

Morgan County Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2012

Members Present: Stacy Dugan, Brenda Hutchinson and Bradley Close

The meeting was opened by Debra Kesecker, County Clerk at 9:30 a.m.

Also Present: Glorious Sagle, Elizabeth Skinny, Andy Swaim, Fred McClintock, Kate Shunney, Joshua Clark, Tricia Strader, Kate Lehman, Debra Shamburg & Col Gee, Hampshire County Animal Control, Audrey Morris & Tina Burns, Morgan County Starting Points, Jason Pearce, Morgan County Animal Control, George Farnham, Morgan County Humane Society, Steve Hutchinson, Jane Doyle, Gary Heichel, Amy Lane, Holly Jack, Barbie Ginck, Andrea Anderson, Gina Henley, Laurie Fischer, Susan Jones, Kathleen Dawson, Dawn White, Hedy Kuemmel, Paul Murtha, Peggy Oakes, Dave Abner, Caitlin Michael, Vince Shambaugh, Sheriff, Kim Jackson, Circuit Clerk, Ronald McIntire, Assessor and Debra McLaughlin, Prosecuting Attorney

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

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On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission approves the meeting minutes from the February 16, 2012 County Commission meeting. This motion carried.

Exonerations

Abby Hofe, Assessor Personnel, approached the Commission and presented six exonerations. Ms. Hofe explained that the exonerations were for clerical errors. On a Brad Close /Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission approved the exonerations. This motion carried.

New Employees Approved for Hiring

The County Commission approved the hiring of Teresa Risinger for the full time position for the Assessor's office. Ms. Risinger will start employment on March 5, 2012.

The County Commission approved the hiring of Zachary Caldwell and Lydia Steedman for the full time 911 dispatchers positions. Mr. Caldwell and Ms. Steedman will start employment immediately.

Resolution for Court Security Fund Grant Contract

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission authorizes Stacy A. Dugan, President of the Morgan County Commission, to act on its behalf to enter into a contractual agreement with the Division of Justice and Community

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Services to receive and administer grant funds pursuant to provisions of the Court Security Fund grant program. This motion carried.

Resolution for Use of Force account for Recreational Trails Grant project

The West Virginia Department of Transportation has tentatively approved the use of the force account for the \$80,000 Recreational Trails Grant contingent upon the Morgan County Commission executing this agreement. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission authorizes its Commission President, Stacy Dugan to execute the agreement. This motion carried.

Calendar for March

The Commission reviewed the meeting calendar for March.

Cathy Payne, Chief Deputy County Clerk- Transfer funds for gas for Sheriff Law Office

Cathy Payne, Chief Deputy County Clerk, approached the Commission and explained that according to WV Code, funds cannot be transferred from the coal severance fund, funds can only be withdrawn directly.

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission rescinds the previous motion to transfer \$12,000 out of coal severance to the gas budget 700-343 for gas for the Sheriff Law Office. This motion carried.

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission agrees to pay \$12,000 out of the coal severance fund to the Sheriff's Law office for fuel. Commissioner Close opposed and stated that he would rather fund \$20,000 for gas. This motion carried.

Community Volunteer Day

President Dugan stated that Community Volunteer Day is May 5, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. The celebration is being held at the Country Inn. President Dugan asked the Commission for individuals to be nominated.

Review Goals for 2012

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission reviewed and approved the goals for 2012. This motion carried. The goals will be placed on the website.

Letter to Mr. Sloan

The County Commission signed the letter to Mr. Sloan explaining that the county is not interested in selling the tower site on Prospect Peak in Great Cacapon, WV at this time.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Vernon Brinegar, Blue Cross Blue Shield Ins.- Group Health Insurance

Vernon Brinegar, Representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance, approached the Commission to discuss the insurance rates for fiscal year 2012.

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Mr. Brinegar presented a handout of information to the Commission for review. Mr. Brinegar explained that there is a possible increase of 12%. The Commission agreed to review the plans and possible options with Mr. Brinegar at the budget meeting on March 8, 2012.

Audrey Morris, Morgan County Starting Points- Funds request \$5000 & Facility Space request

Commissioner Close explained that his wife is a member of the Advisory Board for Starting Points and recused himself from the Starting Points discussion of the County Commission meeting.

Funds Request

Audrey Morris and Tina Burns, representing the Morgan County Starting Points, approached the Commission to request funds in the amount of \$5000 for the meal time community kitchen. Ms. Morris explained that funds received will be used to purchase food, food supplies and/or equipment. Ms. Morris stated that in 2011 there were 19,052 meals served through the meal time community kitchen. The County Commission will review the funds request during the budget meeting in June.

Facility Space

Audrey Morris, representing Morgan County Starting Points, approached the Commission to request facility space. Ms. Morris explained that the Starting Points center pays rent and electric fees at their current site, but they are seeking another location in order to reduce overhead expenses and allow for greater program capacity and expansion of services to the community. Ms. Morris requested use of the entire facility currently occupied by the Boys and Girls in the Community Center once the Boys and Girls Club move to the space currently used by the Senior Life Services. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she is in favor of Starting Points using the space and explained that she thinks Starting Points should pay the same rent that the Boys & Girls Club have been charged. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approves Starting Points to move into the space currently used by the Boys & Girls Club and make changes for the meal time community kitchen at no cost to the county. This motion carried.

