

Monroe Commission Holds October Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on October 2, 2013 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Planning Commission members Garry Taylor and Rod Graves appeared before the County Commission and provided them an update on Planning Commission activities. Mr. Taylor advised the Planning Commission continues to work on the Cellular Telephone Tower ordinance and hopes to have it ready soon to present to the County Commission for their review and action.

At the request of Dorothy Larew, the County Commission adopted a proclamation declaring the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Monroe County. The County Commission encourages all women to become aware that they are at risk for developing breast cancer and to discuss screening with their health care provider.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee has been awarded a Hazard Materials Emergency Planning grant in the amount of \$5,000.00.

At the request of Scott Boggess, Mayor for the Town of Peterstown, the County Commission prepared a letter supporting the efforts of the Peterstown town officials in their efforts to construct a new Town Hall. Mayor Boggess said the current town hall is inadequate and no longer meets the town's needs. He said the new structure, which will be located on Rt. 219 across from the fire department, will have a business office, council room, community center and a satellite office for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills Public Service District and reviewed an activity report for the county's Day Report Program, provided by Jennifer McMeekin, the Director of the Summers/Monroe Day Report Program. Ms. McMeekin was unable to attend today's meeting. McMeekin said those individuals sentenced to community service through the Day Report Program are currently working on a several projects in the community and she has several other projects lined up for them to work on.

The County Commission adopted a resolution affirming that they wanted to continue participating in the Local Economic Development Grant Program and further designated the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation to represent Monroe County in this program.

Assessor Norb Netzel appeared before the County Commission providing an update on the activities of his office. Mr. Netzel reported that 122 individuals failed to submit their Farm Exemption form by the deadline set by WV Code. Netzel said these individuals will not receive the farm exemption discount on their taxes. Mr. Netzel said he really didn't know anything additional he could do to remind taxpayers of this deadline to submit these forms. He said he advertised the deadline date in the local newspaper, extended his office hours to allow those who work during the day to come in to the Assessor's Office in the evening to file their forms and placed a reminder in every tax ticket envelope that was mailed out.

The County Commission approved a proposal from Sibold Excavating to construct a gravel parking lot in between the 911 Center and Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

At the request of Mike Will, Executive Director for the Council on Aging, the County Commission prepared a letter supporting the efforts of the Council on Aging to construct an Assisted Living/Independent Living facility on the Old Greenville School property in Greenville. Commissioners agreed there was a need for this type of facility. Once operational, the facility will create 15-20 new jobs.

The County Commission met with the Superintendent of Schools and other Board of Education representatives to discuss the replacement of the tower at James Monroe High School. The Board of Education recently advertised for Requests for Proposals (RFP) to replace the existing tower and AT&T was the only company submitting an RFP. There was also a discussion on Highland Towers constructing a new cellular tower on property located just above James Monroe High School.

Acting on a request from the fire chiefs of the county's volunteer fire departments and other members of these departments, the County Commission authorized that an excess Fire Levy be placed on the May 2014 Primary Election ballot.

Representatives from SAM's Club appeared before the County Commission to explain the services offered by SAM's to government entities. They advised the County Commission can purchase copying paper by the truck-load at a substantial savings and can save money on many other products.

Commissioners authorized Shane Ashley, President of the County Commission, to sign the grant documents in reference to the Prevention Resource Officer grant the county was recently awarded. The amount of the grant was \$20,000.00 and the Board of Education will pay the balance of the officer's salary and benefits. The officer is assigned to James Monroe High School.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that the WV Association of Counties (WVACo) has provided notice that a workshop, called Synergy 2013, will be held in Bridgeport, WV on October 28th and 29th. WVACo reports this workshop will bring local government and the Natural Gas industry together to enhance their working relationship by discussing the challenges and opportunities that Natural Gas is bringing to their communities.

Tim Wilson, 911 Director appeared before the County Commission and provided an update on the 911 Center activities. He presented Commissioners with the Monthly Wrecker Response report; Galford's received six calls, Neel's received three and Clarkson's received one call. Wilson also reported that Two-Way Radio, Inc. was here in the county today to install the emergency communications radio repeater in the Moncove Lake area.

Ann Rodes, the county's Director of Emergency Management met with the Commission and provided an update of the activities of Emergency Management. Ms. Rodes said she recently met with the Monroe Animal League to solicit their assistance in helping with animals in the event of a disaster or major county emergency. Ms. Rodes said the Animal League agreed to assist and they had many resources that will be useful in an emergency. The County Commission authorized Ms. Rodes to attend training at Camp Dawson and in McDowell County.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on November 6, 2013. Anyone needing to be placed on the agenda should call 772-3096.