

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2001

PRESENT: ROBERT K. TEBAY, PRESIDENT
RICK MODESITT, COMMISSIONER
K.D. MERRITT, COMMISSIONER

On this date, the County Commission of Wood County met in regular session. They signed purchase orders, invoices and other correspondence.

The County Commission, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by Robert K. Tebay and passed, approved minutes from December 28, 2000. The County Commission, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K. D. Merritt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, approved minutes from January 4, 2001. The County Commission, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, approved minutes from January 11, 2001.

The County Commission, upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, approved an Erroneous Assessment Application in regard to real property for Gregory Hicks Enterprises – Williamstown District (2000).

Larry Border and Paul Campbell were sworn in to the Wood County Planning Commission.

At 9:30 A.M., the County Commission met with Jack Ankrom to discuss plans for the parking lot beside the Workingman's Store.

At 10:30 A.M., the County Commission met with R.C. Heckert to discuss the response to his distress call last Saturday evening. A full transcript of this hearing is attached to these minutes and shall be made a part thereof.

At 11:00 A.M., John Ellem presented an award to Holmes "Butch" Shaver, former County Commissioner.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by Rick Modesitt, seconded by K.D. Merritt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, did hereby AUTHORIZE an additional amount of two thousand five hundred dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$2,500.00) to be contributed to each of the ten (10) volunteer fire departments in Wood County. The additional contribution is to assist in the purchase of a defibrillator for each volunteer fire department; for those volunteer fire departments that already have purchased a defibrillator, the additional contribution will be utilized for the purchase of other equipment or for other expenses. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission, upon a motion duly made, seconded and passed, appointed Rick Modesitt to the Wood County Emergency Services Board. Said nomination is pursuant to an Order bearing the date of January 4, 2001, from which this appointment was inadvertently left off. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, appointed Joe Vogel to fill a vacancy on the Wood County Planning Commission. This appointment is pursuant to an Order appearing in Order Book 51, at Page 411 and bearing the date of April 1, 1999, which deals with the procedure policy for appointments to Boards and Authorities. Eight vacancies were announced on January 11, 2001 due to members' terms expiring on December 31, 2000 and

Mr. Vogel was placed in nomination on January 18, 2001. Mr. Vogel's term will expire on December 31, 2003. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and made unanimous by Robert K. Tebay, did hereby give APPROVAL to the Application and Certificate for Payment presented by J.C. Bosley Construction, Inc., Mineral Wells, West Virginia, who was hired by the County Commission to do the asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Sid's Building located at 300 Market Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia. The current payment due is in the amount of fourteen thousand six hundred dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$14,600.00) which leaves the balance to finish, including retainage, in the amount of one hundred forty thousand four hundred dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$140,400.00). The original contract sum was in the amount of eighty-six thousand dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$86,000.00) with a change order, to date, in the amount of seventy-six thousand dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$76,000.00) making the contact sum, to date, in the amount of one hundred sixty-two thousand dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$162,000.00). Documentation pertaining to the asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Sid's Building is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to sign the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program Grant Number 99-VA-011. Wood County incurred expenditures in the amount of one thousand nine hundred ninety dollars and thirty-six cents (\$1,990.36) during the month of December, 2000. However, the

cents (\$1,510.60) which represents payment of contractual services provided by Diana W. Walker, Victims Advocate for Wood County. The amount of three hundred twenty-three dollars and seventy-six cents (\$323.76) was utilized as a cash match, as set forth in the aforementioned Grant, and represents payment of office supplies, copies, salary supplement, and phone and pager reimbursement utilized by the Victims Advocate, office space and salary supplement for the aforementioned Victims Advocate. The amount of one hundred fifty-six dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$156.00) was utilized as an in-kind match and represents volunteer time, as set forth in the aforementioned Grant. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the monthly Progress Report, the Monthly Statistic Report, the Daily Time Records, the Financial Recap and the Project Financial Report are being submitted to the Criminal Justice Services, Charleston, West Virginia. Documentation pertaining the aforementioned Victims of Crime Act Assistance (VOCA) Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to EXECUTE the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Combating Underage Drinking Program Grant Number 98-UD-005. Expenditures in the amount of four thousand nine hundred seventy-six dollars and forty cents (\$4,976.40) were incurred by Wood County during the month of December, 2000, which represents payment of contractual services provided by Kelly Earley, Project S.O.B.E.R. (Services, Observation, Behavior, Modification, Education and Rehabilitation) Coordinator working with the Juvenile Probation Office in Wood County, for materials and supplies utilized by the said Project S.O.B.E.R. Coordinator, and for overtime

