**Morgan County Commission Meeting**
**June 17, 2026**
**Morgan County Courthouse**

APPROVED
JUL 01 2026
PRESIDENT COUNTY COMMISSION
Joel Tuttle

**Members present:**
President Joel Tuttle
Commissioner Sean Forney
Commissioner Bill Clark

**Staff Present:**
Kim Nickles, County Clerk
Misty Clingerman, County Administrator
Stephanie Nichols, Day Report Administrator
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 Clark made a motion to approve the agenda. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

**Items from the public**
None.

**Administration Items**
**Approval of meeting minutes**
President Tuttle clarified four banks needed to be stated for the depositories in the Administrator's Report last meeting. Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/3/2026 with the adjustment of stating all four banks: CNB Bank, City National, Truist, and Bank of Romny. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**New Road Name- Fielding Lane**
Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the new road name Fielding Lane. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**EDA Board Appointment**
Bill made a motion to appoint Emma Kesner to fulfill the remaining term for Amanda Hollins- Teikeria. Term expires December 31, 2028. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

**Removal of EMS Board Member**
Due to a new position, Katy Smith, is not able to attend meetings any more. There is now a

vacancy open and will be advertised. Commissioner Forney made a motion to remove Katy Smith from the EMS Board. President Tuttle voted yes. Commissioner Clark voted yes. Commissioner Forney voted yes. Motion carried.

**Agenda Items**

**Pete Moss- Discussion/Possible Action for William Street Property**

Pete Moss came before the Commission to ask for the Commission Property on Williams Street, next to the Train Depot property, become free public parking. Pete spoke about how this would benefit the locals and tourists for parking, expand small businesses, open bus routes, and possibly restart carriage rides. President Tuttle clarified the size of the lot is 70X136 which meets the standard 9ft by 18-20ft parking space dimension to utilize this space as a parking lot. A member from the public Ron Martin volunteered to clear the property and pay for gravel. Commissioner Forney accepted his offer to clear the property, and President Tuttle denied his offer to pay for gravel, clarifying the County Commission will pay for the gravel for the property. Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the request to utilize the property as public parking and take the offer from Ron Martin to clear and work on the property and the Commission will pay for the gravel for the lot. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**Beth Skinner- Request for Hotel/Motel**

Beth Skinner from the Town of Bath Cemetery Management & Maintenance Inc. discussed the progress of the Headstone Repair and Restoration Project at Greenway Cemetery. There are volunteers who are being professionally trained to repair the headstones at Greenway Cemetery. They have completed about 60 headstones so far. The need for funding comes from the equipment to move the headstones which can be up to 1,000lbs. Requesting $12,300 for a tripod.

President Tuttle asked about the request for funding for mowing the cemetery. Beth explained the funding for mowing is for a contractor to do the work because the organization has had problems having volunteers and paid people do the work. President Tuttle shared his concern about giving anymore funding to mowing because the Commission did, 2 years ago, and no one mowed the cemetery, resulting in all three Commissioners mowing the cemetery on their own. Getting half of the cemetery complete one day and the Commission Maintenance crew finishing the other half the next day. The Commission thanked Beth for her update on the projects.

**Approval of Farmland Board request to set cap on what we will pay for easements**

The Farmland Protection Board passed a motion to implement a guideline to offer a Fair Market Value not to exceed $5,000/ an acre for purchasing an easement. The Board voted to recommend and request that the County Commission approve this guideline and adopt this Revision to our Program Guide. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the recommendation of not exceeding $5,000/ an acre for purchasing an easement. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

**Letter of Support for Opportunity Zones 2.0**

Opportunity Zone 2.0 is a federally designated census tract where private investors can receive significant tax advantages for investing in long-term projects that drive economic and community development. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the Commission President to sign the Letter of Support for Opportunity 2.0. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion caried.

**EDA Invoices- Discussion/Possible Action**

Morgan County EDA is requesting $400 to cover the tuition costs for an employee to attend the Leadership Morgan program. The program is a community initiative designed to cultivate, engage, and connect local professional and community leaders in the hope of driving local growth. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the request to pay the tuition costs of $400 for an employee to attend the Leadership Morgan program from Hotel/ Motel funds. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Repairs were made at the Pines Opportunity Center for the room that is used as a Welding Lab for Blue Ridge Community and Technical College. There were deficiencies in the fire alarm system and the sprinkler system. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the request of $27,078 for repairs at the Pines Opportunity Center for Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Welding Lab from Hotel/ Motel funds. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

**Marshall Younker- Radios for Sheriff Department's Vehicles**

The Sheriff's Department is replacing two vehicles with two other vehicles. One vehicle is going to the Reserve's; the other vehicle is undetermined. Once it is determined where the one vehicle will go we will purchase the radio if needed. Marshall gave a cost estimate for two radios from Motorola at $18,120.12. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the purchase of one radio at $9,060.06 from the Jail Bill. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**Sheriff Walter- Request for an additional deputy**

Sheriff Walter requested an additional deputy while he can pick from five candidates which usually doesn't happen. He also said Macy, Sheriff Secretary, is looking into the COPS grant to help with this. Commissioners are looking into this.

**Sheriff Walter- Presentation of Budget for Canine Program**

Sheriff Walter presented a budget for a Canine Program. The canine would be used for narcotics excluding marijuana. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize up to $20,000 for a Canine Program out of Opioid Fund. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**Administrator's Report**

Lightening strike to the tower that happened on Sunday. The invoice is for the damaged equipment. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the purchase of equipment to replace the damaged equipment from the lightning strike on Sunday, June 14,2026 out of the Tower Fund and to file the claim with risk pool and once that money comes back put it in the Tower Fund. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Clark left the meeting.

Sub-award agreement for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the Commission President to sign the EMPG agreement. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Clerk's Office has a receipt for the people who completed the finacail statement. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the agreement to move forward with Fred Hess continue to do our financial statements and evaluations in the amount of $8,000 for FY 27. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Aaron Close is resigning from the Parks and Rec Board. President Tuttle would like to give Aaron a letter of thanks for his time on the Parks and Rec Board and Board of Education. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize a Thank You letter to Mr. Close for his years of service for Parks and Rec Board and Board of Education. President Tuttle 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 Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

**Adjourn**

President Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

Minutes submitted by F. Darlington