

Morgan County Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2011

Present: President Stacy Dugan, Commissioner Brenda Hutchinson, and Commissioner Brad Close

Also Present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator, Ginger Johnson, Commission Secretary, Andy Swaim, Dave Abner, Tricia Strader, Sheriff Vince Shambaugh, John Douglas, Megan Scott & Kristin Willard, Morgan County Partnership, Robert Dugan, Morgan County Rescue Squad, Bruce Beadenkopf, Morgan County Parks & Recreation, Kim Mason, Ruthie Cain, John Mason, Ken Fry, Jon Mason, Pam Rinker, Jerry Berman, Daniel O'Dea and Kim Michael, Morgan County Sheriff's Tax Office

The meeting was opened by Cathy Payne, Chief Deputy County Clerk at 9:30 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

Meeting Minutes

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approved the meeting minutes with amendments from the January 20, 2011 County Commission meeting. This motion carried.

Resolution to abolish or lower WV State Food Tax

Resolution to oppose House Bill 2698

President Dugan presented two resolutions to the Commission to approve and sign. One resolution was for the support of the abolition or lowering of the State of West Virginia Consumers Sales and Service Tax and the other resolution was for House Bill 2698, requiring a non binding referendum, at county expense, in the counties of Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson to determine the desire of the voters to secede from West Virginia and become part of Virginia. The Commission discussed the resolution to oppose House Bill 2698. Commissioner Close asked the purpose of the resolution. President Dugan stated that these are important issues. Commissioner Hutchinson stated these are legislative issues and asked if the Commission plans to send resolutions for every legislative issue. President Dugan stated that she feels the resolutions are important. Commissioner Close stated that he understands and agrees the issues are very important, but he is not sure he is willing to sign the resolutions. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she agrees the issues are important and she is willing to sign the resolutions, but she would feel more comfortable with a letter or a phone call instead of a resolution. Commissioner Close agreed. President Dugan stated if you are not going to sign the resolutions, let's move on to other agenda items. The resolutions were not signed by the Commission.

Commission Goals for 2011

President Dugan presented her list of goals to the Commission. Commissioner Close and Hutchinson presented their lists to President Dugan. The lists will be combined into one and posted on the County Commission website.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that at the budget review meeting on January 13, 2011 the Commission approved and gave the Sheriff's Department \$5200 for the new canine dog. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that there was an article in the Morgan Messenger in reference to this and right under the article was an article stating that the Sheriff's Dept. just purchased a new ATV and tasers with funds accumulated in the forfeiture fund. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she had asked the Sheriff about the forfeiture fund before she agreed to give money to purchase the dog. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that if she would have known there were enough funds in the forfeiture funds, she may not have agreed to the funding for the dog. Commissioner Hutchinson read aloud WV code 60A-7-707 stating that the Sheriff's Department submit a report of the forfeiture funds to the Commission. Commissioner Hutchinson requested Sheriff Shambaugh

provide an annual report to the Commission. Sheriff Shambaugh approached the Commission and stated that he is trying hard to build a modern department. Sheriff Shambaugh stated that he tries to avoid approaching the Commission for funds, and in the past, he used forfeiture funds to purchase a car. Sheriff Shambaugh stated that he thought the Commission and Sheriff's Department were on the same side but once again he feels like he is getting kicked in the pants. Commissioner Close stated that he spoke to Sheriff Shambaugh, and he knew exactly how much money was in the forfeiture funds, account and he feels comfortable with the money given to the Sheriff's Department for the canine. Sheriff Shambaugh stated that he has no problem presenting a budget report and will get it to the Commission as soon as possible.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Ruthie Cain & Kim Mason-Patriotic Award-

Ruthie Cain and Kim Mason approached the Commission to receive the patriotic award. President Dugan introduced and presented Ruthie Cain with the patriotic award and stated that Ruthie Cain is very active at Mahnes Chapel. President Dugan stated that Ms. Cain joined the Morgan County Rescue Squad Auxiliary in 2003 and volunteers at the auxiliary rescue mission thrift store. President Dugan presented Ms. Cain with a certificate and a pin. Commissioner Close introduced and presented Kim Mason with a patriotic award and stated that Ms. Mason is very active in the community volunteering for Toys for Tots and helping with the Apple Butter Festival. Ms. Mason stated that there were 375 children that participated in the Toys for Tots program in 2010. Commissioner Close presented Ms. Mason with a certificate and pin. The Commission thanked both women for their contributions to Morgan County. Both ladies have their name engraved on a plaque that is displayed in the courthouse.

