

Greater Sissonville Development Council Minutes | 2013

Announcements: Council thanks fellow council member **Steve Poyet** for furnishing soft drinks for the board during this meeting.

Highlights: Council defined the “*Greater Sissonville*” area to be congruent with the 39th Delegate District for the purpose of defining the area GSDC would seek to cover and appoints committee to study highway directional signage.

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August 12, 2013

Greater Sissonville Development Council Minutes

Sissonville Public Library

Meeting started: 5:06 pm

The meeting was called to order by **President Johnnie Brown** who presided.

Voting Members Attending: Johnnie Brown, President, Dana Ferrell, Vice President, Chad Taylor, Treasurer, Tom Crouser, Secretary, Danny Bragg, Tom Miller, Steve Poyet, Lisa Godwin and Earl Scyoc

Guests: Orel Ferrell, resident, Kanawha County Engineer Joe Luoni, Delegate Ron Walters as well as a representative from WCHS-TV and the Charleston Daily Mail.

Approval of Minutes: Copies of June 2013 meetings (last meeting) were previously distributed to all via email in June. Printed copies were also available to all at this meeting.

President Brown moved to accept the minutes without reading. Motion seconded by Dana Ferrell. Vote to accept the minutes without reading was unanimous.

Topics discussed:

1. **Library Excess Levy: Pat Abbott** of the Sissonville Public Library discussed the upcoming November 9th levy sponsored by the Board of Education. She informed the council that supporters of the levy were meeting this Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 8:30 am at the offices of the Bowles, Rice law firm, 600 Quarrier Street, Charleston. Pat invited a representative of the council to attend. **Lisa Godwin** was appointed as a representative of the GSDC to attend the meeting. \$3 million was being received previously from the school board based on property values through a law requiring the school board to share tax revenue with the library. This law was struck down by the WV Supreme Court earlier this year. Pat noted that the library cannot initiate a levy on its own which is why the levy is being brought forth with the school board. President Brown noted he previously had written a letter to the school board inquiring how many dollars came to Sissonville but he has not received a response. It was believed that the total levy is for \$24 million of which the library is to receive \$3 million. **Delegate Ron Walters** clarified that this levy would be an increase in taxes and would not be a continuation of a previous or existing levy.

2. **Millertown DOH Maintenance:**

John Luoni, Kanawha County Engineer, reported that he had little luck in getting a response from the DOH in his attempts at making contact on the issue of Millertown DOH Maintenance. **Earl Scyoc** says the road at Millertown flooded as late as this past week.

Dana Ferrell reported on his contact with Brent Walker at DOH as well as David Bodner and Greg Bailey.

Earl Scyoc indicated the north bound exit is the issue due mainly to vegetation. The ditches needed “pulled,” excavation done and vegetation taken out.

Delegate **Ron Walters** indicated he would also make contact with DOH on the issue. He noted that he sat on both the House Finance Committee as well as the Blue Ribbon Committee on Transportation.

3. **GSDC Vision – defining the Greater Sissonville area**

A discussion was held regarding the definition of the “Greater Sissonville” area. This was an organizational item that had not yet been resolved by the council which was uncovered during the June meeting as the status of projects and proposals were reviewed. This was felt necessary as the GSDC Mission is to: *Preserve and improve the physical, social and economic health of the Greater Sissonville Community*. Without a definition of where the Greater Sissonville Community was, this task would be impossible to accomplish.

The council discussed the following:

- a) Feeder areas to schools in our community
- b) Local tax districts - e.g. Union, Poca
- c) Service area of the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department
- d) The 39th Delegate District of the WV House of Delegates known as the Sissonville district

It was generally felt that no one of these descriptions were perfect, however the 39th Delegate District encompassed all of the other districts plus some. The plus some was specifically the communities toward Cross Lanes as well as the communities located near the lower part of Elk River incorporated into the Elk Magisterial District (Mink Shoals, Knollwood, Elk Hills, Crede). It was reasoned that the council would strive to assure representatives from any of these outlying areas are informed that they were welcome to participate in the activities of the GSDC. It was also discussed that should the legislature change the boundaries of the Delegate District in 2021, then the council could make adjustments to the definition of the service district then.

Vice President **Dana Ferrell** moved to adopt the definition of the 39th Delegate District as the designated service territory of the Greater Sissonville Development Council. Secretary **Tom Crouser** seconded the motion. *The motion was approved unanimously.*

4. Items not on the Agenda

Interstate and Local Road Signs – a discussion was held on the inconsistency of road signage in the Sissonville area. It was noted that many looking for Sissonville High School get off at the wrong exit or end up going to Sissonville. Additionally it was noted that the sign at the foot of the northbound exit 111 of I-77 shows Sissonville to the left. However, when a driver reaches the T-intersection with Route 29, that sign shows Charleston to the left and Camp Virgil Tate to the right with no mention of “Sissonville.”

President Johnnie Brown moved to appoint a Sign Committee to review signage needs in our area and draw up suggestions and report back to the council at the next meeting. Members of the committee include: **Lisa Godwin, Tom Miller, Earl Scyoc** and **Chad Holland**. Tom Miller seconded the motion and *it passed unanimously*.

It was noted that any recommendations would be passed by Kanawha County Engineer John Luoni before it was taken to the WV Department of Highways.

Camp Virgil Tate Timbering – Kanawha County Engineer **John Luoni** reported that **Randy Dye**, Director of Forestry for the State of West Virginia said he would help get a registered professional forester to oversee the Camp Virgil Tate timbering project that the Kanawha County Commission approved last month.

Signage and advertising renewals – Following up on an action item from June, Westbanco, and Lisa Godwin Insurance have agreed to renew their advertising support in the amount of \$300 for the sign at the Tupper's Creek exit off Interstate 77 (exit 111) for a two year period. Vice President Dana Ferrell and Treasurer Chad Holland will continue to contact others involved and report at the next meeting.

Delegate Ron Walters – Reported that he was able to deliver a certificate last month that allows Sissonville Middle School to receive \$4,000 for assistance in providing a generator.

Sissonville High School Sign – Discussed the fact that the new electronic sign has gone up and is operating. Discussion ensued with comments that it may be too low as well as may be too close to the intersection. No action was taken.

Interstate 77 Highway Work near Tupper's Creek Exit – **Tom Miller** of the Sissonville Volunteer Fire Department reported that accidents with injury so far this year have topped last year by 40 in the construction area. He noted that the contractor is to provide 1,500 feet for a lane merger and that the contractor has appeared to provide only 400 feet. No action was taken.

There being no other discussion, Earl Scyoc moved to end the meeting, Dana Ferrell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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The meeting ended at 6:12 pm

Next Scheduled Meeting of GSDC: **Monday, September 9, 2013 at 5 pm** in the Sissonville Public Library.