

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
August 5, 2026
Morgan County Courthouse**

APPROVED

AUG 19 2026

PRESIDENT COUNTY COMMISSION



Members present:

President Joel Tuttle
Commissioner Sean Forney
Commissioner Bill Clark

Staff Present:

Kim Nickles, County Clerk
Meachum, Deputy
Misty Clingerman, County Administrator
Felicia Darlington, Grants Administrator/ Commission Secretary

Johnnie Walter, Sheriff
Johnathan Varnum, Deputy

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

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/15/2026 and 7/29/2026. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Assessor's Exonerations

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the exonerations that were objected by the Assessor for taxpayers Elliot James C Elliot's Gunning LLC and Michael Malaska Greenridge Canoe Outfitter LLC. President Tuttle voted nay. Commissioner Clark voted nay. Commissioner Forney voted nay. Motion failed.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the exonerations that were objected by the Assessor but over ruled by the Tax Commissioner for the taxpayer Sleepy Creek Boys Camp (3). President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the exonerations for taxpayers McMauley, B&A Gloyd Investments LLC, Ohara, Mose, Wible, Carbaugh, Glascock & Bradley, and

Darroch for the non-objects presented by the Assessor. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Parks and Rec Board appointment

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve DJ Zahnow to the Morgan County Parks and Rec. Board for a three-year term, replacing Jason Didawick. This appointment is effective immediately and will expired June 30, 2029. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motin carried.

911 Board Appointment

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve Bobby Bullock to the 911 Advisory Board for the remaining term of John Peterson. This appointment is effective immediately and will expire December 31, 2026. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Early Voting Location, Emergency Absentee Voting Policy, and Commissioners

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the Early Voting Location at 77 Fairfax Street, Clerks Office Room 102, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the Emergency Absentee Voting Policy. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the Emergency Absentee Voting Commissioners, Democrat Party- Cathy Spielman and Charity Sullivan, Republican Party- Gina Bohrer and Lisa Webster. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

Sheriff Department- New Hire

Johnathan Varnum was sworn in by Kim Nickles, County Clerk, to the Morgan County Sheriff's Department.

911- New Hire

Commissioner Forney made a motion to retroactively approve the new hire of Krista Kreps to fill the Emergency Telecommunicator full-time position. Krista will be full-time probationary at \$16.00 effective July 30, 2026. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

WV Goes Purple

WV Goes Purple is an organization that raises awareness, reduces stigma, and supports individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the Proclamation to declare September 2026, Morgan County Goes Purple. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Estate Hearing- Marie Bettis

Petitioners, Laken Dillow and Matthew Young, are asking to be appointed as the new administrators of Marie Bettis estate because Administrator, Patricia Keysecker, has not given out the shares of the property and has not paid off the debt. The estate has been open since 2019, 8 years after Marie deceased. Commissioner Forney made a motion to remove Patricia Keysecker as Administrator of Marie Bettis estate and add Laken Dillow and Matthew Young as Co-Administrators of Marie Bettis estate effective immediately. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Wellness Center – New Hire

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the new hire of Leah Bishop as a part-time Wellness Center Employee at an hourly rate of \$14.00 retroactively effective July 23, 2026. Miss Bishop will be no more than a 19.5 hour employee. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Snip & Tip Lease

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement with the Snip & Tip of the Eastern Panhandle Non- Profit Organization to use the old animal control building, effective date will be when they sign the agreement. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Recreational Property Purchase- Discussion/ Possible Action

There is a counter offer for the property that is adjacent to the Senior Center. This property would be used for the North Berkeley Rail Trail. Since there was no written agreement when US Silica agreed, the County now would like to own the land instead of having to go through complications if someone else owns it. Commissioner Forney made a motion to move into executive session. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried. Commissioner Forney made a motion to come out of executive session. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried. Commissioner Forney made a motion to make a counteroffer for the property adjacent to the Senior Center. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

WV Conservation mowing contract to be updated. Every 5 years we have the opportunity for the WV Conservation to pay for a new Ventrack mower and we return the old one. Skylar Brown was present to Represent WV Conservation. Commissioner Forney asked if we could have the information about what happens to the mower once it is returned, if possible, can we buy it, if we wanted another one. Skylar will follow up with those answers. Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the President to sign the Warm Spring Run operations and maintenance equipment lease. President Tuttle voted yea. Commissioner Clark voted yea. Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

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

Adjourn

President Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

Minutes submitted by F. Darlington