

Morgan County Commission Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2009

Members Present: Thomas Swaim, Brenda Hutchinson and Stacy Dugan

The meeting was opened by Cathy Payne, Deputy County Clerk at 9:34 a.m.

Administration

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission approved the minutes from the August 6, 2009 County Commission meeting. This motion carried.

County Planner Alma Gorse had presented a letter of request to the Commission. The letter requested that Planning Commission president, Jack Soronen attend a Potomac Headwaters RE&D West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Seminar. Ms. Gorse explained in the letter that she will be out of town and unable to attend the seminar. The Commission discussed the request and approved Mr. Soronen to attend the seminar and the Commission will pay the registration fee of \$60.00 for Mr. Soronen to attend.

Phil Cotchen- Avail Business Systems – Furniture for the Courthouse

Mr. Cotchen, representing Avail Business Systems approached the Commission and explained how Avail helped the courthouse offices after the fire by delivering filing and storage systems for the offices to use. Mr. Cotchen explained to the Commission that Avail furnished the filing and storage systems for the new judicial center in Hampshire County. Mr. Cotchen explained that he is collaborating with Silling Associates to take inventory of the Morgan County Commissions furniture and coordinate the layout of the furniture in the new courthouse when it is finished. The Commission thanked Mr. Cotchen for his time and agreed to further discuss the furniture at a later date.

Maxie Maggio- Exterior colors for Courthouse

Ms. Maggio approached the Commission and presented a color board showing the color for the exterior of the courthouse. Ms. Maggio explained the color is called rice grain, and it will go around the exterior windows on the new courthouse. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approved and accepts the rice grain color for around the exterior of the windows for the new courthouse. This motion carried.

Janice Jones- Possibility of damages paid out of Assessor's dog funds

Ms. Jones approached the Commission and explained how she had lost a horse due to the attack of her neighbor's dogs back in February. The Commission discussed that they had already paid Ms. Jones \$300.00 for the loss of her animal. Ms. Jones explained that she has been to magistrate court concerning the damages of the incident and was instructed to go to the Commission. Ms. Jones presented a copy of the bills and receipts and a loss of animal form requesting funds in the amount of \$494.10. The Commission discussed the request. Commissioner Hutchinson made a telephone call to Prosecuting Attorney Debra McLaughlin to find out where Ms. Jones' case stands in the magistrate court proceedings.

Commissioner Hutchinson explained to the Commission that she had spoken to the prosecuting attorney and was advised to grant the request of \$494.10. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that once the Commission pays Ms. Jones for the damages, then the Commission can file a complaint against the owner of the dogs that killed the horse. Commissioner Swaim stated that if the Commission was advised by the Prosecuting Attorney to pay for the damages then he does not have a problem with the request. On a Thomas Swaim/Brenda Hutchinson motion, based upon the prosecuting attorneys advice, the County Commission will pay Ms. Jones \$494.10 for the damages related to the death of her horse due to her neighbors' dogs. Commissioner Dugan opposed the motion and explained that she was very sorry for what happened, but she feels the horse should have been included on Ms. Jones tax assessment form, and Ms. Jones should have paid taxes on the horse that was purchased on May 22, 2008. Commissioner Dugan also explained that according to the WV Code, she feels the Commission is not responsible for paying for the damages, and the case should be settled in Magistrate Court. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she believes the WV Code does allow the Commission to pay for the horse and the damages. This motion carried.

Pam Ouimette & Patty Bennett- Potomac Highland Support Services- RSVP Program

Ms. Ouimette and Bennett, representing the Potomac Support Services Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) approached the Commission and explained that the Retired Senior Volunteer Program has approximately 58 volunteers. Ms. Bennett explained that the program will apply for a grant and needs funds to help meet the cash amount for the grant. Ms. Bennett requested that the County Commission help with the volunteer recognition and approve the funds request of \$1500.00. The Commission discussed the request for funds policy that was adopted at the July 23, 2009 County Commission meeting stating that funds requests will be reviewed during the months of June and December. The Commission asked Ms. Bennett when the deadline for the grant was, and Ms. Bennett stated it was due on December 30, 2009. Commissioner Dugan presented Ms. Ouimette and Ms. Bennett with a funds request application and a copy of the new funds request policy and asked them to fill it out and return it to the Commission Secretary. The Commission agreed to review the request according to the new policy in December.

Adjournment

On a Stacy Dugan/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. This motion carried.