

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
February 18, 2026
Morgan County Courthouse**

APPROVED

MAR 04 2026

PRESIDENT COUNTY COMMISSION



Members present:

President Joel Tuttle
Commissioner Sean Forney
Commissioner Bill Clark

Staff Present:

Kim Nickles, County Clerk
Misty Clingerman, County Administrator
Laura Breedan, Sheriff Tax
Felicia Darlington, Grants Administrator/ Commission Secretary

Johnnie Walter, Sheriff
Eric Widmyer, Deputy Sheriff

Call to Order

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

Review and Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Forney made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Recess and add Adjourn for approval. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Items from the public

Wendy Baruch approached the Commissioners with a problem about people dumping trash on other people's property. Wendy stated she had spoken to state and local agencies about the situation, but nothing can be done until there is proof of the person committing the crime. She also asked if there was an ordinance in place on the county level that would hold people accountable for their crime. President Tuttle stated we used to have a Litter Control Officer, but lack of funding has taken the position away. After the Commissioners researched and named WV Laws and Codes about littering and dumping to assist Wendy, Sheriff Walter shared the information of the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) Representative, Brad Robertson, to the Commissioners. We will be inviting the DNR Representative to an April Commission Meeting to learn as a community on this topic.

Administration Items

Approval of meeting minutes

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2/13/2026. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

Board Of Equalization Sine-Die

No one appeared before the Commission today for BOE. Commissioner Forney made a motion to close Board of Equalization Sine-Die. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Sheriff Walter- New Hire Part-time Bailiff and K-9 Proposal

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the new hire David Gravin as a part-time Bailiff at an hourly rate of \$17.00 with no benefits, starting sometime during the week of February 23, 2026. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Sheriff Walter proposed to the Commissioners he would like to be a K-9 handler. He detailed a few must-haves with the cost of having a K-9 unit, like equipment for the vehicle and 30 minutes overtime every day for handlers. All the Commissioners were happy to hear this and asked for a budget estimate to be presented before moving forward.

Review of Budget

President Tuttle clarified \$26,750 from Wellness Center was taken out of the original approved request. Commissioner Clark clarified the cash match for North Berkeley Rail Trail and Cacapon Ridge Trail Project are still put aside from Hotel Motel for when the projects proceed.

The meeting was recessed from 10:23 am to 11:00 am for the members attending the public hearings to arrive.

Eastern Panhandle HOME Consortium Public Hearing

Cory Roman, CDBG(Community Development Building Grant) Administrator gave an overview of eligible and ineligible activities the HOME Consortium Program assists with. This is updated every spring by HUD (The Department of Housing and Urban Development) and adjusts to the market. The total amount allocated has not been set yet, so it is determined to reference last year's amount which was \$455,810.89. Each County's allocation is set by population which means Morgan County will have the lowest amount when that is set. Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the Resolution for Morgan County to participate in the HOME Consortium of the Eastern Panhandle from July 2026 to June 30, 2027, and to authorize the President to sign. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

EMS Commercial Billing Public Hearing

For over a year the Morgan County EMS Board has been looking for a way to get revenue by NOT raising the taxes on residential emergency ambulance fees. After many hours of research and discussion, the Board has decided to bill commercial buildings for businesses at a base rate of \$150 for 0 to 2,000 sq. ft. and caps at \$5,000 for higher square footage. This has an estimated \$140,000-\$150,000 revenue. The contract Morgan County Commission has with Morgan County EMS Company 7 is expiring June 30, 2026 and the county will be advertising a Request for Qualifications. A man from the public questioned MCEMS

Company 7 about not taking patients from hospital to hospital. Company 7 explained the licensure costs a big amount of money and requires more training and equipment which they don't currently have. The gentleman questioned why he saw the EMS employees sitting in parking lots eating with ambulance running. Company 7 described keeping the vehicles ready by having 3 in service ALS (Advanced Life Service) vehicles running at certain locations and 2 backup BLS (Basic Life Service) vehicles plugged in at the station to be ready for a call. Company 7 said that the public is more than welcome to reach out to the board of the Morgan County Rescue Service Incorporated, a non-profit organization, with any questions. President Tuttle clarified the fund increase for emergency ambulance fee pertaining to commercial entities will be voted on March 9, 2026.

Administrator's Report

There is a fund request from Pleasant View Community Center to fix the well that caved in. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize expenses up to \$10,000 for drilling and casing a new well to be paid from Hotel-Motel. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Adjourn

President Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 12:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by F. Darlington