

Morgan County Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2011

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

Also Present: Jody McClintock, County Administrator, Ginger Johnson, Commission Secretary, Ashley Tomlinson, Student Representative, Kate Shunney, Morgan Messenger, Andy Swaim, Audrey Morris, Lexa Kirk, Morgan County Starting Points, Trish Strader, The Journal, Pam Farnham, Morgan County Humane Society, Dave McDonald, IT Webmaster, Dawn White

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission approves the minutes from the October 6, 2011 and October 20, 2011 County Commission meetings. This motion carried.

Carol York, Grant Administrator- Court Security Fund Grant Resolution

Carol York, Grant Administrator, approached the Commission and presented a resolution in support of the West Virginia Criminal Justice Services Court Security Fund Grant Program. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission authorizes Stacy A. Dugan, Commission President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the West Virginia Criminal Justice Services FY 2011 Court Security Fund Grant Program. This motion carried.

North Berkeley Rail Trail

Carol York, Grant Administrator, approached the Commission and presented a resolution in support of the West Virginia Department of Transportation Recreational Trails Program. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission authorizes Stacy A. Dugan, 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 Transportation Recreational Trails Program. This motion carried.

Morgan County Soccer Field & Recreation Complex

Carol York, Grant Administrator, approached the Commission and presented a resolution and explained that the County Commission of Morgan County has been awarded funding for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Governor's Community Participation Grant Program for the Morgan County Commission for the site preparation and remediation at the Route 522 Morgan County Soccer Field & Recreation Complex. On a

Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission accepts the conditions of the contract and authorizes Stacy A. Dugan, President, as the official representative for the Commission in the administration of the Governor's Community Participation Grant for the Morgan County Commission Route 522 Soccer Field site. This motion carried.

Carol York, Grants Administrator- WV DOT Recreational Trails Grant

Carol York, Grants Administrator, explained that the County Commission has been awarded \$80,000 for the Recreational Trails Grant. Ms. York stated that the project will be a walking trail at the 522 Ball Field. Ms. York stated that Mike Crawford, Bruce Beadenkopf and Commissioner Brenda Hutchinson started the work for this grant project.

Resolution in support of H.R. 1489 "Return to Prudent Banking"

The County Commission reviewed a resolution in support of H.R. 1489 "Return to Prudent Banking". After reviewing the resolution, Commissioner Close stated that he is not in support of signing the resolution and explained that he doesn't feel that signing the resolution will help solve the problems. President Dugan stated that she is not in favor of signing it and explained that she does not feel that it is a county issue. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that she feels each Commissioner should prepare a support letter if they choose to. Commissioner Hutchinson also stated that it is not a local issue and she is not in favor of signing it. There was no motion to sign the resolution in support of H.R. 1489 "Return to Prudent Banking".

Commissioner Brenda Hutchinson- Clarification of the roles of the different Marcellus Shale Groups

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that there are 3 groups speaking on Marcellus Shale issues in the county. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that she does not want any confusion regarding the Marcellus Shale Committee that the Commission has appointed. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that there are two other committees, one is working on a complete ban of fracking and the other is using internet and volunteers to track drilling in the area. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Commission appointed group is still gathering information and working with the state of WV on regulations and education programs and has not made any decisions at this time. Commissioner Hutchinson will continue to follow up with the Commission. The group meets every other week on Thursday evenings at 6 pm in the County Commission meeting room.

WV Transportation Conference

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she and Bill Clark, EDA Director will be attending the WV Transportation conference on Monday, November 14, 2011 in Charleston, WV.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Audrey Morris, Morgan County Starting Points- Empty Bowls- Feed the Hungry

Audrey Morris and Lexa Kirk, representing Morgan County Starting Points, approached the Commission and presented a handout of information. Ms. Kirk stated that Friday, November 18, 2011 is the 5th annual empty bowls event being held at Berkeley Springs High School. Ms. Kirk stated that the money raised though the empty bowls event helps with the community meals served at the Starting Points Center. Ms. Kirk stated that the meal time community kitchen volunteers serve meals on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 3 pm- 6 pm and have served 15,213 meals from December 2010 to September 2011. All 3 Commissioners have agreed to help serve at the Empty Bowls Event on Friday, November 18, 2011. The Commission thanked Ms. Morris and Ms. Kirk for their time and hard work.

