

Monroe Commission Holds June Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met June 3rd for their regular monthly meeting. President Joyce Pritt called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

At the request of Sheriff Mike Gravely, Commissioners appropriated additional funds to the Sheriff's Department for the purpose of paying the Deputy Sheriffs overtime pay for Farmer's Day weekend. The Sheriff said this would be a very busy weekend and he would need all his deputies working.

Gravely told Commissioners he recently received notice that the Sheriff's Department will receive grant funding from the Homeland Security Grant Fund. He said these funds will be used to purchase in-car cameras for the deputy's cruisers. The Sheriff said thirty two individuals have applied for the newly created deputy sheriff position. The County Commission appropriated funding to hire an additional deputy for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Commissioners reviewed a petition from property owners in the Fountain Springs Golf and Residential Community, located just north of Peterstown. These property owners made a request to the County Commission to allow them to maintain their current addresses and not be required to change addresses to conform to 911 Mapping and Addressing standards. After consulting with Bruce Power, 911 Director, Commissioners unanimously agreed to deny this request based on the fact that the house numbering procedures, presently being used by 911 officials, should be consistent throughout the county. The current standards call for houses located on one side of a road be numbered with an even number and those on the other side of the road be assigned an odd number.

Warren Smith, the owner and developer of the Sweet Springs Resort, provided Commissioners with a very informative power point presentation of the improvements made thus far at the resort. Smith said in addition to the renovations to the resort, he also has a water bottling facility on site and this business was doing well. He said they hoped to offer flavored water in the future. The water is bottled under the name "Sweet Somer". Commissioners pledged their continued support of this project and thanked Smith for his investment in Monroe County and for creating many jobs in the eastern end of the county.

The County Commission adopted a resolution expressing their support of the Rahall Broadband Initiative and the efforts directed toward the introduction and extension of ultra high-speed broadband service to Monroe County and the other counties located in the Region 1 Planning and Development Council service area. If approved, this project will bring high speed internet to service to areas of the county that are presently unable to get such service.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts and met with a representative from the US Census Bureau concerning the 2010 Census.

Donald J. Evans, County Clerk, provided Commissioners with an update of the recent Board of Director's meeting of the West Virginia Association of Counties. Dr. Craig Mohler, a member of the Monroe Planning Commission, met with Commissioners concerning the preparation of the County's Comprehensive

Plan. Mohler said the Planning Commission hopes to have a draft of the plan ready to present to the County Commission in a couple months. Mr. Mohler also updated Commissioners on the progress of the proposed walking / biking trail in Waiteville.

Shannon Parker and Rebecca Stone, representing the Monroe Health Center, appeared before Commissioners and provided a financial report for the Health Center. Ms. Parker also told Commissioners that they were in the process of applying for grant funding for the purpose of making renovations to the Health Center.

Commissioners met with representatives from Pentee, Inc. and Thrasher Engineering to discuss the idea of constructing a Courthouse annex. The County Commission began discussing the construction of an annex when they recently received notice from the Union Volunteer Fire Department that they planned to increase the rent for the Magistrate's Office. Commissioners asked these representatives to come up with some preliminary estimates on the cost of constructing an annex. The County Commission agreed that construction of an annex would be contingent upon the cost and the availability of grant funding.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, met with Commissioners and provided them with an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Power said 911 dispatchers recently provided a presentation on when to use "911" to the county's Pre-K students.

Power said the radio communications repeater has been installed in the Sweet Springs Rescue Squad and he would soon begin looking for a location to install repeaters in the Moncove Lake and Waiteville areas of the county. These repeaters will improve emergency radio communications for the county's law enforcement agencies and emergency responders. Power said the 911 Center received a total of 4,310 calls for the month of May of which 749 of these calls came in on 911 phone lines.

Commissioners approved twelve final estate settlements and three exonerations. The County Commission will meet again on July 1st at the Courthouse.