

Morgan County Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2012

Members Present: Stacy Dugan, Brenda Hutchinson and Bradley Close

The meeting was opened by Debra Kesecker, County Clerk at 9:00 a.m.

Also Present: Ginger Johnson , Commission Secretary, Joshua Clark, Morgan Messenger, Steve Hutchinson, George Farnham, Amy Lane, Tricia Strader, Jane Doyle, Bert Lustig, Glorious Sagle, Anthea McCallister, Margaret Henry, Laurie Fischer, EJ Fischer, Keith DeBlasio, Chris Lina, Laura Smith, Jeanne Mozier, Paul & Sharon Leftridge, John Kronyak, Patricia Dilts, Larry Schultz, Pete Checkovich, Ann Shipway, Daryl Cowles, Carol Rothstein and Gary Rothstein

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS:

Meeting Minutes

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approves the meeting minutes from the May 3, 2012 County Commission meetings. This motion carried.

Assessor's Exonerations

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission approved the Assessor's exonerations. This motion carried.

Information on the website

President Dugan explained that at the last Commission meeting, some of the packet information for the website was withheld and not publicized. President Dugan stated that she feels that all the information submitted for the packets should be on the website. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the information withheld was due to personal addresses and business information. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Stacy Dugan motion, the County Commission agrees that all packet information will go on the website and that everyone who provides information for the meetings will be reminded that it will be put on the county website. This motion carried.

Commissioner Close arrives to meeting.

Valley Health

President Stacy Dugan recused herself from the meeting and conversation due to being employed by Valley Health. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission approved and signed the credit of rent letter to Valley Health for the overpayment of \$5000 in May to be credited for their rent of the Gayle Building for June and July (\$4,375 and \$625, respectively). The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Bert Lustig- Paw Paw Bends Rail Trail Environmental Assessment

Bert Lustig approached the County Commission to discuss the Paw Paw Bends Rail Trail Environmental Assessment. Mr. Lustig presented a handout of information to the Commission. Mr. Lustig presented a map and discussed the environmental assessments and alternatives with the Commission. Mr. Lustig presented a letter for approval from the Commission requesting to go forward with Alternative B, as defined by the Chesapeake and Ohio National Historical Park Environmental Assessment. Mr. Lustig stated that only Alternative B provides for constructing a continuous trail to Paw Paw, WV. The Commission approved and signed the letter supporting Alternative B for the Paw Paw Bends Rail Trail.

Jane Doyle- Discussion regarding Animal Control

Jane Doyle approached the Commission to discuss the Animal Control facility. Ms. Doyle stated that she visited the facility yesterday; and although there was no urine or feces anywhere, there is a huge odor there and the ventilation is horrible. Ms. Doyle asked what is the plan for fixing the facility. Commissioner Close explained that he voted to remain in the current facility and make improvements which have been done. Commissioner Close stated that by WV Code, they are required to keep the dogs for 5 days and then find homes for them with adoption groups, foster homes, etc. Commissioner Hutchinson explained that the county spends 1.01% of the county budget on Animal Control, and she doesn't feel that this is sufficient. Ms. Doyle asked President Dugan why she would not agree to the contract to move animal control to the Humane Society facility. President Dugan explained she was not in favor of the move because of the additional costs and the confusion of citizens thinking that Animal Control was affiliated with the Humane Society. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she is working on a Petco grant to possibly receive funding to build a new facility. The Commission thanked Ms. Doyle for her time.

Jeanne Mozier & Laura Smith, Travel Berkeley Springs- Annual Report

Jeanne Mozier and Laura Smith, representing Travel Berkeley Springs, approached the Commission for an annual review of Travel Berkeley Springs and the tourist industry in Morgan County. Ms. Mozier and Ms. Smith reviewed the hotel/motel tax budget with the Commission. The County Commission thanked Ms. Mozier and Ms. Smith for their time and review.

Paul Leftridge- High Taxes & Animal Control Issues

Paul Leftridge approached the Commission and stated that he used to be the Chief of Police in Berkeley Springs. Mr. Leftridge explained that he has read the articles in the paper about animal control. Mr. Leftridge stated that people will not call animal control because they don't want the dog put in that facility. Mr. Leftridge stated that the taxes keep increasing, and the school levy increase is terrible. Mr. Leftridge

suggested the Commission try to make a deal and work together to solve the animal control issues in Morgan County. The Commission thanked Mr. Leftridge for his time.

Joseph Mogus- Middle of the road compromise for dogs

Joseph Mogus approached the Commission to discuss the dog issue and animal control. Mr. Mogus stated what he saw was not adequate for the care of the dogs. Mr. Mogus stated that all other county services are good except animal control. The Commission thanked Mr. Mogus for his time.

Tammi Margraff, Berkeley Springs Museum- Funds Request

Tammi Margraff, representing the Berkeley Springs Musuem, approached the Commission for a funds request. Ms. Margraff requested funds in the amount of \$4000. Ms. Margraff explained that she is requesting funds for the geology room in the museum. Ms. Margraff stated that a big crystal from US Silica will be displayed in the geology room in the museum. The Commission thanked Ms. Margraff for her time and stated that they will review the funds request in June.

