

## Monroe Commission Holds March Meeting

The Monroe County Commission met in regular session on March 3, 2010 at the Courthouse. Commission President Joyce Pritt opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Dale McCutcheon, representing the County's Planning Commission, presented the County Commission with a draft of a Dangerous Dog Ordinance as prepared by the County's Planning Commission. The County Commission previously asked the Planning Commission to prepare such an ordinance. Commissioners advised Mr. McCutcheon they would review the ordinance and discuss it further at their next meeting.

Rod Graves, Rocky Parsons and Gary Taylor, who are also members of the Planning Commission, met with Commissioners to discuss other ordinances the County Commission may have an interest in adopting. Mr. Parson's inquired if the County Commission was interested in implementing an ordinance dealing with oil and gas drilling in the county. He said the county would be facing such issues of public road disrepair and the amount of water that will be needed if drilling should start in the county. Commissioners authorized Parsons to conduct some research and see what types of restrictions could be placed in such an ordinance. Mr. Taylor spoke about the number of camps in the county. He said there were situations where there were numerous camps in the county with many located on a small parcel of land. Taylor said he felt the county needed to look as some type of building permit process in order to make sure these camps are getting on the tax rolls. Commissioners advised Taylor they will discuss this proposal and get back to him.

Steve Williams, representing the Union Area Girl's Youth Softball League, met with Commissioners and requested a donation for this league. Commissioners discussed this request later in the day and agreed to deny this request because the county simply doesn't having any funds that aren't already appropriated.

Sheriff Mike Gravely met with the County Commission and presented them with a proposal to purchase a new cruiser to replace the one that was recently totaled. The deputy driving the vehicle at the time of the wreck was not at fault as he was hit head-on north of Lindside. The deputy sustained minor injuries. The Commission asked the Clerk to solicit finance rate bids before taking any action on the proposal.

The Sheriff also advised Commissioners that he has applied for grant funding for the purpose of hiring a Prevention Resource Officer for James Monroe High School. Sheriff Gravely also reported that his office, along with the County's Animal Control Officer, have seized 18 horses from an individual. These horses were malnourished and had been neglected. The Sheriff said the owner of the horses had relinquished ownership of the horses to the county and he was working to try and find someone that will take the horses.

Bruce Power, 911 Director, met with Commissioners and provided an update of the activities of the 911 Center. Power reported that all dispatchers have completed the training for the new WEAPONS System that will be installed soon. Power said the county is due to receive about \$19,000.00 in funding from the State as a result of the progress the 911 Center has made on the County's Mapping and

Addressing Project. The county will receive additional funding as the project progresses.

Commissioners again discussed a proposal to place the Animal Control Officer under the supervision of the Sheriff but took no official action on the matter.

The County Commission reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Red Sulphur and Gap Mills Public Service Districts, the Greenbrier Valley Economic Development Corporation and the County Board of Health.

The County Commission awarded a bid to Duane Miller Construction Services to make renovations to the basement of the 911 Center and reviewed a letter from Congressman Nick Rahall advising that the bridge in Peterstown located on the West Virginia / Virginia border is scheduled to be replaced in June 2011. The County Commission, Town of Peterstown and Giles County have worked for many years attempting to get this bridge replaced.

Commissioners renewed a contract with the Southern Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for fiscal year 2010-11 for the purpose of operating the Day Report Program and approved a drawdown for the Greenville/Wikel Water Project in the amount of \$9,720.00. This drawdown was for engineering services for the project performed by Pentree, Inc.

The County Commission agreed to prepare a letter supporting the efforts of American Systems Support in their efforts to bring much -needed jobs to southern West Virginia. The letters will go to Senators Byrd and Rockefeller and Congressman Rahall.

Larry Mustain met with the County Commission to discuss the ownership of the "Old School" property located at Second Creek. Mr. Mustain reiterated that he was willing to relocate the school building to his property and make it available for public viewing.

The County Clerk advised Commissioners that Mountain America is appealing their tax assessment matter to the United States Supreme Court. Mountain America has argued that their property was not assessed fairly by the Assessor. They appealed their assessment to the Board of Equalization and the Board determined that the methodologies used by the Assessor in assessing this property were fair. Mountain America then appealed the Board of Equalizations ruling to the Circuit Court of Monroe County. The Circuit Court upheld the ruling made by the Board of Equalization. Mountain America then appealed the Circuit Court's ruling to the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Once again, the State Supreme Court upheld the ruling issued by the Circuit Court. The Clerk reported that the county's attorney advised him there would be an additional \$25,000.00 in legal fees if the United States Supreme Court should vote to hear the matter.

Commissioners again discussed the issue of having two Historic Landmark Commissions in the county. The State of West Virginia recently advised Commissioners that only one of the Commissions would be eligible for grant funding. Commissioners asked the Clerk to invite the members of the two Commissions to their next meeting to discuss the possibility of combining the two Commissions into one.

The County Commission approved nine final estate settlements and two exonerations. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