compensation for law enforcement officials of the Vienna Police Department who participated in STING Operations, and payment for local individuals who participated in compliance check operations in accordance with the S.O.B.E.R. Program. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the Monthly Report, the Financial Recap, the Daily Time Records, the Project Director's Monthly Report, the Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Grant Program documentation and the Project Financial Report are being submitted to the Criminal Justice Services, Charleston, West Virginia. Documentation pertaining to the aforementioned Combating Underage Drinking Program Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County was in receipt of a Grant Award Change from the West Virginia Governor's Highway Safety Program, Charleston, West Virginia, in regard to the Wood/Jackson Regional Safe Community/Highway Safety Program Grant Number F00HS-11. Receipt of the aforementioned Grant Award Change is pursuant to an ORDER appearing in Order Book 64, at Page 332 and bearing the date of October 5, 2000, at which time Holmes R. Shaver, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, was AUTHORIZED to EXECUTE the Grant Application for supplemental funding. The approved amount of supplemental funding is ten thousand seven hundred fifty dollars and 00/100ths cents (\$10,750.00). Documentation pertaining to the Wood/Jackson Regional Safe Community/Highway Safety Program Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

The County Commission of Wood County was in receipt of Grant Adjustment Notice Number Three (3) from the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Charleston, West Virginia, in regard to the STOP Violence Against Women Grant Number 99-VAW-014. The

aforementioned Grant Adjustment Notice gives APPROVAL to the change in the Authorized Official for such Grant from Holmes R. Shaver to Robert K. Tebay. Documentation pertaining to the STOP Violence Against Women Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

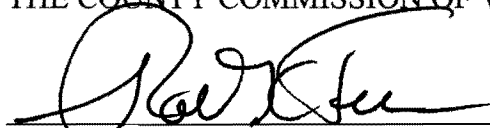
The County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by K.D. Merritt, seconded by Rick Modesitt and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE Robert K. Tebay, in his official capacity as President and on behalf of the County Commission, to EXECUTE the Request for Reimbursement in regard to the Safe Communities Program Grant Number 00HS-11. Expenditures in the amount of eighteen thousand twelve dollars and eighty-two cents (\$18,012.82) were incurred by Wood County during the period of October 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 and represents payment of contractual services provided by Tiano-Knopp Associates, Inc., Grant Consultants for Wood County; for travel and training expenses incurred by the aforementioned Grant Consultants; for materials, supplies and mailings utilized by the aforementioned Grant Consultants and for overtime expenses incurred by the Jackson County Commission, the City of Ripley and the City of Vienna, for law enforcement officials who participated in the occupant protection enforcement in conjunction with the Highway Safety Program. In addition to the Request for Reimbursement, the Grant Progress Report, the Time and Attendance Reports, the Travel and Expense Accounts, and the Project Financial Reports are being submitted to the West Virginia Highway Safety Program, Charleston, West Virginia.

Documentation pertaining to the aforementioned Safe Communities Program Grant is on file in the Office of the County Administrator. An Order was prepared regarding this matter.

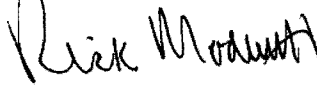
Having no further scheduled appointments or business to attend to, the County Commission adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Approved:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY



Robert K. Tebay, President



Rick Modesitt, Commissioner



K.D. Merritt, Commissioner

PURCHASE ORDERS APPROVED ON JANUARY 25, 2001

26431	AGA Gas, Inc.	95.55
26447	Universal Supply	26.49
26465	Winans Services	81.16
26467	State Electric Supply	19.01
26473	Parks Hardware	10.04
26477	Broadwaters Motorcar	3774.95
26479	State Electric Supply	532.41
26485	Lowe's	393.22
26487	Broadwaters Motorcar	82.33
26489	Runyon Lock Service	51.00
26497	Parkersburg Office Supply	16.20
27322	Parkersburg Office Supply	27.00
27352	S.W. Resources	56.25
27360	Signs Now	50.05
27370	Broadwaters Motorcar	18.31
27372	Sears Roebuck	13.99
27378	Miller Communications	40.00
27382	Gall's	224.96
27384	Mr. Vacuum Cleaner	8.97
27386	Office Depot	107.95
27388	Stuart Oil	3236.21
27400	Parks Hardware	22.98
27402	Newberry Hardware	18.99

27406	Walmart	124.58
27426	Broadwaters Motorcar	32.49

To listen to these minutes, please refer to Tape #57.

