

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
March 19, 2015**

Members present:

Commissioner Brad Close, President
Commissioner Robert Ford

Member absent:

Commissioner Joel Tuttle

Also present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator; Ginger Johnson, Commission Secretary; Jeanne Mozier; Laura Smith; Stephanie Rebant; Trish Strader, Journal Newspaper; Beth Curtin; Mark Harrell; John Allen Swaim; Paul Mock; Susan Webster and Kate Shunney, Morgan Messenger

The meeting was opened by Debra Kesecker, County Clerk, at 8:30 a.m.

Cell Tower Lease Agreements Negotiations- possible executive session

On a Brad Close/Bob Ford motion, the County Commission went into executive session to discuss the cell tower lease agreements. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

On a Brad Close/Bob Ford motion, the County Commission came out of executive session and reconvened into regular session. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried. No decision was made.

Administration Items

Stephanie Allemong, Grants Administrator- Resolutions for WV Division of Justice & Community Services, Juvenile Assistance Grant Program, Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Grant Program

On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approves the four resolutions and authorizes Bradley J. Close, President of the Morgan County Commission, to act on its behalf as the official representative in regards to the WV grant program applications to request funding. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

Appointment to Ambulance Authority Board

On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission appoints Ronald Davis to the Ambulance Authority Board effective immediately. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

Re-appointments to the EDA (Economic Development Authority) Board

On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission tabled the re-appointments to a future Commission meeting. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

WV Local Economic Development Grant Resolution of Participation and Cooperation
On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission tabled the resolution until the next Commission meeting on April 2, 2015. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

Action Items

Morgan County Parks & Recreation RFP for mowing services to county parks

The County Commission received seven requests for proposals for mowing services to the county parks. The RFP's are as follows:

1. Fairview Lawn Care- \$22,200
2. B&G Mowing- \$19,975
3. Mountain State Home & Property Services- \$19,185
4. CSE Enterprises- \$36,207
5. Stevens' Handyman Services- \$24,500
6. 1st Place Lawn Service- \$22,950 plus Debris removal & chemical spraying
7. W.J. Wills- \$21,590

The County Commission will make a decision regarding the RFP's at the Commission meeting on March 23, 2015.

Estate of Ilona Maria Gyorik

President Close recused himself and left the meeting.

Commissioner Tuttle was present by telephone conference call.

On a Bob Ford/Joel Tuttle motion, the County Commission approves the removal of Tatiana Galitzin as Executor and appoints Thomas Close as Administrator of the Estate.

Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

President Close returned to the meeting.

Laura Smith, Travel Berkeley Springs,- Funds Request for fireworks for 4th of July

Laura Smith and Stephanie Rebant, Travel Berkeley Springs, approached the Commission to request support and ask for funds in the amount of \$4000 for a firework display for the 4th of July weekend. Ms. Smith and Ms. Rebant stated that every year, guests that come to Berkeley Springs for the 4th of July holiday have to travel to neighboring towns to see fireworks and they feel it would benefit the local businesses and restaurants if we had fireworks here in Morgan County. The County Commission stated that they thought it was a good idea but it depends on availability from the hotel/motel funds. On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approves the request in the amount of \$4000 contingent upon the availability of the hotel/motel funds.

President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

Dave Barton, Shenandoah Group- Retiree Health Care Policy & 2015-16 Health Insurance Cost Estimates

Dave Barton, representing the Shenandoah Group, approached the Commission regarding the Retiree Health Care policy and 2015-16 health care policy. Mr. Barton presented

handouts to the Commission for their review and will follow up with a work session with the Commission on April 21, 2015 at 1:00 pm.

