

Morgan County Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2009

Members Present: Thomas Swaim, Brenda Hutchinson and Stacy Dugan

The County Commission went into Executive Session at 1:40 p.m. to interview individuals for the Buildings Assistant/Webmaster position.

The County Commission reconvened into regular session and took a break at 2:40 p.m. This motion carried.

County Commission Meeting

The meeting was opened by Debra Kesecker, County Clerk at 3:34 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

Approval of Minutes

On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approved the minutes from the November 19, 2009 County Commission meeting. This motion carried.

Declaration of Water System Size

The County Commission submitted a letter and a declaration for the water well located at the 522 Recreation Area. The declaration explains that the water system at the recreation area does not serve water to 15 or more services or 25 or more persons at least 60 days per year. In addition, bottled water will be supplied for drinking purposes; therefore, the Commission does not believe the establishment qualifies as a Public Water System.

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission agreed to have its president, Brenda J. Hutchinson, sign the declaration of water system. This motion carried.

Christmas Eve & New Years Eve Hours for the Courthouse Complex

The Commission agreed to close the Courthouse Complex offices at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve. The Courthouse Complex will be closed on Christmas Day.

The Commission agreed to close the Courthouse Complex offices at 5:00 p.m. on New Years Eve. The Courthouse Complex offices will be closed on New Years Day.

County Commission Meeting

The County Commission scheduled a County Commission meeting for December 31, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Vehicle Titles

On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission agreed to declare two vehicles that are in the County Commission's name, but are owned by the Morgan County Rescue Squad, obsolete. The vehicles are a 1989 Ford and 2001 Ford. This motion carried.

Emergency 911 Dispatcher

The County Commission approved the hiring of John Russell Kucharski for the full time 911 dispatcher position at the Emergency 911 Center. His employment will begin on December 4, 2009.

List of Expenditures

Please see attached.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bill Makinson- Discussion about trash along roadways

Mr. Makinson approached the Commission and explained that he lives on River Road and has noticed that there is a lot of trash along the roadway. Mr. Makinson explained that there are tires along the road also. Commissioner Hutchinson explained to Mr. Makinson that there is a litter control task force with a litter control officer in Morgan County. Commissioner Dugan stated that Ken Winters can also be contacted and he will pick up the trash and go through the bags looking for an address or name. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that the next litter control task force meeting is set for January 28, 2009 and invited Mr. Makinson to attend and explain the trash problem along River Road.

Larry Lower- Berkeley Springs Farmers Market Funds Request

Larry Lower and Rebecca McLeod approached the Commission and presented a power point presentation on the Berkeley Springs Farmers Market Committee. Mr. Lower thanked the Commission for their time and consideration of the funds request. Mr. Lower explained that the farmer's market committee has started an EDA Agriculture Task Force. Mr. Lower explained during the power point presentation the benefits of the farmer's market, the expenses of the farmer's market and the future goals of the market. Mr. Lower requested support from the County Commission in the amount of \$2500.00. The County Commission explained that the budget meeting is set for December 15, 2009 and the Commission will consider the request at that time. Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Mr. Lower and Ms. McLeod for their presentation and stated that she thought it was a very good and very informative presentation. Commissioner Hutchinson thanked the citizens that came to the meeting showing their support for the Farmers Market.

Jonathan Slifer- Verizon- Discussion about the sale of landlines of Verizon

Justin Bass and Jonathan Slifer approached the Commission to discuss the proposed sale of Verizon's landlines to Frontier Communications. Mr. Slifer explained that he is a repairman for Verizon, and he lives in Morgan County. Mr. Slifer presented information and copies of newspaper articles to the Commission explaining the proposed sale of Verizon's landlines to Frontier Communications. Mr. Slifer explained that Verizon is proposing to sell off its telephone lines in West Virginia to Frontier. Mr. Slifer explained that Verizon has sold landlines to other companies, and at least three of these companies have filed for bankruptcy. Mr. Slifer and Mr. Bass requested that the Commission review the information and possibly send a resolution for their approval or disapproval of the sale to the Public Service District by January 12, 2010. Mr. Slifer explained that a public

hearing is set for January 12-14, 2010. The Commission agreed to review the information before making a decision and thanked them for their time.

Carol York- Grant Resolution- US Dept of Housing & Urban Development Economic Development Initiative grant program for a Morgan County housing facility for seniors
Grant Assistant, Carol York approached the Commission and explained that she has prepared a grant resolution to apply for a grant in the amount of \$190,000.00 to go towards a facility for senior housing in Morgan County. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, President of the Morgan County Commission, to act on its behalf as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Initiative grant program for a Morgan County, WV housing facility for seniors. This motion carried.