**R. C. "Heck" Heckert, Wood County Citizen
P. O. Box 361, Parkersburg, W.V. 26102-0361
482-9430**

Date: January 22, 2001

Ref: January 20, 2001 Calls for emergency assistance from E-911

Dear Wood County Commissioners:

I feel obligated to bring the actions and/or in-actions of the E-911 center to the attention of the citizens of Wood County and most particularly the Wood County Commissioners. Because of a lack of organization for rescue efforts on the Little Kanawha River from approximately 5:00 P.M. on Saturday thru 4 A.M. Sunday morning, the lives of four citizens of Wood County were left without any competent assistance when a distress call was made to the E-911 center.

I am asking for the Wood County Commission to turn this incident over to the proper authorities to request an investigation into the actions and in-actions of certain persons who are known to be the directors and managers for the county wide E-911 system. I believe the demonstrated actions are not acceptable to the funding agencies and certainly are not acceptable to me as a citizen, and in this case, one of the four men stranded, who feared for their lives during the waiting hours of the evening.

Each and every time that I called E-911 for help and updated information, I was told that someone was being contacted. I have now been told that the responding, volunteer fire departments were never toned out. We were being told that nobody would put a rescue boat in the water because they were all stored away and winterized. Also, the United States Coast Guard called me back and said they were being told by the Wood County Sheriffs Department that there were no rescue boats available for the same reasons as stated. I personally know of several fire departments with small boats that could have been used, if they had received a call.

Please advise me in writing as to who the responsible parties are to secure a thorough investigation.

We as citizens pay for this service with our tax dollars and donations. We also are educated and made to believe that every emergency in this area must be handled by only one Emergency Reporting System.

**Sincerely yours,
R. C. "Heck" Heckert**

*Recd
1-25-01*

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 2001

10:30 A.M.

WOOD COUNTY COMMISSION OFFICE

WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ROBERT K. TEBAY, RICK MODESITT, K.D. MERRITT, MARY RADER, R.C. HECKERT, D.R. SMITH

Robert Tebay – For the record Heck, you're on recording, I think aren't we Mary will you state your name please so we got it on record

R.C. Heckert – My name's R.C Heck Heckert. I've been a life long resident of Wood County. I live at 229 Point Drive in South Parkersburg. For a long time I've been affiliated with the river, the marine industry as well as other business in Wood County and Parkersburg. Last Saturday evening, we had an incident that happened that I myself was involved in. This was January the twentieth, two thousand and one. (Inaudible) that I want to bring to your attention is the E-911 system didn't work. A call for help was made, information was relayed back and forth to us, stranded at the 4.5 mile marker on the Little Kanawha River, which is the Little Kanawha River and I-77 bridge piers. There was three men aboard and we got stuck in the trash and debris that accumulates around the bridge piers.

Turned tape over

R.C. Heckert – which we were attempting to back the sternwheeler Dixie down the river to clear the bridge piers safely and we were aware that there was an ice jam and flooding conditions building up the river about six miles above where we were at, which would've been about the twelve mile marker, eleven to twelve mile marker. We were being apprised that the water had raised some four to five feet in the Saturday afternoon hours. The original ice jam had flowed up naturally on Saturday morning starting about six thirty. The decision was made by myself and I took my son and Skip Drain who's worked with us for many years on the river and we proceeded down the river till we got to the bend of the river and there was this trash and debris accumulation which prevented us from transferring our boat on through the bridge piers. But, because the ice busted up into smaller pieces we backed up with the batter wheel, it's a steel wheel. I've broken ice with it before. We were backing up and crunching the ice and we did that, for probably forty-five minutes. We had the misfortune of getting stuck there in the ice. Because we had an engine fail, we had to restart it and when we did the current pushed us into the trash and debris and ice that was in the way there. When we realized how serious the situation was we had phone calls from up river, people telling us the water was still raising, it had went from four feet to six feet to seven feet in pretty short order. We put out a mayday call on channel sixteen to the United States Coast guard, which is normal procedure for any captain on the river that's in a distress situation. We contacted the Louisville Group of the US Coast Guard, which is normal procedure. We also called the E-911 number and gave the woman the information. A little later we was contacted, or we contacted them back again and finally got a hold of D.R. Smith. He assured us that he was calling out some help, he was making phone

