

**Morgan County Commission Meeting  
April 2, 2015**

**Members present:**

Commissioner Bradley Close, President  
Commissioner Robert Ford  
Commissioner Joel Tuttle

**Also Present:** Jody McClintock, County Administrator and Ginger Johnson, Commission Secretary; Ian Weinschel; Larry Kump; Jerry Berman; Connie Perry; Barb Wolfe; Tim Stapleton; Kate Shunney; Jeanne Mozier; Peace White; Kate Lehman; Carol Rothstein; Kevin Duckwall; Dan Duckwall; Renea Stansbury; Shamaine Vashi; Bob Dugan; Susan Webster; Trish Strader and Rick Watson

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Debra Kesecker, Honorable County Clerk.

**Administration Items**

**Sheriff's Department – Approval of Hire Letter**

On a Bob Ford/Joel Tuttle motion, the County Commission approves the hiring of Vickie Spiker as part time clerk due to the resignation of Sara Currence. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

**WV Local Economic Development Grant Resolution of Participation and Cooperation**

The County Commission reviewed and discussed the grant resolution by the Commission of Morgan County to participate in the Local Economic Development Grant. Commissioner Ford read aloud a statement (see attached) stating that as long as members of the EDA openly protest against a company wanting to locate in our county enhancing our tax base and creating jobs, he will not support the EDA's efforts. President Close explained that according to the budget, the county is running at a deficient and he is not comfortable committing the proposed \$30,000 and would rather support with in-kind services and provide office space and conference room space at the Pines Opportunity Center for the EDA Director. Commissioner Tuttle explained that he personally feels it is important to move forward with the grant application and hire an EDA Director.

On a Joel Tuttle/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approves the resolution contingent upon pledging \$15,000 in-kind services and \$15,000 cash from the 2015-16 Fiscal Year budget. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford opposed and voted nay and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried with 2 to 1 vote.

**Letter in Support of Town of Paw Paw Council**

On a Bob Ford/Joel Tuttle motion, the County Commission approves and signs the letter of support for the Town of Paw Paw Council and their effort to gain funding for important upgrades and improvements to the municipal water system. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

**Reports**

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**Carol Rothstein- Morgan County High School Program with Blue Ridge Technical College**  
Carol Rothstein, representing Blue Ridge Technical College, approached the Commission to explain that Blue Ridge Community Technical College is excited to announce a new opportunity for Morgan County High School students. Ms. Rothstein explained that Blue Ridge Technical College will be offering free comprehensive early college program for high school juniors and seniors who are ready to start their college career. Ms. Rothstein stated that there is no cost to the students in the Scholars program and explained that Blue Ridge CTC Foundation pays for the textbooks and tuition is waived for the students in the program. Students must meet the following requirements to be selected: High School GPA for 2.0 or higher, must be a Junior or Senior in high school, have permission from your school to leave campus early and have your own transportation. Ms. Rothstein stated that the classes will be offered at the Morgan County Center in Berkeley Springs (Blue Ridge CTC at the Pines Opportunity Center) from 1:15-2:45 pm so students can still participate in after school activities. Students will select two classes each semester; potentially earning up to 12 credit hours per year. The Commission thanked Ms. Rothstein for her work on this project and stated that this is a great opportunity for our students in Morgan County.

### **Action Items**

#### **Discussion and possible decision on Real Estate jointly owned Morgan County Rescue Service, Inc. and Morgan County Commission**

On a Joel Tuttle/Bob Ford motion, the County Commission went into executive session to discuss the negotiations of the lease for the Rescue Service building. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

On a Joel Tuttle/Bob Ford motion, the County Commission came out of executive session and reconvened into regular session. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

On a Bob Ford/Joel Tuttle motion, the County Commission agrees to sell the Morgan County Rescue Service, Inc. building and sign the deed of easement back over to Rescue Service for the sum of \$10.00. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

On a Bob Ford/Joel Tuttle motion, the County Commission approves the consent agenda. President Close voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea and Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Administrator's Report**

#### **Sign supplemental contract for North Berkeley Rail Trail**

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, stated that she has not received the contract yet.

### **Recess**

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

Let me start by saying as I stated at the last commission meeting, as long as members of the EDA openly protest against a company wanting to locate in our county enhancing our tax base and creating jobs. I will not support the EDA's efforts. I find it very interesting that Mr. Berman is walking back his position stating now, that he didn't mean he wants them to go. He just would like them to move down to the county's business park, then the county would profit from their company locating there. Man we just went from bad to worse. If I was the property owner whom was working with the planning commission to modify my sub-division plans to allow me to sell property to a commercial client which I was entitled to do based on the fact Morgan County doesn't have zoning, and members of a county board was protesting my plans I presented to the planning commission, and then members of the board that protested my plans said what they really meant was they didn't mean I want you to go away just come down to my business park, doesn't that sound a little like corruption, setting the county up for a major lawsuit. I do not profess to be a lawyer and not trying to give the property owner any advice, what I can say is that if the county tried stealing my customer from me by protesting my plans, there would be trouble.

Now try to understand this, the same group that claim they know what's best for our county, is now bring a lawsuit against the planning commission for approving the property owners property rights. They care so much about our county; they want the county to spend tens a thousands of dollars defending the planning commission's decision. They don't care about our county or give a dam about citizens of Morgan County; your vote didn't mean anything. The only thing they care about is protecting their little fiefdom.

I've been told there was five or six articles in the Messenger, either disagreeing with my point of view or letters to the editor telling everyone how uniformed I am, I want to destroy our county at any cost, we don't need \$10 per jobs, perhaps I should resign, not fit to serve, we'll I have also been called a King, a President and god knows what else. This is no surprise to me, the one thing I am is a County Commissioner duly elected be the thousands of citizens of Morgan County, I've been told by those whom disagree with my point of view I

don't get it, I don't understand their point of view. I say to them, believe me I do get it, I do understand, the citizens of Morgan County spoke very clearly no zoning, over 75% opposed zoning it's the elitists that don't get it so suck it up.

Now moving forward see how many articles in the Messenger support the one hundred and twenty five plus citizens and supporters whom live in that area which signed a petition in support and would like to see the Retail Store located where they want to go. I guess they are uniformed or chopped liver, their opinion doesn't mean anything. I have seen this picture show before the Messenger has always taken the elitists side whether it be zoning etc. or whatever. So therefore Commissioner Close as I stated at the last meeting I stand by my statement, I will stand by 125 citizens wanting this business in their area not a hand full of wealthy elitists. Thank you for your indulgence, would this statement please be entered into the minuets. Thank you

Robert Ford 4/2/2015

County Commissioner