

Morgan County Commission Meeting
May 21, 2025

Members present:

President Bill Clark
Commissioner Joel Tuttle

Staff Present:

Misty Clingerman, County Administrator

Call to Order

Joel Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the agenda. President Clark voted yea.
Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Items from the public

Concerned citizens of Paw Paw approached the Commission about the fear of the Senior Center closing. The Paw Paw location serves meals to 35-40 people. All of the staff is leaving at the end of the month due to retirement and salary issues. The staff is not just serving meals. They are taking care of paperwork, and cleaning the facility. They can no longer operate on just volunteers. The Commission made it clear that they are not associated or represent one of the members on the Senior Center Board and suggested that they attend a meeting with them to express their concerns.

Ron Davis expressed his gratitude for all the support that the Commission gives to Paw Paw. He also gave an overview of the recent things happening. They have re-applied for a walking trail grant. The \$3 million sewer upgrade project is almost complete. The water project is out for bids and there will be an increase on rates in July. The old jail on Lee Street has officially reopened as a museum. The town purchased a new Ford Maverick truck. With the help of a USDA grant, a new police cruiser was purchased and they are hoping to hire two part-time deputies. Lastly, the town has received a \$725,000 HUD Grant to make the old fire hall a community center.

Administration Items

Approval of meeting minutes

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 5/7/2025.
President Clark voted yea, Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

Assessor's Exonerations

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the exonerations for taxpayers Ballinger and Rider. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the exonerations for taxpayers Colmus and Price 2023 & 2024. President Clark voted nae. Commissioner Tuttle voted nae. Motion Failed.

Wellness Center New Hire

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to hire Faith Benson as a 19.5 hour employee for the Wellness Center at an hourly rate of \$14.00 an hour with a retroactive start date of May 9, 2025. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion Carried.

Agenda Items

Board Appointment Discussion

The Board of Health is made up of three members from Morgan County and three members from Berkeley County. President Clark wants to check the State Code to make sure that political positions are not a required factor to be a member.

Commissioner Tuttle said that Farmland Protection needs another member and Parks and Recreation needs one more member from the Board of Education.

Retirement Discussion

The cost of retirement and health insurance is climbing in price every year for retirees. There has been no documentation found where the County has agreed to pay insurance/retirement for employees who are eligible to retire before they reach retirement age. The Commission would like to establish a set of new policies that will be presented at the next meeting.

Administrator's Report

The County received \$30,000 in reimbursements for excess payments to Lipitor. Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to dedicate the \$30,000 towards the Jail Bill for FY25. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion Carried.

Sherrie Byrd, representing Widmyer Elementary School, requested the use of the gravel parking for a Chili cook-off on October 25, 2025. Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the use of the lot contingent that permission is given by Kirsten and Conrad Trump with the payment of a \$300 review fee. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion Carried.

The deed documents showing that the county does own and have access to the 5 acres at the New Hospital off of Fairview Drive were presented to the Commission.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the consent agenda. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

Adjourn

President Clark adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by M. Clingerman