Work sessions

EDA (Economic Development Authority)- Board of Directors

The County Commission held a work session with the Board of Directors for the Economic Development Authority regarding funding and the need for a new EDA Director. President Close explained that if there are members on the EDA Board that do not want economic growth in the county, he feels that they should resign from the board. President Close stated that we need a board that is serious about creating jobs in this county. Commissioner Ford read aloud a statement. (see attached) Commissioner Ford explained that he knows that there are people on the EDA Board that are opposed to the proposed Dollar General store and other economic growth in the county. Commissioner Ford stated that when members of the EDA committee begin to join in with protesters, he has a problem with that. Commissioner Ford stated that he will not approve to give 10 cents towards EDA's budget until the members of the EDA that participated in the negative remarks or comments on social media or participated in protests against the Dollar General resign from the board. President Close stated that the Commission and EDA Board of Directors need to revisit the job description.

Debra Kesecker, County Clerk- Budget Work Session

The County Commission held a budget work session where they worked on the budget for Fiscal year 2015-16.

Recess

On a Bob Ford/Brad Close motion, the County Commission made a motion to recess the meeting. President Close voted yea and Commissioner Ford voted yea. Motion carried.

I have a brief statement I would like to read.

I would like to start by saying I know there some people on this committee that would like to see economic development in our county, bring value to our county, and create jobs in our county.

However, there are some on this committee I totally don't understand, what they believe this committee is about, or what the charge of this committee is.

Prior to the last 2 years Morgan County had a fulltime Economic Development Director, with a salary of over \$50,000 a year for six years.

Over the last two years Morgan County has invested tens of thousands dollars in a business coach.

I ask where's the jobs, where's the economic development. Morgan County's class 3 property taxes are in decline, values are down.

Over the last several months a Dollar General Retail Store is trying to purchase property to locate a retail store in our community.

As they were working thru the process with our planning department a small group of citizens began to protest against the location of the store.

Making negative statements about the company, in regards to Hi-way safety, we need a more upscale store; they already have one store why do they need another, making derogatory remarks about the company in social media as well as the local paper.

I get it, the public is entitled to say whatever they want to say and by no means would I want to silence their opinion.

On the other hand when members of the Economic Development Committee begin joining in with the protesters, I have a problem with that.

I have read on some social media sites that were screen shot, where members of the EDA made similar statements in regards to the company.

This is unacceptable. I have heard members of this committee make negative comments in regards to other industries in our county, again this is unacceptable.

Mr. Bermans behavior as well as any other members of the EDA that may have participated in protesting the company at the last planning commission meeting should resign.

Since that time I have had several citizens in the county ask me who is this Berman fellow that wrote and lead the singing some song protesting Dollar General. I say you mean Jerry Berman he is on the EDA. The next thing they ask me is what the hell are you running down there in regards to EDA. Then they say he needs to go back where he came from, I say I couldn't agree more.

Perhaps there are some that think this type of behavior was cute or effective, no it was silly, and it makes our county the laughing stock of the state.

I personally have been talking to some site selectors for commercial development in the county. They have asked me what's going on up there with the Dollar General Store. Man it's made its way clear to Charleston. The lol.

There are a lot of citizens in the county are frustrated, tired of the statements that a handful of people think they know what's best for Morgan County's citizens, making condescending statements like they're going to save the county, that this small group of noisy people knows what's best.

It's my belief the EDA's charge is to bring value to our county enhancing our tax base, create jobs in the county. Not act as a zoning board, not to pick and choose what companies you want to locate in our county or where you want them to locate. As long as they meet the permitting requirements you should be supporting them.

We are not going to start back door zoning. The citizens of Morgan County spoke very clearly about zoning.

In closing I don't have the power to remove members from this board for their behavior in regards to Dollar General, short of filing charges for maleficence dereliction of duty, however I will not enter into any negotiations with the EDA in regards operating or funding. I as a commissioner will not approve 10 cents toward EDA's budget until the members of the EDA that participated in the making negative remarks or comments on social media or participated in protests against the company resign from the EDA. This type of behavior should not be tolerated.