Carol York- WV Division of Justice Purdue Pharma Asset Forfeiture Funds Drug-Free WV grant program
Grant Assistant, Carol York approached the Commission and explained that she has prepared a grant resolution to apply for a grant in the amount of \$250,000.00 for the Purdue Pharma Asset Forfeiture Drug-Free WV Grant Program. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, President of the Morgan County Commission to act on its behalf as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the West Virginia Department of Justice and West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-being Purdue Pharma Asset Forfeiture Funds Drug-Free West Virginia Grant Program. This motion carried.

Carol York- Grant Contract- Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority Funding Assistance Contract
Grant Assistant, Carol York approached the Commission and presented a Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority Funding Assistance Contract Agreement and resolution for the Commission to review. Ms. York explained that the maximum amount of funding approved is \$80,000.00. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, President of the Morgan County Commission to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority to receive and administer funds pursuant to the provisions of the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund program. This motion carried.

Carol York- Justice Assistance Grant Application
Grant Assistant, Carol York explained that the Justice Assistance Grant Application is due on January 21, 2010. Ms. York stated that she will prepare a resolution and get on the agenda for a future County Commission meeting.

Jerry Berman- Interview for EDA Board
Jerry Berman approached the Commission for an interview to be on the Economic Development Authority Board. Mr. Berman stated that he had some ideas for economic growth in Morgan County and explained that the business park on Rt. 522 can be built up

with more businesses, and he would like to see another grocery store in Morgan County as well. Mr. Berman explained that the EDA board could create a task force team to set goals for projects to be completed and ways to create jobs and economic growth in Morgan County. Commissioner Dugan asked Mr. Berman if he could attend meetings and he stated that yes he could. The Commission thanked Mr. Berman for his interest and time.

George Farnham- Morgan County Humane Society Funds Request

George Farnham, President of the Morgan County Humane Society approached the Commission and presented a packet of information. Mr. Farnham explained that last year, the Humane Society found forever homes for 114 cats and 143 dogs. Mr. Farnham explained that the Humane Society has expanded its adoption program with off site adoptive events, in which they travel to Petsmart pet stores in Hagerstown, Martinsburg and Winchester and take both cats and dogs for adoption. Mr. Farnham explained that the Humane Society has the only mobile cat adoption vehicle in the state of West Virginia. Mr. Farnham explained the trap and release program to the Commission, and how it dramatically reduces the feral and stray cat population in Morgan County. Mr. Farnham explained the rabies and microchip clinics the Humane Society also provides for the citizens and their pets in Morgan County. Mr. Farnham requested support from the Commission in the amount of \$5000.00. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that the Commission will have a budget meeting on December 15, 2009 to review the funding requests and will take the request into consideration. The Commission thanked Mr. Farnham for his time.

Ron Martin- Interview for EDA Board

Ron Martin approached the Commission for an interview to be on the Economic Development Authority Board. Mr. Martin explained that he would like to help the economic growth in Morgan County. Mr. Martin stated that Morgan County needs another veterinarian. Mr. Martin explained that it will take unique ideas to promote tourist attraction in Morgan County explaining a zip line from Panorama Restaurant across the Potomac River would be an idea. Mr. Martin stated that he is willing to volunteer and try to help the economic development for Morgan County. Commissioner Dugan asked him if he could attend meetings and he stated yes he can attend meetings. The Commission thanked Mr. Martin for his interest and time.

Discussion & Possible Decision about Dissolving the Wage and Review Board

The Commission discussed the possibility of dissolving the wage and review board. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the wage and review board was created by a motion, and therefore could be dissolved with a motion. The Commission discussed and explained that the wage and review board never has any meetings. Commissioner Dugan made a motion to dissolve the wage and review board. The motion was not passed due to lack of a second. Sheriff Deputy Tony Link approached the Commission and suggested that he put together a wage and review board meeting with the elected officials to discuss dissolving the board. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she would like to speak to the prosecuting attorney and review the minutes of the motion that created the board and the options to dissolve the board. Deputy Link

agreed to consult with the members of the board. The Commission will continue discussing the option of dissolving the board at the County Commission meeting on December 10, 2009.

Decision on new applicant for Buildings Assistant/Webmaster position

The Commission discussed the applicants that were interviewed for the Buildings Assistant/Webmaster position and decided to take a vote. On a Stacy Dugan/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the Commission voted two to one with Commissioner Swaim opposing, to hire Aaron Robertson for the position of Buildings Assistant/Webmaster.

Decision on Payroll Dates

At a previous County Commission meeting, County Clerk, Debra Kesecker, and Deputy County Clerk, Heather Tyler, approached the Commission to discuss the payroll situation. Ms. Kesecker and Ms. Tyler explained that there are usually 26 pay periods in a year, but this year there will be 27 pay periods which may create bookkeeping problems. Ms. Kesecker and Ms. Tyler discussed options with the Commission in an effort to resolve the problem. The Commission did not come to a decision. The Commission will continue to review the options and possibly make a decision at the County Commission meeting on December 10, 2009.

Adjournment

On a Stacy Dugan/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. This motion carried.