

Morgan County Commission Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2009

Members Present: Thomas Swaim, Brenda Hutchinson and Stacy Dugan

The meeting was opened by Cathy Payne, Deputy County Clerk at 9:32 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission approved the minutes from the August 27, 2009 County Commission meeting. This motion carried.

Sheriff's Department New Employees

On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approved the Sheriff's Department to hire the following individuals: Sara Currence as part time clerk in law enforcement, starting date to be September 11, 2009; Corey Barch as part time animal control officer, starting date September 14, 2009; and Dennis Jenkins as Deputy Sheriff, starting date September 23, 2009. This motion carried.

Bridge Day

Commissioners Dugan and Hutchinson will travel to Fayetteville, WV for the annual bridge day celebration. The Commissioners will display a booth and present information about Morgan County. The Morgan County Economic Development Authority Board will pay the lodging expenses for the Commissioners to attend.

In-House Seminar

The County Commission will provide an in-house seminar for the elected officials and department heads to attend. The Seminar will discuss hiring and firing policies and employment standards. The date for the seminar is September 15, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the County Commission meeting room.

Eleanor Effland- NSDAR Constitution Week

Mary Ellen Largent approached the Commission and explained that Eleanor Effland could not attend and Mary Ellen Largent would present the resolution. Ms. Largent explained that the week of September 17- September 23, 2009 is Constitution Week and September 17, 2009 marks the two hundred and twenty second anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention. Ms. Largent presented a resolution for the Commission to sign. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission hereby proclaims September 17 through September 23, 2009 to be Constitution Week. This motion carried.

Jerry Chaskes- Patriotic Award

Mr. Chaskes approached the Commission regarding a special citizen's award program he

is organizing. Mr. Chaskes explained that any resident of Morgan County can nominate another resident of Morgan County for a special citizen's award. Mr. Chaskes presented a drawing of the pin that recipients will receive along with a certificate. Mr. Chaskes explained that the pins will cost \$4.00 each. The Commission discussed how many awards should be given a year and decided on 2 per year. The Commission agreed to purchase a plaque that holds 30 names and each recipient's name will be displayed on the plaque. The plaque will be hung in the new courthouse. On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission agreed to a 30 name plaque and 30 pins. This motion carried. The awards will be given in the months of June and December starting in 2010.

Glen Stotler- Town of Paw Paw Application for decrease of Corporate Limits

Attorney Glen Stotler, representing Donald and JoAnn Largent approached the Commission and presented an application for decrease of corporate limits for the Largent's property to be de-annexed from the town of Paw Paw. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorized its president, Brenda J. Hutchinson, to sign the minor boundary adjustment and set a public hearing to be held on October 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the Morgan County Commission Meeting Room. This motion carried.

Charles Trump- Lease Purchase Agreement & Resolution for Sheriff's New Vehicle

Attorney Charles Trump, approached the Commission and presented a lease purchase agreement and a resolution for the Sheriff's new vehicle to be signed by the Commission. Mr. Trump explained that the loan is in the amount of \$16,342.00 with an interest rate of 6.49%. The finance charge is \$2,256.77 with a total of \$18,598.77 which includes \$250.00 charge from Charles Trump. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorized its president, Brenda J. Hutchinson, to sign the lease document for the purchase of the 2007 Dodge Charger with the understanding that the sheriff will make payments out of the Sheriffs forfeiture fund or out of the Sheriff's concealed weapons fund. This motion carried.

Charles Trump approached the Commission and explained that he had listened to Jerry Chaskes presentation about the patriotic award, and Mr. Trump would like to make a donation to the fund. Mr. Trump presented the Commission with a check in the amount of \$100.00 to go towards the fund. Mr. Trump also requested that the Commission consider awarding individuals posthumously as well. The Commission thanked Mr. Trump for his generous donation.

Carol York- Resolution for Two Rivers Giving Circle Grant

Carol York approached the Commission and presented a resolution to apply for funding from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation Two Rivers Giving Circle. Ms. York explained to the Commission that the funding will be used to improve safety related items at the Community Service Center Building and the Boys and Girls Club. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission accepts the resolution and authorizes its president, Brenda J. Hutchinson, to execute any and all documentation on behalf of the Commission for funding from the Eastern West Virginia Community

Foundation Two Rivers Giving Circle to be used to improve safety related items at the Community Service Center Building and the Boys and Girls Club. This motion carried.

Hotel Occupancy Tax Arrears Letter

Commissioner Dugan presented a tax arrears letter prepared by Commissioner Hutchinson for the Commission to review. The Commission reviewed and discussed the letter. On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the Commission will move forward with the letter and make it a standard letter to send out to companies and businesses that are behind in paying their hotel/motel tax bills. This motion carried.

Revisit Hotel/Motel Tax Increase

The Commission discussed the option of increasing the hotel/motel tax. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that with the current economic situation, she does not feel now is the time to raise the tax and would like to revisit the increase in six months. Commissioner Dugan stated that she would like to see an increase and would like a compromise out of the businessowners, possibly increasing the rate 1% per year. Commissioner Dugan agreed to revisit the increase in six months. Commissioner Swaim stated that with the bad economic situation, he does not want an increase and would like to wait at least a year to a year and a half to revisit the increase issue. Stephanie Rebant, representing Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals, approached the Commission and read a letter explaining the decrease of sales the lodging businessowners have faced and how they are struggling to get business. Larry Robinson approached the Commission and explained that he is a real estate agent, and he reviewed a real estate report of the declining sales in houses in Morgan County. Commissioner Swaim made a motion to revisit the tax increase in a year, this motion failed due to lack of a second. On a Stacy Dugan/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission will revisit the hotel/motel tax increase in six months on March 4, 2010. Commissioner Swaim opposed and stated that he tried to reach a compromise with his fellow Commissioners, but his motion failed for lack of a second. This motion carried.

Adjournment

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. This motion carried.