

Morgan County Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2010

Members Present: Thomas Swaim, Brenda Hutchinson and Stacy Dugan

The meeting was opened by Debra Kesecker, County Clerk 9:32 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission approved the meeting minutes from the March 4, 2010 County Commission meeting and the March 5 and 9, 2010 County Commission budget meetings. This motion carried.

Closing on the purchase of War Memorial Hospital

Per the resolution the County Commission previously signed and passed, the County Commission approves Brenda J. Hutchinson, County Commission President to sign all documents necessary to the closing of War Memorial Hospital. The funds will be wired electronically. Per the resolution passed and signed at the Building Commission meeting on March 23, 2010, the Morgan County Building Commission hereby authorizes Glenwood T. Shade, Jr. President of the Morgan County Building Commission, to act on its behalf to enter into all agreements and sign all documents necessary to amend the omnibus purchase, lease and construction agreement, and to effectuate the closing of the hospital sale as reflected in the omnibus purchase, lease and construction agreement, amendments thereto, associated leases and related documents. Commission President, Brenda J. Hutchinson and Building Commission President, Glenwood Tom Shade, Jr. signed all necessary agreements and documents related to the closing of the War Memorial Hospital.

The County Commission adjourned for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The County Commission reconvened after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

Mary Hott- Hotel/Motel Funds Distribution

Mary Hott, representing the Morgan Arts Council, approached the Commission and presented a packet of information to the Commission. Ms. Hott explained the programs that the Morgan Arts Council offers to the community. Ms. Hott explained the ways that the Morgan Arts Council help to promote tourism in Berkeley Springs. Jeanne Mozier, representing the Morgan Arts Council, approached the Commission and explained the importance of the concerts and programs and how they promote tourism and bring business to Berkeley Springs. Ms. Hott requested funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the hotel/motel tax revenues to assist with annual arts programming. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that the County Commission has not had time to go through the hotel/motel funding yet and cannot make a decision today. The Commission thanked Ms. Hott for her time.

Herb Peddicord- Planting trees on County owned Floodplain property

Herb Peddicord, representing the West Virginia Division of Forestry, approached the Commission and explained that approximately three years ago, the West Virginia Division of

Forestry planted trees on county owned floodplain property. Mr. Peddicord stated that he has been working with the Warm Springs Watershed Association and applying for a Mountaineer Tree Ways Grant. Mr. Peddicord stated that he would like to revisit the sites and plant more trees. Mr. Peddicord presented a map and explained that he would like to plant trees on county owned floodplain property on Broadway Street, Whisner Avenue and US Route 522. Mr. Peddicord stated that he would like to plant approximately a total of 24 trees. Mr. Peddicord explained that the Resa VIII Head Start school children and parents will help participate in planting the trees. The County Commission stated that they were fine with Mr. Peddicord's plans for the new trees and thanked him for his time and work.

Patricia O'Grady- Funds Request for Foxglove Garden Club

Ms. O'Grady, representing the Foxglove Garden Club, approached the Commission and explained that the organization still has funding from the check they received in 2008. Ms. O'Grady requested additional funds in the amount of \$1500.00. Commissioner Hutchinson requested a copy of their budget and explained to Ms. O'Grady that the funds requests will be reviewed in June. The Commission thanked Ms. O'Grady for her time.

Glen Stotler- Petition to establish a road maintenance association

Glen Stotler approached the Commission and presented a maintenance association document and a petition for Mahnes Church Lane- Homewood Hollow Lane to establish a road maintenance association. Mr. Stotler presented a tax map showing the lots in the Ridge Subdivision and properties belonging to Mahnes Church. Mr. Stotler explained that the petition has been signed by landowners in favor of creating the road maintenance association. Mr. Stotler explained that the property owners have been taking care of the road themselves and would like to form a road maintenance association. Mr. Stotler requested the Commission set a public hearing. The Commission set a public hearing for April 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the County Commission meeting room. Mr. Stotler thanked the Commission for their time.

Carol York, Grant Assistant- Resolutions

Carol York, Grant Assistant, approached the Commission and explained that she has resolutions for the Commission to approve and sign.

2010 Court Security Fund Grant

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained the first resolution is for the administration of the West Virginia Criminal Justice Services FY 2010 Court Security Fund Grant program. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the West Virginia Criminal Justice Services Court Security Fund Grant Program. This motion carried.

Mountaineer Community Center

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$5000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for the Mountaineer Community Center. Ms. York presented the resolution for the Commission to sign. On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Great Cacapon VCF Equipment Resolution

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$1000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for Great Cacapon Volunteer Fire Company Equipment. On

a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Soccer Field

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$5000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for Parks and Recreation Soccer Field. On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Morgan County Humane Society

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$5000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for Humane Society Improvements. On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Courthouse Construction and Equipment

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$4000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for Courthouse Construction and Equipment. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Rescue Service Equipment

Carol York, Grant Assistant, explained that the County Commission has been awarded funding of \$1000.00 for the fiscal year 2010 Community Participation Program for Morgan County Commission to be used for Rescue Service Equipment. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Brenda J. Hutchinson, its President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Community Participation Program for the Morgan County Commission. This motion carried.

