

Morgan County Commission Meeting
September 17, 2025

Members present:

President Bill Clark
Commissioner Joel Tuttle
Commissioner Sean Forney via Zoom

Staff Present:

Kim Nickles, County Clerk
Scott Bier, IT Director
Misty Clingerman, County Administrator

APPROVED

OCT 01 2025

PRESIDENT COUNTY COMMISSION

Bill Clark

Call to Order

Kim Nickles called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

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

Members of the community approached the Commission with their concerns about the \$10,000 Hotel-Motel funding that was granted to the Berkeley Springs Castle Foundation. They ask that the Commissioners consider disbursing those funds to other organizations since there was an article released, stating that the Brimelows are being sued in NY for fraud. Commissioner Tuttle shared that the application for Hotel-Motel funding came from the Berkeley Springs Castle Foundation, a registered WV non-profit. The lawsuit itself is against V-Dare and its leaders. Commissioner Tuttle told the public that no money has been released to the Castle Foundation. The Foundation is required to present their documents from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which they had listed as a cash match for their project on their application. President Clark thanked the community for coming in to express their concerns.

Administration Items

Approval of meeting minutes

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/3/2025. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Assessor's Exonerations

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the exoneration for Taxpayer Brimelow for clerical errors. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Agenda Items

Opioid Settlement Discussions

Steven Skinner came before the Commission to discuss some opioid updates.

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to go into executive session to discuss updates on the opioid lawsuit. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to come out of executive session. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. No decision was made or a motion needed during executive session.

Fire Department Job Posting

Justin Michael, Chief of the Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Department came before the Commission to represent the Fire Board Association. The Fire Board is asking the Commission to approve a paid position to represent the four fire departments.

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the transfer of \$64,978 from the County Fire Protection Fund to the Fire Board to support the hiring of a full-time position for the Berkeley Springs Fire Department. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Fire Department and Fire Board MOU

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to approve the MOU between the Morgan County Commission, the Fire Board, and the Berkeley Springs Fire Company to effectively hire a Morgan County Fire Board Captain. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Frontier Line Consolidation

Jared Kellam-Phillips with Frontier came before the Commission with a presentation for Dedicated Internet Access. Morgan County currently uses several different companies for the different county entities. Frontier has put together a pricing proposal to consolidate all phone lines and internet with them. The Commission will review the proposals. IT Director, Scott Bier will reach out to the other companies to compare the proposals.

Court Facilities Grant Resolution

Commissioner Tuttle made a motion to authorize the Commission President to sign the Resolution and to act as the representative for the FY26 Court Facilities Grant. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Hotel-Motel Tax Review

President Clark asked about the funding for CDS. Commissioner Tuttle confirmed that the money for CDS is set aside and committed in carryover from the previous year. Commissioner Tuttle said that they will review and update the application for next year.

Administrator's Report

West Virginia and Maryland are applying for a grant to move forward with the construction of the Hancock-Berkeley Bridge. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize a letter

of support with signatures from all three Commissioners. President Clark voted yea. Commissioner Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Adjourn

President Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Minutes submitted by M. Clingerman