calls. All we wanted was a johnboat put in the water to get to us. With or without an operator, it wouldn't have mattered the current would've carried the boat to us, if they'd gotten it in the water, we could've gotten a line thrown to it and pulled it over to us and we could've gotten ourselves off the boat. If they'd just put a hand line on the boat, but we believed for some six to seven hours that that was happening. It wasn't until very late that my son and George Fox, who is an off duty city policeman and Danny B realized there had never been any call put out to the fire departments or anyone and that was because we were contacted, or my son was contacted and told that emergency services has never asked for any one of the volunteer fire departments to put a boat in the water. In the mean time, the United States Coast Guard who'd called me several times on the radio as well as on my cell phone and told us they were being advised that the 911 system that all of the boats in Wood County had been winterized for the winter, there was nothing available. It has since been brought to my attention that there was never anyone toned out from the volunteer fire departments, that there were volunteer firemen that were waiting to be called listening to this on the monitor for several hours, had boats available, they're in the buildings, in the fire departments, they're heated, it's a matter of hooking them to the trucks and go. I have personally worked with emergency services and with Ken Merritt, especially on the river and Ken can tell you that I've been there, he's been right with me, all we needed was a john boat. If somebody didn't want to get in it, just get it out to us and put a hand line and pull us back to shore. That's all we were asking for. For seven eight hours, this ordeal went on and we realized nothing had happened. Finally, there was a john boat put in the water and they brought a cable out from Pifer's Wrecker and this was in the last few moments of any chance of getting us off of there. The cable was hooked and the cable broke, it was just a half inch of cable which wasn't big enough, it was all they could put in a row boat, it's all they had available in three hundred feet long that could reach us and put it through a snatch block to pull on it. In the mean time, that left Danny B stranded on the boat with us, now we have four people stranded out there. Danny B is my neighbor, who's very knowledgeable of the river and he never hesitated. Pifer's Wrecker Service employees and my son and the other neighbors had gathered there on the river bank at Jack Murray's home shoved a little fourteen foot john boat in the water, twenty-five horse motor on it, fired it up and came out there to, and brought us a big piece of cable. If we would have been told, honestly and truthfully and straight up that they weren't going to call out the fire departments, they weren't going to call any one of the forms of assistance and I'm very much familiar with being available in this County and I've personally funded and helped with the resources of acquiring some of these pieces in the past, we would have abandoned 911 and went for our own help. I mean I would've called the fire people, I would have made phone calls, but we were being so confidently assured that this was being handled. The fact is, Don Smith didn't call anybody out, he didn't tone out the fire departments, since then firemen have come to us and said we were waiting, we didn't get toned out, we can not respond without being toned out, because of whatever, repercussions. I'm telling you, gentlemen, that this 911 system under the direction of D.R. Smith has got some serious faults. I was never so scared for my life, in my whole life, not only myself, but the guys that were with me. All we wanted was a chance to get off that boat, we had time, it took all evening, and being told one thing and in fact that wasn't true. The sources of information to back what I'm saying would be Chief Mable, U.S. Coast Guard, he called back numerous times, he followed up on Sunday writing his reports, he was told that there's nobody available in Wood County that all the boats are winterized. I find this unacceptable, I can't live without coming here and telling you there's a problem with 911 that