Richard
3/19/2015
3 of 3

Morgan County Commission

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: March 19				Sheet:	Of:
NO.	NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS	
1	Ann Marie	EDA			
2	Laura Smith	TBS			
3	Steph Rebert	TBS S			
4	Trish Strader	news media			
5	Beth Curtin	EDA			
6	Mark Handl	"			
7	John A. Swaim	"			
8	Paul Moyer	EDA			
9	SUSAN WILSON	EDA			
10	Kate Shinnery	Messenger			
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Morgan County Commission
77 Fairfax Street, Room 101
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411
304-258-8540

- COMMISSIONERS-

Bradley J. Close
380 Dry Run Rd
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-3795

Robert L. Ford
9 Barbecue Drive
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-4178

Joel R. Tuttle
134 Ridgewood Trail
Berkeley Springs
WV 25411
304-258-7958

March 19, 2015

COURT ORDER

The Morgan County Commission hereby appoints RONALD DAVIS to the Morgan County Emergency Medical Services Board to serve a three year term.

This appointment is effective immediately and will expire December 31, 2015.

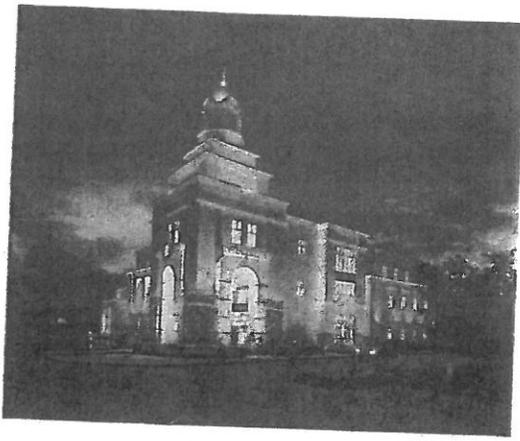
Bradley J. Close, President
Morgan County Commission

Robert L. Ford
Morgan County Commission

Joel R. Tuttle
Morgan County Commission

ATTEST:

Debra Kesecker
Clerk of the County Commission



Morgan County Commission
77 Fairfax Street, Room 101
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411-1580
304-258-8540

-COMMISSIONERS -

Bradley Close
38 Dry Run Road
Berkeley Springs,
WV 25411
304-258-3795

Robert L. Ford
9 Barbeque Drive
Berkeley Springs,
WV 25411
304-258-4178

Joel L. Tuttle
134 Ridgewood Trail
Berkeley Springs,
WV 25411
304-258-7598

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission met on March 19, 2015 with a quorum present and passed the following resolution;

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Board of Education and Morgan County Sheriff's Department have signed the FY2015-2016 Prevention Resource Officer Agreement;

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services FY2015-2016 **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant Program-Title II (JJ-Title II)**;

WHEREAS; The goal of this program is to improve juvenile justice systems by increasing the availability and types of prevention and intervention programs and juvenile justice system improvements;

WHEREAS; The intent of The JAG grant program is to fund a Prevention Resource Officer for the Morgan County Schools;

THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED; This March 19th, 2015 that the Morgan County Commission hereby authorizes Bradley J. Close, President of the Morgan County Commission, to act on its behalf as the official representative in regards to the West Virginia JAG grant program application to request funding for a Prevention Resource Office for the Morgan County Schools for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.



Bradley J. Close, President
Morgan County Commission



Robert L. Ford
Morgan County Commission

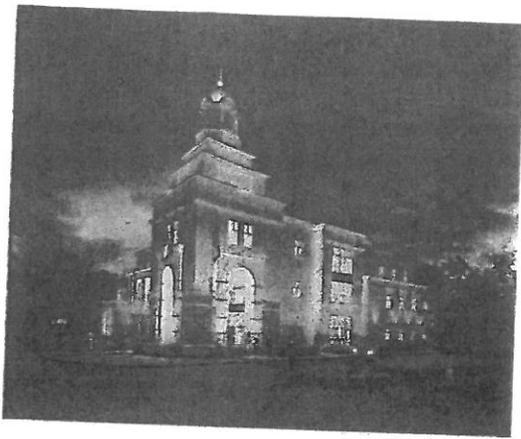


Joel L. Tuttle
Morgan County Commission

Attest:



Debra A. Kesecker
Clerk of the County Commission



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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the **West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services (DJCS) Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Court Security Fund Grant Program;**

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission understands and is in agreement that sufficient manpower will be used to operate and manage all equipment and other items requested in the grant application;

**THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED;** This 19th day of March 2015 that the Morgan County Commission authorizes Bradley J. Close, Commission President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the West Virginia DJCS FY2015-2016 Court Security Fund Grant Program.

