

Monroe Commission Holds March Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on March 2, 2011 at the Courthouse. Commission President Shane Ashley called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Steve Weir, Executive Director of the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation, met with the County Commission and provided an update of GVEDC's activities.

Commissioner Gum provided a report from a meeting he recently attended at the Capitol in Charleston. The purpose of the meeting, which was hosted by Senator Richard Browning, was to basically advise the southern counties in the state that there would be less money this year for infrastructure projects.

Jill Fischer appeared before the County Commission asking if there was anything new with gas drilling in the county. Commissioners told Ms. Fischer that Gordy Oil Company has re-filed their permit application with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Planning Commission was in the process of preparing a Memorandum of Understanding between the county and Gordy Oil Company. Ms. Fischer advised the County Commission that she has requested the Division of Highways to conduct a traffic impact study to determine how the proposed increase in traffic from gas drilling would affect the county's road system.

Commissioner reviewed a letter from an individual who owns property in the Moncove Lake area. The property owner complained about a dilapidated trailer that was located across the road from his property. He said the trailer is leaning to one side and the door is wide open. He said it presents a danger to the children in the area and has a negative impact on neighboring properties. Neighbors reported that the trailer has been there unoccupied for 20 or 25 year. Commissioners agreed to ask the county's sanitarian to go investigate this complaint and report back to them.

The County Commission agreed to pay \$5,000.00 each to the law firms that represented the County Commission and the Assessor in the Mountain America tax appeal. The county still owes approximately \$90,000.00 in legal fees associated with this appeal. A payment to the Regional Jail in the amount of \$25,000.00 was also authorized.

Commissioners reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Monroe Board of Health and the Gap Mills and Red Sulphur Public Service Districts.

At the request of the County Commission, Walter Lockhart, Executive Director of the Red Cross and Linda Hays, Administrative Assistant, met with the County Commission. Also attending this meeting was Bruce Power, 911 Director. The Commission, Lockhart and Power discussed the procedures in opening an emergency shelter and the responsibilities of both the county and the Red Cross when opening such shelter. Commissioner Ashley asked Mr. Lockhart to prepare a list of what the Red Cross expected from the county when opening a shelter and he asked Mr. Power to prepare a similar list of what he expected from the Red Cross. Ashley asked the two individuals to attend the Commission's April meeting so an emergency shelter plan can be finalized. Lockhart also provided

the County Commission with a report of the individuals that live in Monroe County who received assistance from the Red Cross last year. This assistance was in the form of food, money, lodging, etc. Mr. Lockhart asked the County Commission for a contribution to the Red Cross. Commissioners took no action on his request at this time.

A drawdown request for the Greenville Water Project in the amount of \$28,341.00 was approved. This drawdown was for engineering, administrative and bonding fees.

Rod Graves, Rocky Parsons and Jim Menard, all representing the county's Planning Commission, met with the County Commission to provide them an update of the Planning Commission's activities and to discuss the preparing a Memorandum Of Understanding between the county and Gordy Oil Company.

Jill Fischer met with the County Commission and advised that she recently made a request to the WV Division of Highways to have a Traffic Impact Study conducted to see what impact gas drilling here in the county will have on local traffic.

Commissioners agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss the Dilapidated Dog Ordinance, as prepared by the County's Planning Commission. They asked the Clerk to invite the Animal Control Officer, Magistrates, and the Sheriff to solicit their input on such ordinance.

The County Commission accepted the resignations of Kevin Lively and Cathy Ballard from the Health Center Board of Trustees and the County Clerk advised Commissioners that Spencer Carper would be installing the new flooring in the Sheriff's Tax Office on a Saturday to keep from interrupting office operations during the week.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, met with Commissioners and advised that four of the dispatchers have attended Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) training and the remaining dispatchers will be trained in the near future. Power also advised that he has viewed a demonstration of a Reverse 911 System and he has a couple more to view before bringing a proposal to the County Commission. Reverse 911 is a telephonic community notification system that may be used to deliver outbound messages in the event of an emergency. The system employs a combination of database and mapping technologies to allow emergency responders and dispatchers to pinpoint a specific geographic area and deliver the appropriate message to residents in the affected area. The system has the ability to call both listed and unlisted phone numbers. If a phone line is busy, the system has the ability to redial the number to make contact. If an answering machine picks up the call, the system has the ability to leave the emergency message on the answering machine.

The County Commission will meet again in regular session on April 6, 2011 at the Courthouse.