

**Morgan County Commission Meeting
September 2, 2020**

Members present:

Commissioner Joel Tuttle, President
Commissioner Reed
Commissioner Forney

Staff Present:

Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk
Stefanie Allemong, County Administrator

Public Present: See attached sign in sheet

The meeting was opened by Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk, at 9:30 a.m.

Items from the Public/Miscellaneous Discussion

Administration Items

Approval of meeting minutes – 8/19

Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/19. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Assessors Exonerations & Consolidations

Commissioner Reed made a motion to approve the exonerations for Taxpayers Farris, Bennett, Kelly, Dobnak and Graham. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the exonerations for Taxpayer King which has been objected to by the Assessor. President Tuttle voted nay, Commissioner Reed voted nay and Commissioner Forney voted nay. Motion denied.

Approval for Commission President to sign Letters of Support for the Town of Bath submitting three grants for continued improvements to streetscapes and the North Berkeley Rail Trail project

Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize the Commission President to sign all three Letters of Support Streetscape Construction Grant, Streetscape Design Grant and the Urban Trail grant for the Town of Bath. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Appointments to the Morgan County Planning Commission

Commissioner Reed made a motion to appoint Jeff Davison to the Morgan County Planning Commission Board. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to appoint Gary W. Easton to the Morgan County Planning Commission Board. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

President Tuttle made a motion to appoint William Clark to the Morgan County Planning Commission Board. Commissioner Reed voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and President Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to appoint Mary Schultz to the Morgan County Planning Commission Board. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

Sheriff KC Bohrer – Swearing in and presentation of new Deputies

Sheriff KC Bohrer introduced Richard Cook and Bradley Knotts to the Commissioners and public present. Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk, came forward to swear both gentlemen in during the ceremony. Both Officers were then Welcomed into the Morgan County Family.

Estate of Bill L. Yoho

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve George McVey as Fiduciary Commissioner for the Estate of Bill L. Yoho. In the event there is a conflict then Bill Harmison will be appointed Fiduciary Commissioner. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Kent Leonhardt, WV Commissioner of Agriculture – to speak on Industrial Hemp

Mr. Leonhardt touched briefly on how West Virginians were fed when the pandemic hit and how Morgan County did well during this time. He spoke on the National School Lunch Program and Morgan County's Commodity Entitlement for 2020-21 is a little of \$112,000 and has already placed orders for over 13,500. They are also going to be transferring \$9,000 to Morgan County's allotment from other counties that did not use the program. Morgan County received its first requested load of 441 cases of food on August 17th. He then changed topics to Industrial Hemp. In 2017 WV had 24 growers and last year we had 423 applicants of which over 300 applicants for growing and processing. Yesterday started the open application process for the 2020-21 growing season. The application process for growers will be extended from a 30 day window to 60 days. Like anything else, the Hemp Industry is growing. WV had their plan approved and we go into the USDA approved plan starting the 1st of November moving away from the old 2014 Farm Bill Plan. We will be testing each field and when a grower gets their application they are informed to notify Law Enforcement so there is no conflict. It is important to note that hemp is

not marijuana. We are working through growing pains but this allows for another crop to be grown in WV.

John Petersen, Amateur Radio Emergency Service Group – request to install tower behind the E911/ECO building

Commissioner Forney made a motion to allow the ARES Group to install a tower on the back side of the E911/ECO building permitting the generator and tower can both inhabit the space. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Discussion/Update of the Morgan County ATV Ordinance

No action taken.

Richard Gay discussion/possible action Comcast Franchise Agreement

Mr. Gay recommended to the Commissioners that they have a series of public meetings to gain feedback from the public concerning the services from Comcast and would they subscribe if service was provided. No action taken.

Possible Executive Session – Personnel Issues

Commissioner Reed made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to come back from Executive Session. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Forney made a motion to accept the resignation of Peggy Oakes effective December 31, 2020. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for an IT Director position starting at \$48,000. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reed made a motion to authorize the County Administrator to work with our legal counsel, Dick Gay, to review and update the Personnel Handbook. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Forney voted yea and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

Request to hire part-time Kennel Tech/ACO

Commissioner Forney made a motion to authorize Morgan County Administrator to hire Angela Riddell as a part-time Kennel Technician/Animal Control Officer at a starting salary of \$11.00 per hour effective Monday, September 7, 2020. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Purchases/Check Logs/Budget Revisions/Vacation Orders

Commissioner Forney made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Reed voted yea and Commissioner Forney voted yea. Motion carried.

Adjourn

President Tuttle 12:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: M. Hill