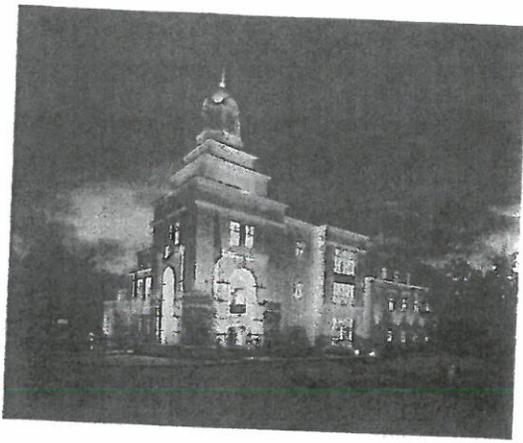
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ATTEST:

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RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS; The Morgan County Board of Education and Morgan County Sheriff's Department have signed the FY2015-2016 Prevention Resource Officer Agreement;

WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services FY2015-2016 **Juvenile Assistance Grant (JAG) program;**

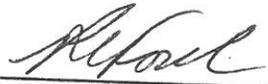
WHEREAS; The goal of this program is to improve juvenile justice systems by increasing the availability and types of prevention and intervention programs and juvenile justice system improvements;

WHEREAS; The intent of The JAG grant program is to fund a Prevention Resource Officer for the Morgan County Schools;

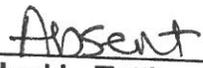
THEREFORE,
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Bradley J. Close, President
Morgan County Commission



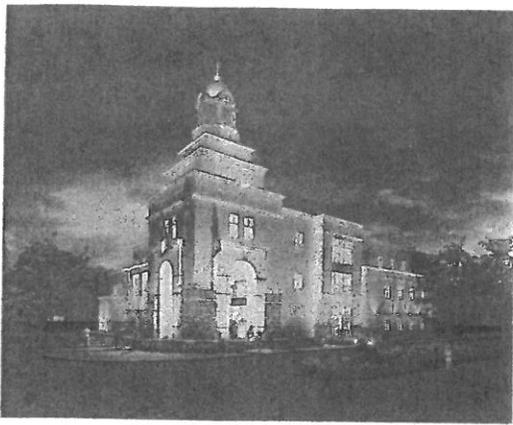
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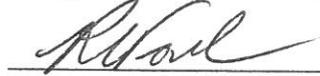
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RESOLUTION

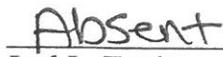
- WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the substance abuse efforts of the Morgan County Partnership; and
 - WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission is in support of the State of West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant Program; and
 - WHEREAS; The Morgan County Partnership wishes to apply to the WV DJCS Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant Program for FY2015-2016 funding for a Building Youth Assets Through Positive Community Actions Program; and
 - WHEREAS; The Morgan County Commission passed a motion on 03/19/2015 to act as the fiscal agent for the Morgan County Partnership if they are awarded funding for the **WV DJCS Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant Program**; and
- THEREFORE
BE IT RESOLVED; This 19th day of March 2015 that the Morgan County Commission hereby authorizes Bradley J. Close, President of the Morgan County Commission, to act on its behalf in administration of the WV DJCS Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Grant Program.



Bradley J. Close, President
Morgan County Commission



Robert L. Ford
Morgan County Commission



Joel L. Tuttle
Morgan County Commission



Debra A. Kesecker
Clerk of the County Commission