

County Commission Holds First Meeting of New Year

During their first meeting of 2010, the Monroe County Commission reelected Joyce Pritt as President of the Commission. Commissioner Shane Ashley was elected as Vice-President.

Commissioner Pritt called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

Steve Weir, Executive Director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, met with Commissioners to advise that the GVEDC is presently attempting to secure funding to construct a helipad in or around Union. This helipad would be used by aeronautical transport services when the need arises to transport someone to a medical facility. Mr. Weir said he felt the GVEDC could obtain a grant for a portion of the cost but the balance would have to come from other sources. Commissioners told Weir that while plans are underway to secure funding for the helipad in Union, they would also like to see one constructed in the southern part of the county, possibly on property owned by GVEDC at Fountain Springs Industrial Park.

Commissioners presented the Indian Creek Watershed Association with a certificate of appreciation for their assistance in preparing the county's first ever Comprehensive Plan. Accepting the certificate on behalf of ICWA was Judy Azulay and Jill Young.

The County Commission heard reports from Amy Malloney, Executive Director of the County's Farmland Protection Board, Steve Rawlings, representing the West Virginia Counties Risk Pool and Helen Graves, the County's Tourism Director.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts and appointed Joe Haynes to the County's Building Commission. An additional vacancy remains on this Commission and interested in serving should contact the County Commission.

Mark Sims, owner and operator of Precision Forestry Protection, met with Commissioners and explained the services offered by his company. Sims, who previously worked for the State of WV in the gypsy moth program, said his company was new and could perform all the necessary components required to spray for the gypsy moth. Sims stated that one county property owner has already contacted him about spraying their property.

Commissioners met with Dale McCutcheon from the County Health Department. Commissioners told Mr. McCutcheon that they recently received a complaint about trash being piled up in the Jones' Mobile Home Park on Duncan Drive in Peterstown. The complainant also expressed concern about the overall appearance of the park. McCutcheon said he has received the same complaint. The County Commission told McCutcheon they were receiving numerous complaints about this mobile home park and inquired how the owner was still operating when the Health Department recently refused to renew the park's permit to operate. McCutcheon said he would discuss this matter further with the Prosecuting Attorney and report back to them.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, appeared before Commissioners and provided them with an update of the activities of the 911 Center. At the request of Power, Commissioners approved the purchase of a new server to be used for the Courthouse security camera system. Commissioners also approved a request from Power to solicit bid to make renovations to the lower level of the 911 Center. Those licensed contractors interested in submitting a bid should call Power at 772-3912. Bids are due by February 1st by 4:00 pm.

Commissioners signed the testing certification documents in reference to the iVotronic touch screen voting machines that will be used in the upcoming January 30th Special Election.

Rod Graves and Dale McCutcheon, representing the County's Planning Commission. Graves and Commissioners provided Commissioners with an update o the goals of the Planning Commission, talked about the need for office space, and how to handle expenditures incurred by the Planning Commission.

Commissioners again discussed access to the Wayside Community Center and requested the Prosecuting Attorney to draft a document to such access that will be acceptable by all interested parties. The County Commission owns the property and lets the residents of Wayside use the property for their community center.

The County Commission addressed one estate matter and approved four final estate settlements. The County Commission adjourned at 3:35 pm. The next scheduled County Commission is scheduled for February 3rd.