Dave Michael, OES Director- Open bids for Diesel Fueled 60 KW Generator

Dave Michael, OES Director, approached the Commission for the bid openings for a diesel fueled 60 KW Generator for the main tower at the 911 Center. The Commission received one bid in the amount of \$26,700 from the Power Connection, Inc. Jody McClintock, County Administrator, stated that Power Connection, Inc. is the company that the generators were originally bought from. Dave Michael, OES (Office of Emergency Services) stated that they have received a grant in the amount of \$32,000. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission accepts the bid from Power Connection, Inc. This motion carried.

Kim Nickels, County Clerk's Office- Estate of Tom Ryan

Attorneys Richard Gay and Tina Byers approached the Commission to discuss the estate of Tom Ryan. Mr. Gay explained that at the time of Mr. Ryan's death, he was living and owned a house in Berkeley County, WV. Mr. Gay presented an affidavit to the Commission for their review. Mr. Gay requested the Commission transfer the estate of Tom Ryan to Berkeley County, WV. Ms. Byers approached the Commission and stated that she has no opposition to Mr. Gay's request that the estate be transferred to probate court in Berkeley County. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approves to move the estate case of Tom Ryan to Berkeley County and refund the fees that were charged in Morgan County where it was mistakenly filed. This motion carried.

Debra McLaughlin, Prosecuting Attorney- Letter form the Criminal Corrections Committee requesting earmark for coalbed methane severance tax monies

Debra McLaughlin, Prosecuting Attorney, and Jody McClintock, County Administrator, approached the Commission and explained that the Morgan County Commission has received a check in the amount of \$9,277.53, which is Morgan County's allocation of the coal bed methane severance tax from fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011. Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. McClintock asked to use the money for the Community Service Officer. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission agrees to use the funds

to go towards funding the salary for the Community Service Officer. This motion carried.

#### Pam Farnham, Morgan County Humane Society, Funds Request -\$5000

Pam Farnham, representing the Morgan County Humane Society, approached the Commission to discuss possible funding to help with the Humane Society's TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) Program. Ms. Farnham explained that the program helps control the feral cat population in Morgan County. Ms. Farnham stated that the Humane Society does not make any money off of the program, it is to help with the feral cat population. Ms. Farnham requested funds in the amount of \$5000. Dawn White approached the Commission and stated that the County Commission frequently donates money to the Morgan County Humane Society. Ms. White stated that she wonders if the county can come up with a comprehensive plan for all of the unwanted animals in Morgan County. Ms. White stated that the problem is with the Morgan County Animal Control. Ms. White explained that when you call Animal Control you never get an answer and have to leave messages. Ms. White stated that there has to be a better solution to control the unwanted animals in Morgan County. The County Commission stated that if Ms. White can come up with a plan, please bring it forward. President Dugan stated that the Commission will consider the request in December during the budget review/funds request meeting. The Commission thanked Ms. Farnham for her time.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

##### Introduction of Ashley Tomlinson as Student Rep on the Morgan County Commission

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, explained that high school student, Ashley Tomlinson is the student representative for the County Commission. Ms. Tomlinson will attend the County Commission meetings and learn about county government. This is an assignment for Civics class.

##### Update on Geothermal annual permit fee meeting with Delegate Daryl Cowles

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, explained to the Commission that she had a telephone conference with Commissioner Close and Delegate Daryl Cowles. Ms. McClintock explained that Delegate Cowles has been discussing geothermal annual permit fees with the WV Legislators. Delegate Cowles plans to propose a reduction in the fee. The Commission thanked Ms. McClintock for the update.

##### Work to begin on projects under the Court Security Grant

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, explained that the projects under the Court Security Grant should be starting in the next 3-4 weeks. Ms. McClintock stated that the projects include glass protectors, siren and strobe lights on the door under the stairway and lights in the back parking lot.

##### Home Consortium funding update

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, explained that in 2010 the Home Consortium program funded \$30,000 to 2 homeowners to purchase their first home. Ms. McClintock stated that the tentative assistance program has funded \$7,305 to help individuals pay rent. Ms. McClintock stated that the applications for the program are located in the County Commission office.

Adjournment

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m. This motion carried.