Kristin Willard & Megan Scott- Morgan County Partnership

- Decision on continuing as fiscal agent on grant application

- Grant renewal/signing Memorandum of Understanding for current grants

Kristin Willard & Megan Scott, representing the Morgan County Partnership, approached the Commission. Ms. Willard thanked the Commission for their support with the Partnership. Ms. Willard stated that the Partnership has applied for 3 grants and presented Memorandums of Understanding for each of the grants. Ms. Willard asked the Commission to continue being the fiscal agent for the Morgan County Partnership if they are awarded funding for the grants. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission agreed to be the fiscal agent for the Morgan County Partnership and sign the memorandums of understanding and approve Stacy A. Dugan, President of the County Commission, to sign the resolutions and letters of support for the grants. This motion carried.

Jerry Berman- Interview for Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board

Jerry Berman approached the Commission for an interview for the EDA Board. Mr. Berman explained that he completed a study regarding economic development goals. Mr. Berman stated that he has been volunteering in the county trying to bring broadband communication to Morgan County. Mr. Berman stated that he feels being on the EDA board will help him bring a contribution to the broadband communication in the county. Mr. Berman stated that he is concerned about the economy of Morgan County and would like to work together to bring jobs to the county. Commissioner Close asked Mr. Berman if he will be able to attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Berman stated that he will do his best. Commissioner Hutchinson thanked Mr. Berman for all the work he has already done for the county. The Commission thanked Mr. Berman for his time.

Bruce Beadenkopf, Morgan County Parks & Recreation

- Maintenance Employee for all county properties

- Trails Grant Application

Bruce Beadenkopf approached the Commission regarding a maintenance employee for all county properties. Mr. Beadenkopf stated that at one time, the Parks & Recreation had a part time employee. Mr. Beadenkopf asked the County Commission if he should hire a part time employee or if the county maintenance employees can take on the extra work

load. Mr. Beadenkopf stated that he has placed an ad in the Morgan Messenger and has received applications. Commissioner Close stated that the person will be working on Morgan County property, and he feels that it would save money as a county if the employee was a county employee. The Commission suggested Jody McClintock, County Administrator, speak to the maintenance personnel and see if they can handle the additional tasks. Ms. McClintock agreed. In the meantime, Mr. Beadenkopf will consult with Ms. McClintock about using a temporary service to hire an employee until July 1, 2011. The Commission will discuss the option of an additional maintenance employee during the budget meeting in March. Mr. Beadenkopf will follow up with the Commission.

Trails Grant Application

Bruce Beadenkopf, representing Morgan County Parks and Recreation, approached the Commission to discuss the possibility of a recreational trail at the ball complex on Rt 522. Mr. Beadenkopf explained that he has applied for a grant for the project. Mr. Beadenkopf explained that the grant is an 80/20 match grant program from the West Virginia Department of Highways. Mr. Beadenkopf stated that the total project will cost approximately \$96,000.00 and asked the Commission for \$8000 to cover the 80/20 match. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission agreed to fund \$8000 on the 80/20 match if approved for the recreational trail for the West Virginia Recreational Trail program. This motion carried.

Amendment of the ordinance for Morgan County Rescue Squad

The Commission reviewed the amendment to the ordinance for the Morgan County Rescue Squad. The amended change states:

All revenues received in accordance with this Ordinance shall be deposited into a special fund to be known as the Morgan County Emergency Medical Services Fund. These funds shall be used only to pay reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred, including personnel, and the cost of buildings and equipment used in providing emergency ambulance service to residents of the county and others that might require such services. The County Commission is to retain 6.5% of the Special Emergency Ambulance Service Fees collected for administrative costs in collecting the fees. The balance of the collected fees (excluding 2007, 2008 and 2009) are to be transferred to the Morgan County Emergency Medical Services Board's account on or before the 10th of each month.

Dave McDonald, IT Tech & Debbie Weaver, Assessor's Office- Internet Connectivity

Dave McDonald, Information Technology Director, approached the Commission and explained that the Assessor's Office is having complications regarding internet usage in the Assessor's Office. Ms. Weaver stated that there are times she cannot access the internet which is making it difficult to perform her job. Ms. Weaver stated that internet trafficking is interfering with her computer. Dave McDonald, Information Technology Director, stated that he does not believe the employees are abusing the internet; he believes that additional bandwidth is needed for the internet to work more efficiently. Mr. McDonald asked for approval to bring Comcast as an internet provider to the courthouse. Mr. McDonald explained that Comcast will provide equipment needed. The Commission authorized Jody McClintock, County Administrator, to contact Comcast and other alternative internet companies and make a decision regarding additional internet accessibility for the courthouse.

Discussion regarding similar plans to the 457 Plan

Commissioner Close stated that he has checked into similar plans with other companies and could not find one with lower fees. Commissioner Close suggested the Commission go with the 457 Plan with the state of West Virginia. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson, the County Commission recommends switching to the 457 deferred compensation plan with the State of West Virginia. This motion carried.

Adjournment

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m. This motion carried.