

County Commission Holds May Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on May 4, 2011 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Commissioner Gum provided a report on the Courthouse Energy Efficiency Projects. Gum said the record room door and the basement entry door of the Courthouse have been replaced. Other renovations to be completed include; the replacement of lighting in the Courthouse, 911 Center and Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the installation of a heating and air conditioning project for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and replacement of the Courthouse boiler. This project is being funded from a \$90,000.00 grant from the Energy Efficiency and Block Grant Program.

Leta Gullette-Comer, Circuit Clerk, presented a proposal for a document scanning system for her office and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Prosecuting Attorney Justin St. Clair was unable to attend the meeting. Commissioners advised the Clerk that they would take her proposal under advisement.

The County Commission appointed Commissioner Gum to the Community Corrections Board of Directors and awarded a contract to Duane Miller Construction Services to replace the Circuit Clerk's window.

Rod Graves, chair of the county's Planning Commission, appeared before Commissioners and provided them with an update of the activities of the Planning Commission. Graves reported that the two attachments to the Memorandum of Understanding between the county and Gordy Oil Company, are being prepared and he would provide a copy of the attachments to the Commission as soon as they are finished.

The County Commission adopted a resolution designating the week of May 15-21 as Community Education Outreach Service Organization (CEOS) Week in Monroe County. Doris Taylor and Phyllis Baker, representing the CEOS, appeared before the County Commission to make the request for this designation.

Judith Bair, representing the Monroe Arts Alliance, appeared before the County Commission advising that the Monroe Arts Alliance will be celebrating their 10th anniversary by hosting an event called "Art in the Hills". This event is scheduled for July 23rd and will be held at Mountain View School in Union. Ms. Bair said they plan to have events all throughout the day including workshops, demonstrations, a craft show, and food court and bluegrass music. A square dance featuring the Hans Creek String Band will close out the day. For more information on this event, please go to www.monroecountywv.net.

Commissioners approved a drawdown request for the Greenville Water Project in the amount of \$60,745 and the meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts were reviewed.

Representatives of The Friends of Second Creek appeared before the County Commission to discuss a previous request they made to the Commission. Dixie Hoke-Webb told Commissioners that the Friends of Second Creek is requesting the County Commission adopt a resolution designating Gap Mills and

the whole Second Creek Watershed as a County Historic District. Commissioners agreed to schedule a public hearing for May 24th at 7:00 pm for the purpose of hearing public input on this request. The hearing will be held in the Circuit Courtroom at the Courthouse.

The County Commission received notice that they have been approved for a Governor's Community Participation Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00. These funds will be used to replace the doors on the Circuit Clerk's Office and the Judge's Office. Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, prepared the grant application.

Pastor Jim Rogers appeared before the County Commission and advised that there would be a literature booth set up on the Courthouse lawn in recognition of National Prayer Day, which was May 5th.

At the recommendation of Union Rescue, the County Commission appointed Rhonda Hall to the Emergency Medical Services Board of Directors. Ms. Hall will replace Richard Miller on this board.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly financial statement and approved overtime pay for Deputy Sheriffs for Farmer's Day weekend and the 4th of July celebration in Alderson.

The County Commission also reviewed the Assessor's Appraisal Ratio Report as well as the meeting minutes for the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts.

Commissioner Gum reported that he attended a meeting last week in Beckley concerning the closure of the Wayside Post Office. Gum said he advised postal officials that the County Commission was opposed to this closure but he felt like it was going to be closed. The Wayside Post Office is the only post office scheduled for closure in the county. Postal officials advised they would provide 30 days notice of such closure. US Senator Joe Manchin arranged this meeting. Representatives from Congressman Rahall's office were also in attendance.

Sheriff Mike Gravely said he was still in the process of soliciting donations to purchase a drug / search dog. The Sheriff said he needed about \$6,500.00 to purchase the dog. This amount includes the training of the dog and handler, a cage for the Deputy's cruiser and a collar.

The Commission discussed one estate matter, approved five exonerations, six final estate settlements and met with one individual concerning their tax assessment.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on June 1, 2011 at the Courthouse.