

**Monroe County Commission
Regular Session
July 6, 2023**

State of WV:
County of Monroe

At a regular meeting of the Monroe County Commission, called after notice and posting on the front door of the Courthouse of Monroe County, more than 48 hours prior to said meeting, being on the 6th day of July 2023 with Commission President Kevin Galford, present, along with Associate Commissioners Kevin Mann and Melvin Young. Also present was Jeremy E. Meadows, County Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for and pledged their allegiance to the US Flag.

Opening Prayer

The opening invocation was provided by Commissioner Young.

Review and Approve the Minutes from the June 30th, 2023 Special Session

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the June 30th, 2023 Special Session. Upon review, Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously. President Galford and County Clerk Meadows signed the minutes.

Gap Mills Public Service District Monthly Minutes

The Commission reviewed the April minutes from the Gap Mills Public Service District. No action was taken at this time.

Gap Mills Public Service District 2023 – 2024 Budget

The Commission reviewed the Gap Mills PSD 2023-2024 Budget. No action was taken.

Red Sulphur Public Service District Monthly Minutes

The Commission reviewed the Red Sulphur PSD Minutes for May 16, 2023. No action was taken.

Letter from the West Virginia Attorney General

The Commission reviewed a letter from the WV Attorney General concerning the District Representative. The selection of the Representative took place yesterday, July 5th, 2023 at the Raleigh County Courthouse. Commissioner Melvin Young attended and represented Monroe County. Commissioner Young informed the other members of the Commission that Dr. Michael Kelly, a physician at the Welch Community Hospital, was selected to be the District Supervisor. This District Supervisor will determine where the money from the opioid lawsuits will go. District 6 includes the counties of:

- Monroe
- Mercer
- Mcdowell
- Greenbrier
- Summers
- Pocahontas
- Wyoming
- Raleigh
- Fayette
- Nicholas
- Webster

Visit Southern West Virginia

The Commission reviewed a letter from Visit Southern West Virginia. The letter contains the annual report for 2022 and their marking plan for 2023. No action was taken.

911 Fees Received

The Commission reviewed the 911 Fees received in the month of June 2023. They are as follows:

- Hughes Network Systems, LLC - \$179.64
- Frontier (1) - \$4.51
- Frontier (2) - \$11,697.96
- Telecom Evolutions, LLC - \$55.80

The total deposited into the 911 Fund for the month of June was: \$11,937.91. No action was taken.

Monroe County Board of Health's Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the Monroe County Board of Health's March 2023 meeting. No action was taken.

Warren Seth Croy Estate

Clerk Meadows brought before the Commission a recommendation from Fiduciary Commissioner, Susan Cobb, in relation to the Warren Seth Croy Estate. The estate was referred to Mrs. Cobb due to the ongoing disagreement of both parents over the personal property of the decedent. Mrs. Cobb held a hearing and reached a mutual agreement between the properties. The Commission reviewed the recommendation and Commissioner Mann made the motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

John Allen Estate

Clerk Meadows brought a request from Fiduciary Commissioner, Susan Cobb, to keep the John Allen Estate open. Mr. Allen's estate is still receiving funds, so therefore it needs to be kept open, Mrs. Cobb's letter stated. Commissioner Mann made the motion to allow the estate of John Allen to remain open. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Susan Cobb, Fiduciary Commissioner

The Commission reviewed a resignation letter from Susan Cobb, Fiduciary Commissioner. The Commission expressed their thanks for her years of service. No action was taken.

Fiduciary Commissioners

Clerk Meadows informed the Commission that he had recently hired two new Fiduciary Commissioners. Mr. Shannon Brim (Republican) and Mr. Anthony Morrow (No Party Affiliation) applied and were hired for this position. Clerk Meadows explained that the code states, about Fiduciary Commissioners, that "No more than two, from any one party" may be hired. This currently brings the count of Fiduciary Commissioners to one (1) Democrat, one (1) Republican and one (1) No Party Affiliation. Clerk Meadows stated that he is still looking for one last Fiduciary Commissioner.