damn near cost me my life as well as three of my friends, including my son. The stress and the nightmare and not being able to sleep since that ordeal Saturday night, this is not a joke. It was referred to in this Courthouse recently that I'm coming here today to cry to you all and I was very much offended that that was the referral made by County employee why I was going to be on this agenda at 10:30 this morning. I've come here to present myself, I'm not hollering, I'm not screaming, I'm not raising hell, but I'm telling you this matter can not go unattended, it can not be just pushed under the carpet. There has to be an accountability and the system didn't work. Every time I turn around I'm told, instructed, trained, the public is trained call 911. You've got one agency that represents everything. If they have a bad piece of information, that's passed on to everyone. When the United States Coast Guard is calling quote they said to me Wood County Sheriff's Department, Wood County Sheriff's Department calls are being referred to 911. They had one source of bad information and it's spread throughout the entire community. I've asked you in my letter that I presented to you here, if this is not the right place to come forward to make my complaint and to ask for assistance or review of this, then please tell me where do I go to West Virginia State Emergency Services, is there a director or a panel or something that oversees E-911. Whatever. I want to be heard and I want to be very sincerely heard and understand that we were scared to death and if we'd just been told up front, they weren't going to call anybody out, we had resources to call. It's a shame. The problem began because the trash and debris that accumulates at the interstate bridge pier year after year. For better than a dozen years I took my boats and kept the bridge piers cleared off, you didn't hear the problem there in the eighties and early nineties and I no longer had a boat big enough to do that but during the time that I did I cleared those bridge piers in the spring time and throughout the summer and the fall, we never had a problem. You never hear it. In later years you have heard of the problem because I didn't have something to do it myself. You've had to have crane services come in and the State Highway Department had people in and so forth. But if these trees and stuff that accumulate on these bridge piers aren't cleared off at least a couple of times a year, then we're going to have continued problems. It happened this year and two years ago, the ice jam builds up at the bridge piers because of the trash and the obstructions that are there. Ice itself is designed, or the bridge piers are designed to allow the ice to be cut and sheared around it and the force that's there would put the ice around it pretty fierce. But when you get a big tree across there it doesn't have a chance, the tree helps dam up the ice and then it just becomes the compounding factor. I just can't stress the importance of you all knowing 911 didn't work. I feel that without going into too much detail right this moment I would like to be able to see an investigation done on this and I would be glad to speak for or to anybody doing an investigation because this is very, very serious. The people in Parkersburg, the people in Wood County believe, you call 911, there is somebody going to do something. I, because of my experience knew, that should be the system, but the system failed. The system did not work and I urge you to please, please do something about this. One person can't possibly be the director of E-911 and can't be Emergency Services Director and can't go to all of these meetings and have control and do all of this. It takes consolidated effort (inaudible) of these people who have boats, volunteer fire departments have big john boats that can be slid over the bank almost any place and that's why they have them, they are designed specifically for easing in the water situations. To be told that there was no boat ramps above the interstate bridge pier to put a boat in the water, is just nonsense, maybe a big boat, but what these emergency service units and what the volunteer fire departments have are big john boats that four or five men could push in the snow (inaudible) I've

done it, I've watched it happen on Saturday evening when finally people outside of 911 produced a boat brought it to the river and slid it over the bank. I just feel that being told that there was something being monitored, there was something being done and in fact there hadn't even been a call made. I think that was wrong. I think someone should be held accountable for that. I think that the scare and the nightmares that have come from this for myself, for the people that were on that boat find out there was no assistance rendered. You may hear that there was, but I'm telling you that nobody showed up, volunteer firemen have come to us and said we couldn't respond because we weren't toned out and they wanted us to know. Even in one case, one gentleman from Waverly was willing to go to the fire station and get a boat and bring it out even without being toned out. We told him Don Smith's got somebody coming. It's a shame; it's really a shame.

Robert Tebay – You fellas have any questions?

Rick Modesitt – Who normally responds to emergencies on the river now? The Coast Guard, (inaudible) if they have a Coast Guard, you're saying you thought they didn't have anyone available with the Coast Guard system?

R.C. Heckert – This is the first time in my life that I had ever been in a situation that I've called a mayday call and I did that on channel sixteen which is the Coast Guard radio system. I was answered by the Louisville Group, which is the laundering group for this upper Ohio River, they came on the radio immediately, they put out a distress call for any boats in the area that could help. They, themselves didn't have a boat here. They are a coordinating agency that uses all of the devices at hand in order to get the emergency services and the Sheriff's Department involved and what happened is they were being told when they were making their calls that all of the boats are winterized in Wood County.

K.D. Merritt – I think the nearest flotilla for the Coast Guard is Huntington, I believe.

R.C. Heckert – Yeah and there's no boats really in storage there, the Corps of Engineers is in Huntington, the Coast Guard has I think an office in the Federal building there, but there's nobody with boats here per say.

Rick Modesitt – Well then who, who would normally respond to incidents on the river?

K.D. Merritt – volunteer fire departments (inaudible – speaking the same time as Mr. Heckert)

R.C. Heckert – Wood County Emergency Services and volunteer fire departments and I know that Ken Merritt knows how dedicated these people are, I'm sure Bob and you do as well, you all have been around here, but Ken, I know, knows 'cause he's a DNR officer and he saw the people come out night and day, whatever situation. If they would just put a boat in the water and not been telling us that they were calling people, that's where I find fault with this, is we were given erroneous information. We were being told something, at one point we was told the reason he wasn't available to take my call he was on, he was on another response, he was responding to some other emergency call.

