

## County Commission Holds January Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met on January 2, 2013 at the Courthouse. The Commission began the meeting by reelecting Shane Ashley as President of the Commission for the upcoming year and Commissioner Bill Miller as Vice-President.

Commissioner Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

The County Commission authorized Commissioner Gum to obtain an estimate to repair or replace the ceiling tile in the Circuit Courtroom. Some of the ceiling tile is damaged due to the roof leaking.

Commissioner Gum reported that the contractor has completed the replacement of the main part of the Courthouse roof and they plan to start replacing the flat portion in a couple weeks.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director, met with the County Commission to provide an update of 911 activities. Wilson provided the monthly Wrecker Response Report. Galford's and Dunbar's each received three calls, Wilson's and Neel's received two calls and Clarkson's received one call. At Wilson's request, the County Commission approved a proposal from Duane Miller Construction Services, in the amount of \$4,859,000 to construct an office in the lower level of the 911 Center. The Office of Emergency Services will use this office. Mr. Wilson provided Commissioners with Certificates of Completion for classes he has successfully completed through the National Incident Management System. Wilson has completed five different classes. The County Commission commended Wilson on completing these classes. Wilson then reported that the new generator at the 911 Center is now operational. He said this generator would run the entire center in the event of a power outage. The 911 Center previously had a generator but it wasn't big enough to run the entire center.

Scott Yates and Brandi Carnell, representing Frontier, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Yates provided an update on the expansion of broadband here in the county. He said that Frontier has invested a substantial amount of money by extending broadband services to Monroe County. Yates went on to say that several other areas of the county that presently don't have broadband, should receive this service this upcoming year. Commissioners advised Yates that they are receiving some complaints from Frontier customers about the speed of their Internet. Yates said this problem should be corrected in about 30 days. The County Commission thanked Frontier for their investment in Monroe County and advised they looked forward to them providing broadband to the areas that still don't have broadband here in Monroe County.

The County Commission adopted a resolution to dissolve the Economic Development of Monroe County. This entity hasn't had any activity for over a decade, they have no bank accounts or active board members. The sole remaining asset of the Development Authority is a small tract of land near Springfield Comprehensive Care Center. Commissioners unanimously agreed to sell this property at public auction. A date and time will be determined at a later date and such date and time will be advertised in the Monroe Watchman.

Norbert Netzel, the county's newly elected Assessor, appeared before the County Commission. Mr. Netzel shared some of his ideas and plans he has in mind in reference to the operation of the Assessor's Office.

The County Commission agreed to send the Magistrate's Office a letter advising that any request they have for maintenance on the building in which their offices are located, should be directed to the Union Volunteer Fire Department, the owner of the building. If a request for maintenance is not acted upon in a timely fashion, the Magistrates will be asked to notify the County Commission.

The County Commission agreed to seek \$10,000.00 in funding from the Legislature. This funding will be used to purchase supplies and materials needed for the Boy Scout projects that will be performed in the county in July. The county has a total of 21 community service projects approved throughout the county. The Boy Scouts of America will be holding their National Jamboree in Fayette County this year. As part of their jamboree, the scouts are required to perform community service in nine southern West Virginia counties. Monroe County was selected as one of the nine counties. Individual and business donations are also being accepted to purchase these needed supplies and materials. Those wishing to make a donation can contact Craig Mohler, County Boy Scout Champion, at 772-3061.

In an effort to give the Circuit Judge and Magistrates alternative sentencing options, a discussion was held on this day about the county creating it's own Day Report Program or possibly combining with Summers County to operate a program. Those attending were Robert Irons, Circuit Judge, Matt McMillian, Probation Officer, Justin St. Clair, Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff Mike Gravely. Justin St. Clair told those in attendance that Summers County was in the process of preparing a grant application to the state seeking funds to operate a Day Report Center. He said that Summers' officials have offered Monroe County to join with them to operate a program. There was some discussion about the county operating its own program and it was agreed that this wasn't financially feasible. The County Commission agreed to join with Summers County and operate a joint program and further agreed to contribute \$30,000.00 to the operation of the program, contingent the grant application gets approved. The county's current regional jail bill is running about \$23,000.00 per month and Summers' county's is almost \$40,000.00 monthly.

The County Commission asked the Clerk to invite members of the Unsafe and Unsanitary Structures and Refuse Ordinance Enforcement Agency to the Commission's February meeting to provide an update on the complaints filed to date under this ordinance.

The County Commission previously made a request to the Division of Highways to have a building removed in Ballard that was previously used as a Barber Shop. Commissioners were receiving calls that this building was causing a traffic hazard. The building sits on the Division of Highways right of way. The Clerk said he has spoken with Division of Highway officials and they have reviewed the County Commission's request are they were conducting some research into the matter and would get back with Commissioners soon.

The Commission approved nine estate final settlements and four exonerations. The County Commission will meet again in regular session on

February 6, 2013 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse. Anyone needing to be placed on the agenda should call 772-3096.