Spillman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC – Moncove Lake Water & Sewer Projects

The Commission reviewed two contracts submitted by Spillman, Thomas & Battle, PLLC regarding the Moncove Lake Water & Sewer Projects. Spillman, Thomas & Battle were selected to be the legal representatives to the above projects. The Commission reviewed the contract and noted that the contract stated, "We understand that the invoices may not be paid until Project funding is available to the Commission." After some more discussion and review the motion was made to accept and sign the contracts by Commissioner Young. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

The Secretary of the Interior – Payments in Lieu of Taxes

The Commission reviewed a letter from the Secretary of the Interior concerning the county's Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. The letter stated that the county would receive a payment in the amount of \$66,379.00 for payment in lieu of taxes. No action was taken.

West Virginia State Auditor – Forrest Service

The Commission reviewed a letter from the WV State Auditor concerning the Forrest Service. The letter stated that the county can receive a total of \$27,700.00 in one lump sum payment, or 25% of the funding on a 7-year rolling average receipt. Clerk Meadows stated he would fill out the paperwork and get it sent in. No action was taken.

Keenan Doss Shaver Drawdown #11

The Commission reviewed a drawdown request from Region 1 Planning & Development concerning the Keenan Doss Shaver Broadband Project. The drawdown request was for \$500.00 from Thompson & Litton for Professional Services. Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the drawdown request. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Monroe County Planning Commission

Richard Miller, member of the Planning Commission, appeared before the Commission with a couple of updates. The Monroe County Comprehensive Plan is currently being updated. Members of the West Virginia University School of Law is helping with this endeavor. The Planning Commission is requesting that Flood Plain Permits be issued at the of \$50.00 for residential permits, and 1% of the total project value for Commercial Permits. Commissioner Mann made the motion to adopt the Flood Plain Permits at the above rates for Residential and Commercial. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed. Mr. Miller stated that he was currently working with MVP for pipeline flood plain permits, and that each MVP will be charged \$100.00 for each permit.

Richard Miller, 911 Director & OEM Director

Mr Richard Miller, 911 Director and OEM Director, appeared before the Commissioners. He gave the Commission a monthly report that consisted of the following:

- Mr. Miller expressed his opinion on the LATCF Grant Funding. He felt that most of the money needs to be allocated to the Waiteville Community Center and the Peterstown Methodist Church since these two entities are being used as emergency shelters. The Commission thanked him for his input.
- Mr. Miller stated that Hyper-Reach approached him with an impressive contract and attributes. He stated that our current contract with Onsolve (known as CodeRed) expires in October and Mr. Miller is interested in possibly leaving Onsolve and going with Hyper-Reach. This contract is for a reverse 911 system.
- Mr. Miller stated that Brian Brown with the West Virginia State Police (WVSP) is conducting school safety inspections this year. Mr. Brown has requested a meeting with the Emergency Manager to introduce himself and explain what he does. Mr. Miller stated if the Commission has any questions and comments to email them to him and he will present them to Mr. Brown.
- Mr. Miller gave an update on the SIRN Tower Site on Beckett's Knob. Mr. Miller stated that the Planning Commission has been made aware of the location and lease agreement. Upon his initial inspection of records, he found only leases for the tower were C&P Telephone and US Cellular Agreements, and both expire in 2027.
- Mr. Miller gave an update on the Flood Plain situation in Alderson. Mr. Miller stated that the property owner contacted a surveyor to conduct an evaluation certificate. Pending findings from this investigation will change how the County and Property owner move forward. He stated that the property owner has been very receptive and proactive in this.
- Mr. Miller stated that training for Texting 911 has begun, with press released to newspapers and TV will go out on July 12th.

Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority (CFIA) Grant

Clerk Meadows informed the Commission that they had received the paperwork for the CFIA Grant. Mr. Meadows asked the Commission if they wanted to apply, and to what project they would like to fund. After some discussion, it was agreed to apply for funds to renovate the old Union Rescue Squad Building to include offices for the Prosecuting Attorney and a small courtroom for the Family Court. If awarded this will save the county money since the county pays rent for both the Prosecuting Attorney and a courtroom space for Family Court. Mr. Meadows stated there was a 20% match to this grant if awarded, and that he would get in contact with Region 1 Planning & Development to begin the application process.

Jim Nelson, CEO of the Monroe Health Center

Mr. Nelson appeared before the Commission in regard to the Monroe County Health Center. Clerk Meadows invited back Richard Miller, 911 Director to this discussion. Mr. Meadows brought forth the ideal of purchasing Starlink terminals in case a natural or manmade disaster took place, the county would still have connection to the outside world should phone/internet lines go down. Starlink is a growing Internet company founded by SpaceX and Elon Musk. Starlink is satellite based, high speed and low-latency and can be deployed in a matter of minutes. This would be a great solution should mobile operations be needed. Mr. Miller stated that he would love to have one in case something happened to the current 911 building, and they had to be evacuated. Mr. Nelson stated that he was very interested in purchasing one as well. The Commission asked Clerk Meadows to check into see how much we could get the kits for.

Leases for the Monroe Health Center in Union and Peterstown

Mr. Nelson gave each Commissioner a copy of the new lease for both Monroe Health Center Locations in Union and Peterstown. The Commission owns each of these buildings and leases them to the Health Center for their operations. The Commission reviewed the lease, and it was noted that this was the same lease as last year. Commissioner Young made the motion to approve the leases for both locations. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the leases were signed.

Julie Simpson, Probate Clerk

Mrs. Simpson appeared before the Commission with the following Final Settlements of Estates:

- Warren Seth Croy Estate – W. Keith Croy, Administrator
- Mervin F. Weikle Estate – Jennifer Mae Copeland, Administratrix
- Dr. Herbert Lee Pope Sr Estate – Norma Jean Pope, Executrix
- Ian Beirne Dransfield Estate – Pamela F. Dransfield, Administratrix
- Gerald L. Deweese Estate – Michelle Hufham, Executrix
- James Thomas Green Estate – James Anthony Green, Administrator
- William J Laws Estate – Cynthia H Laws, Administratrix

Jenny McPeak, Chief Tax Deputy

Commissioner Young made the motion to go into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The Executive Session began at 11:11 AM.

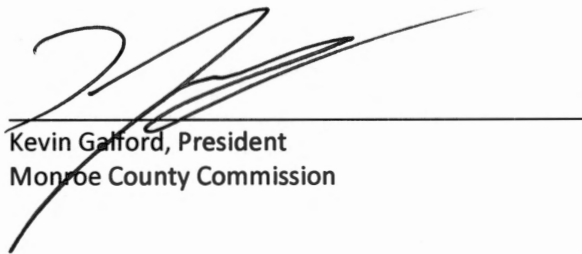
Commissioner Young made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The Executive Session ended at 11:24 AM.

Vacation Orders Approved

It is ordered that all orders and proceedings before the Clerk of the Monroe County Commission for the month of June 2023 be confirmed and approved. Commissioner Young made the motion to approve all vacation orders. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion carried.

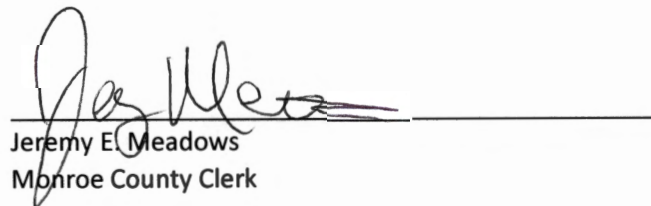
Adjournment Order

It is ordered that the court and the same is hereby adjourned at 12:00 PM until the Regular Session scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Mann made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried.



Kevin Galford, President
Monroe County Commission

Respectfully Submitted by



Jeremy E. Meadows
Monroe County Clerk