Rick Modesitt – Who, Don?

R.C. Heckert - Don Smith? That's was what was said to me. After we floated, to emphasize how serious this was, when the wall of water and ice hit us at the interstate bridge piers, it was seven to eight feet high and we're sitting there trapped in the ice and that wall of water and ice come down ripping down the river and hit us and just literally crammed us through the bridge piers. We came out of there on the other side, everybody scrambling to check the hull to see how many holes it had ripped in us, I mean we fully expected the boat to be sinking on the other side of the bridge piers. We only took on a couple of leaks. We finally got turned around. 'Cause once we were freed from the ice, we could turn our paddle wheel, we could (inaudible) the boat and we were able to keep it in the center of the river and not get on any of the stumps and so forth, obstructions along the side of the river. We missed the crane barges at Atlas Towing. They had their barges and stuff sitting there, we was able to steer clear of that so we didn't get washed under or trapped there. We negotiated every curve of the river by going to the inside of the bends of the river and we rode an ice jam for five miles down the river. That's a horrifying experience in itself.

Rick Modesitt – Five miles down the river, you mean, you would've ended up

R.C. Heckert – We ended up at the Point of Parkersburg, we came out in clear water in the Ohio River and washed cleared, paddled, gently put in gear and paddled to get the ice out of the wheel and let it go over in clear water, we came in to the Point of Parkersburg and tied the boat up and left it for a couple of days. We returned it back, took it back on Tuesday; I believe it was, back to the original mooring site. It's just; it's a terrible thing to see that, people see all the press and media about 911 and call. When you call and when you live it first hand basis, and you make as many phone calls. I made an effort to bring my cell phone account with me today to show the calls. They said my bill could be printed out (inaudible) twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth of this month for the, they could drop it in the computer and I could print it out. You see how many times I (inaudible -someone coughs), who I called. I heard that somebody from 911 had been with us 'til about five o'clock in the morning or four thirty in the morning, whatever it was, at Point of Parkersburg. That's wonderful, but it would've, that served no purpose. Once we were down here, what we needed was the people at 911 to make the necessary phone calls and the necessary agencies and give these volunteer firemen a chance to come and say it's too dangerous for them to get in the water. But from the front of our boat up the river for five miles, there was virtually no ice or no concern. And we had plenty of time to have gotten off of there, we just couldn't get the boat to get off on. I beg of you to have an investigation, tell me where to point my concerns. I thought about this long and hard before I came here today to see you and I don't know that I've got the ability to demonstrate, put the emphasis on how serious this was, how big a failure this was in the system. I've done everything in my power to research my information and prepare my conversation for you and to make myself available for any questions.

Rick Modesitt – When was the original call in? About what time?

R.C. Heckert – It was in the, probably in the six o'clock range.

Rick Modesitt – Did anyone respond out, to where you were at or in your area to try to help?

R.C. Heckert - Probably, no, it was all (inaudible) being done on the phone. I kept telling them to come to Jack Murray, Murray's Drive and come past Jack Murray's house, (inaudible) to the river about a hundred fifty feet from the shore line and quite honestly Pifer's Wrecker did more to respond than anybody else. They came there with three trucks and cable and called, Mike Pifer called me on the phone to see what it would take to reach out and get a hold of us. Their guys were down there pushing a johnboat in the water. I was very proud of them. The situation is that when everything's got a strangle hold put on it that you have to go through one person, that person lacks the experience to know who to call and how to call and how to operate on the river especially, I think that's, no disrespect to the person, but it's just a fact. We were out there and the people that were responsible just don't have the knowledge or experience and there's nobody to pass that on to.

Robert Tebay – O.K. I think we're gonna, we will look into this act and D.R.'s here today but I don't think we have time to get into the full blown investigation on this matter, but we will certainly take a look at it. Rest of you agree to that?

K.D. Merritt – Yeah.

R.C. Heckert – Well, the one thing that's important to me is that this is not a political matter to me, this is personal, this is my life. Whatever's done and said, I just want to stick to the facts of what happened on Saturday night, not the politics that goes with the jobs or anything else. That's the only request that we have.

Robert Tebay – O.K. Thank you for coming in.

R.C. Heckert – Thank you.

JANUARY 25, 2001

R. SANK ANKROM - ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP

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