Cacapon State Park Foundation

Carol York, Grant Assistant, presented a resolution in support of the West Virginia Community Participation Grant Program application for the Cacapon State Park Foundation. Ms. York explained that the intent of the grant application is for \$30,000.00 for improvements to Cacapon State Park by the Cacapon State Park Foundation. 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 Community Participation Grant Program for the Cacapon State Foundation. This motion carried.

Decision on payroll increase for County Employees

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Commission is here to make a decision on the pay increase for employees. Sheriff Tax Deputy Clerk, Kim Michael approached the Commission and presented a petition with 52 signatures of county employees requesting to get the wage and review board back. Ms. Michael explained that the employees need the wage and review board to have debates and a voice. Ms. Michael also explained that the employees are Morgan County Government employees and need to be treated like government

employees. Ms. Michael stated that a Commissioner compares county employees to employees in another business in Berkeley Springs, and you cannot compare Government work to another type of business. Ms. Michael stated that the girls in the Sheriff Tax Office are great and work very hard and to say that they do not deserve a raise is a slap in the face. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she never thought that they do not work hard, and she thinks the employees deserve a raise, but she just does not want to raise the levy rate, and she is concerned about the budget. Commissioner Swaim stated that he had voted to keep the wage and review board and he thinks we have the best employees and best performing courthouse in West Virginia. Commissioner Swaim stated that everyone has worked under extreme circumstances since the courthouse fire. Prosecuting Attorney, Debra McLaughlin, approached the Commission and stated that there is an increase in the health insurance deductible and now you are telling the employees they do not get a raise to help compensate that. County Clerk, Debra Kesecker, stated that county government employees cannot be compared to other businesses in the county; this is government. Assessor, Ronald McIntire, approached the Commission and stated that he would like to see the wage and review board active again. Commissioner Dugan stated that the wage and review board has not functioned since 2007. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Commission has listened to the elected officials and employees regarding the wage and review board, and she is willing to revisit the issue at the next County Commission meeting on April 1, 2010. The Commission agreed to revisit the possibility of reinstating the wage and review board at the next meeting. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she is staying with her original proposal to give a 1.5% pay increase. She feels that this is a compromise position and urged the other two Commissioners to go with a 1.5% increase to complete the budget process. Commissioner Dugan stated that she is not in favor of any increase due to the budget unknowns with the move into the new courthouse. Commissioner Dugan stated that the county is moving into an area of major financial unknowns, however, because the Commission is at a stalemate, she is willing to compromise with a 1.5% increase for the employees. Commissioner Swaim stated that he is very impressed with the county employees, and he thinks the Commission should give a 3% pay increase. Commissioner Swaim stated that he does not see how it will be possible next year to give a raise and he would like to give the employees 3% this year. A proposal was made to go with a 1.5% increase now and review the budget and courthouse costs at the end of the fiscal year in June to see if it would be feasible to a pay increase of 3%. Commissioner Swaim stated that he will agree to that if there is a promise that the County Commission will revisit the budget in June with the possibility of giving the county employees another 1.5% increase to total a 3% increase. The County Commission agreed on the 1.5% increase for now and will revisit the issue in June when they review the budget.

Aaron Robertson- Courthouse Construction Drawdown

Aaron Robertson, Buildings Assistant, presented an expenditure drawdown to the Commission for approval. Mr. Robertson stated to the Commission that the drawdown is the application for payment #17 in the amount of \$342,055.10. The Commission reviewed the drawdown; and on a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the Commission authorized its president, Brenda J. Hutchinson, to sign the adopted resolution and authorized the directed payment to Milestone Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$342,055.10 for the construction of the courthouse. This motion carried.

Decision on Security Provider for new courthouse

The County Commission discussed and reviewed the security provider quotes they received for the new courthouse. The County Commission agreed to go with Access Security Systems. The Commission stated that the first year is free with Access Security Systems.

Linda McGraw- Resolution in support for Hospice of the Panhandle

Maria Lorensen, representing Hospice of the Panhandle, approached the Commission and explained that she had a resolution for the Commission to review and sign showing their support of creating a new in-patient facility and offices on the Berkeley-Jefferson County, West Virginia line. Ms. Lorensen explained that the facility will be a 14 bed patient care unit and will provide in-home care to critically ill patients. Ms. Lorensen explained that the facility will have a home like setting and allow family members and friends to be with the patients. On a Thomas Swaim/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission supports the efforts of Hospice of the Panhandle to create a new in-patient facility and offices on the Berkeley- Jefferson County, West Virginia line. This motion carried.

Adjournment

On a Stacy Dugan/Thomas Swaim motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. This motion carried.

Gross Payroll

--\$74,793.99

Resolutions

Check Registers