Carolyn Zdziera- Community Alternatives to Violence Grant request- \$3060

Carolyn Zdziera, Executive Director and Larry Schultz, Vice President, Community Alternatives to Violence, approached the Commission. Ms. Zdziera and Mr. Schultz explained that CAV is a program that works with men and women involved in family violence cases. The participants have been taken to one of the family courts for certain types of abusive behavior, including threats, harassment and other control and fear-producing tactics. Mr. Schultz explained that courts and other agencies refer participants to the program for intense evaluation. Once accepted the participants begin a rigorous 32 week psycho-educational program. The participants must also pay for the total program which can run from \$700- \$1500, depending on the participants income. The money is put back into the program. Trained facilitators conduct weekly classes. Ms. Zdziera requested funds in the amount of \$3060 for training efforts for Morgan County facilitors. The Commission thanked Ms. Zdziera and Mr. Schultz for their time and explained that the Commission will decide the funds request in June during the budget review.

Contract Lease Agreement with Blue Ridge CTC/Possible Announcement of Higher Education coming to Morgan County

Commissioner Close introduced Dr. Peter Checkovich, Ms. Ann Shipway, Ms. Carol Rothstein and Mr. Gary Rothstein and explained that they are representatives from Blue Ridge CTC. Commissioner Close explained that he has been working with the representatives and Bill Clark, EDA Director to help Blue Ridge CTC start a higher education program in the old hospital facility. Commissioner Close stated that Blue Ridge is the fastest growing learning center in the state of WV. Commissioner Close presented a Memorandum of Understanding to the representatives from Blue Ridge CTC to lease a portion of the old Hospital (The Pines). The Commission signed the MOU. Dr. Checkovich stated that the MOU has to be reviewed and approved before

they can sign it. Dr. Checkovich stated that Blue Ridge is the fifth fastest growing community college in the US. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission agrees to move forward once the MOU is signed and approved by all parties. This motion carried. The Commission thanked the representatives from Blue Ridge CTC for their time.

Pat Largent- Interview for 911 Board

Patrick Largent approached the Commission for an interview for the 911 Board. Mr. Largent explained that he has lived in Morgan County and has been involved with fire and rescue for 28 years. President Dugan asked Mr. Largent if he will be able to attend the monthly meetings. Mr. Largent stated yes, and he explained that he has already attended a few meetings. The Commission thanked Mr. Largent for his time and interest and explained that they will make a decision at the next meeting.

Proposed location of Animal Control facility for Petco Foundation Grant

Carol York, Grants Administrator, approached the Commission regarding the Petco Foundation Grant. Ms. York explained that she has worked with Mike Crawford, Berkeley Land Surveys, and he has suggested three locations for a new animal control facility site. Ms. York stated that the locations include property between Widmyer school track and the rescue squad building, the property on 522 by the ballfields and property behind the old hospital. Ms. York stated that the property between the school track and rescue squad building is owned by the school board. Ms. York explained that the letter of intent for the grant was approved, and the Commission has been invited to apply. Ms. York explained that to finish the grant application, there has to be a proposed facility site. Commissioner Close explained that he is thinking of ways to cut mileage for the animal control officers and save gas. Commissioner Close stated that he is in favor of placing the facility behind the old hospital in Berkeley Springs, WV. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she is in favor of placing the facility on the property by the ballfields on 522 but she is willing to compromise on the location in order to get the grant out. On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission agrees to select the property behind the old hospital as the new animal control facility for the Petco grant. This motion carried.

Executive Session- Telephone conference call with Milestone Construction, Zurich Insurance, Remco & Silling Associates regarding the update on the bond for the courthouse

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission went into executive session at 12:10 p.m. regarding the update on the bond for the courthouse. This motion carried.

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission came out of executive session at 12:47 p.m. This motion carried.

On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission will release the check to be paid to Milestone Construction in the amount of \$100,583.57 for the construction of the courthouse. This motion carried.

Administrator's Items

NACA (National Animal Control Association) Training for the Animal Control Officer
Jody McClintock, County Administrator, approached the Commission and explained that Jason Pearce, Animal Control Officer has requested to attend the NACA training. Ms. McClintock explained that there is the possibility of a scholarship for this training. Ms. McClintock explained that the training is on animal cruelty and how to identify cruelty. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission approves the training and the application for a possible scholarship. This motion carried.

Quote for Animal Control Facility

Jody McClintock, County Administrator, presented a quote to power wash and seal the animal control building. Ms. McClintock explained that this will eliminate the odor coming from the concrete blocks. The quote is for \$1500. On a Brad Close/Brenda Hutchinson motion, the County Commission approves the quote to power wash and seal the animal control facility. This motion carried. The \$1500 will be paid out of the coal severance fund.

Adjournment

On a Brenda Hutchinson/Brad Close motion, the County Commission adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m. This motion carried.