

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
April 20, 2021**

Members present:

Commissioner Joel Tuttle, President
Commissioner Sean Forney
Commissioner Bill Clark

Staff Present:

Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk
Stefanie Allemong, County Administrator
Anna Padilla, Commission Secretary

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet

The meeting was opened by Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk, at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Administration Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes 4/8

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve meeting minutes from 4/8. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Assessors Exonerations & Consolidations

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the exoneration for taxpayer Brice for \$9.91 plus a \$50.00 late filing penalty for a total of \$59.91 for FY20. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Introduction

Cynthia Hull explained that the school will hold an informational session at the school on May 6th from 5:00-6:00 p.m., but the school is open essentially any other time for tours in informational sessions. Currently, the Job Scholars program is being offered, free tuition for individuals between the ages of 16-24 years old who qualify. Jane Peters explained that there are currently four tech companies offering courses at Blue Ridge and there are currently two open offices (cubicles) for companies to teach administrative classes. There is the potential to add a veterinary tech program also. Kate Shunney from the Morgan Messenger asked how many slots

the school has and when the start date is. Cynthia explained that there are three counties who participate with about forty students in all with rolling start dates.

Sharon Stephan – Broadband

Mrs. Stephan presented to the Commission her lack of access to reliable broadband to her home in Morgan County and the ability for anyone to hold Frontier Communications accountable. She explained that to potentially receive internet from Morgan Wireless, quite a few trees would have to be cut down to potentially be in the line of sight of the towers. Mrs. Stephan explained that she has been in contact with Danny Lutz who has just been appointed to the West Virginia Better Broadband Committee and he is interested in working with satellite broadband, which could help rural communities. Commissioner Forney mentioned that Go Gig and Starklink could potentially be options. President Tuttle explained that Morgan County is aware of the lack of better broadband in the county, and this is presently being worked on, it is just going to take some time. No action taken.

Resolution approval to support the West Virginia Industrial Access Program Grant

Commissioner Clark explained that the grant application is to support Caperton Furnitures Facility Expansion by having a turning lane installed on U.S. 522. for about \$250,000-\$400,000. Commissioner Clark made a motion to authorize the Commission President to execute all documents and required Resolution in support of the West Virginia Industrial Access Program Grant with no county match. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea, and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Brandy Steele – Paw Paw Update

Ms. Steele originally came to the Commission to ask for funds to join the C&O Canal Town Trust, but the Morgan County Chamber of Commerce has agreed to pay this fee. She explained that Paw Paw would like to join the GAP Trail, and she will be back to ask the Commission to fund this fee in the future. No action taken.

Request to Purchase VLAN Configuration and Setup

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the purchase of the VLAN Configuration and setup for \$5,875 by GDC. Commissioner Forney amended his motion to add that the purchase is to be paid for out of 401-233 effective 04/20/21. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Purchases/Check Logs/Budget Revisions/Vacation Orders

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Adjourn

President Tuttle 03:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: A. Padilla