Gary Heichel & Kate Lehman -Potomac Headwaters RC&D Region- Funds request - \$1200

Gary Heichel, Chairman, Potomac Headwaters RC&D Region, and Kate Lehman approached the Commission to present a funds request. Mr. Heichel explained that Potomac Headwaters RC&D is an all volunteer organization. Mr. Heichel requested funds in the amount of \$1200 for administrative support of the council. Mr. Heichel explained that in previous years the County Commissions financial contributions has made it possible to secure grants and provide assistance for Morgan County projects. The County Commission thanked Mr. Heichel and Ms. Lehman for their time and explained that they will review the funds request at the budget meeting in June.

Dawn White- Proposal for Morgan County Animal Control

Dawn White approached the Commission to present a proposal for the Morgan County Animal Control. Ms. White explained that she has asked Animal Control Officers from Berkeley and Hampshire Counties to attend the meeting. Ms. White stated that they are here to answer questions and explain the way animal control duties are practiced in neighboring counties. Ms. White suggested using neighboring counties as an example for clean and sanitary environments for animal control. Ms. White stated that she does not think that Morgan County Animal Control is performing well. Ms. White reviewed the proposal with the Commission. Ms. White asked the Commission to make two decisions. Ms. White asked the Commission to change the location of Animal Control and to separate the provided housing from the job. Ms. White suggested some possible locations for Animal Control to be placed. The Commission agreed that housing needs to be separated from the job. President Dugan asked the neighboring counties who the Animal Control works under. Col. Gee from Hampshire County, stated that they work directly under the County Commission. Lt. Johnson from Berkeley County, stated that they work directly under the Sheriff's Department. The County Commission thanked Ms. White for her time and hard work on the proposal. The County Commission did not make a decision at this time.

Decision for EDA (Economic Development Authority)Board Member

Commissioner Close commended all three applicants and stated it was a hard choice. Commissioners Hutchinson and Dugan agreed all three applicants were wonderful. Commissioner Close made a motion to appoint Gary Rothstein to the EDA Board. Commissioner Close stated that Mr. Rothstein has a unique background in the education system. Motion dies for lack of a second. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that Paul Mock came into Morgan County and built a successful business. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that Mr. Mock's local produce business employs Morgan County citizens and she believes he would be a great asset to the EDA board. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission appoints Paul Mock to the EDA Board to serve a three year term. This appointment is effective immediately. Commissioner Close opposed. This motion carried.

Amy Lane & Representatives from the Morgan County Humane Society- Addendum to Morgan County Humane Society proposal for Animal Control

Amy Lane and George Farnham, representing the Morgan County Humane Society, approached the Commission to discuss the option of moving Animal Control to the Morgan County Humane Society facility. Mr. Farnham explained that he had previously approached the Commission regarding a proposal for the county to lease the facility at the Humane Society for a period of 10 years at the cost of \$1.00 per year totaling \$10.00. Mr. Farnham explained that although the Humane Society is willing to lease the facility; they are not interested in selling the property. Amy Lane suggested possibly increasing the dog tag taxes in Morgan County and explained that this would help bring in revenue. Ms. Lane explained that she feels the animals

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on Rt. 9 in the Animal Control kennel are in a disease infested facility and she feels this is animal cruelty. Ms. Lane explained that the kennels are concrete block kennels and the dogs do not get to go outside. Ms. Lane stated that the kennels are too small for large dogs. Ms. Lane explained that she is very much in favor of the county moving the animal control kennel to the Humane Society facility. Ms. Lane stated that she will donate \$2000 to start a spay/neuter program if the County Commission chooses to move the Animal Control location to the Humane Society facility. Commissioner Hutchinson applauded Ms. Lane and stated that she totally agrees with her. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that she is very much in favor of moving Animal Control to the Humane Society facility. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she is ready to vote to move the animals immediately and close the current Animal Control kennel down. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she also feels the current Animal Control kennels are not suitable or humane for the dogs. President Dugan stated that she needs the Prosecuting Attorney to review the proposal before she makes a decision. The County Commission will go tour the Humane Society facility on March 6, 2012.

The County Commission broke for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 p.m. to review the budget with each Elected Official.

The Morgan County Commission held a special budget meeting with each elected official to discuss the budget within their office.

Debra McLaughlin, Prosecuting Attorney- Executive Session- Review Humane Society Contract

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission went into executive session at 3:50 p.m. to review the Humane Society proposal with Morgan County Animal Control. This motion carried.

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission came of executive session and reconvened into regular session at 4:26 p.m.

Administrations Report

Preventative Maintenance contract on generator at Mountaineer Health Center in Paw Paw, WV

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, presented a preventative maintenance contract for the generator at Mountaineer Health Center in Paw Paw, WV. Ms. McClintock stated the annual maintenance visit costs \$225.00. The County Commission approved the maintenance contract.

Reallocation of Home Consortium Funds

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, explained that the Home Consortium program for Morgan County has approximately \$10,000 in unused funds. Ms. McClintock explained that the program has asked that we put the unused funds in a pool allowing counties in the Eastern Panhandle to use the funds. Ms. McClintock

stated that this does not mean Morgan County will not have access to the funds if needed. The County Commission agreed to put the unused funds in the pool.

Fire Marshal report on Community Center. Approval of electrical estimate to fix items on report

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, presented the fire marshal report to the Commission for approval of the electrical estimate to fix specific items on the report. The County Commission asked Ms. McClintock to get 2 more proposals before a decision is made.

Adjournment

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m. This motion carried.