall won't be available until some time next year.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, appeared before Commissioners to provide an update of the activities of the 911 Center. He said the center received 171 law enforcement related calls for the month of July, 132 EMS calls and 51 fire calls. The Wrecker Response Report showed Clarkson's received nine calls, White's and Neel's each received four calls and Galford's received two calls. Wilson provided Commissioners an update on a complaint they received last week about the emergency radio reception being very poor in Gap Mills. He said an inspection of the repeater indicated the repeater had a loose wire. Wilson said the wire was repaired and the repeater is working fine now. Wilson asked the Commission who should be paying for the support on the security cameras at the Magistrate Office. The County Commission agreed the county should be paying for any support of these cameras, which were originally purchased with funds from a Court Security Grant. In other related business, the Commission authorized Wilson to purchase the necessary equipment for the installation of a radio repeater near Rock Camp. Wilson said this repeater will improve emergency radio communication in this area. At the request of the County Commission, Wilson provided a report on the 911 addressing project. He said for the most part the northern end of the county has been converted to the 911 style addresses and residents are now using these new addresses.. Wilson said the company that has been performing the field work on this project has completed their part of the work on the rest of the county. He said his office must confirm some of the addresses before submitting them to the postal service for approval. He estimated the remainder of the county will be converted to the 911 style addressing by fall.

Jeff Jones, the county's Emergency Management Director, appeared before the Commission. Jones provided an update on the complaint filed under the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance. He advised the owner of the burned house located on Rt. 219 about two miles north of Peterstown has been properly notified about cleaning up this property. In accordance with the ordinance, the Commission agreed to start fining the owner \$100.00 per day until the property is cleaned up. If the property owner still elects not to clean up the property, the county will hire a contractor to clean up the property and place a lien on such property for the cost of the cleanup. Jones said there were three houses located in the Glen Ray area of the county that received damage from the June 23rd flood. He said he was working with FEMA and the property owners to see what assistance they may need. At the request of Jones,

the County Commission authorized to him to attend training at Camp Dawson the end of the month.

Delores Celco, representing WV Affordable Health Care, appeared before the Commission and provided an overview of this program.

The Commission approved four exonerations and one final estate settlement.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on August 17, 2017 beginning at 5:30 pm. To be placed on the Commission's agenda please call 772-3096.