

## MORGAN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY

September 12, 2022

Be it remembered that a Morgan County Legislative Session was begun and held in the town of Wartburg, Tennessee on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022. The Honorable Brian Langley was present and presiding.

Sheriff Potter called the session to order.

The following members were present:

Terry Jackson, Randy Roberts, Steve Walls, DJ Currier, Vera Scarbrough, Fred Snow David Hennessee, Vernon Justes, Kenneth Morgan, Bobby Gibson, Susie Kreis, Doug Vespie, Melissa Bryant, Gary Kennedy, Rick Plank, Janet Adkisson, Eli Anderson and Debbie Lively

Absent were: None

Also present: Morgan County Clerk Cheryl Collins and Crystal Garrett, Finance Director where and when the following had and entered to wit:

Invocation was led by EMS Director Doug Laymance

Pledge of Allegiance was led by EMS Director Doug Laymance

Executive Langley stated that Election of Chairman is required.

Commissioner Justes nominated Executive Brian Langley as Chairman; Commissioner Roberts seconded. Commissioner Snow made a motion to cease nominations and elect Executive Langley as Chairman by acclamation, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Commissioner Justes nominated Commissioner Vera Scarbrough as Chairman Pro-Temp; Commissioner Roberts seconded. Commissioner Fred Snow made a motion cease nominations and elect Commissioner Scarbrough as Chairman Pro-Temp by acclamation, Commissioner Bryant seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Chairman Langley Executive Report:

Park & Recreation Grant update

ETDD – Grant opportunities

9/11 Ceremony

HTC – Broadband Issues

Swearing In Ceremony

EMS Station at Sunbright

Back Tax – Bid off

Tony Bunch – PJ walking track

Dept Head meeting

Citizens Comments: None

### **#1 – Approval of Minutes and Financial Statements**

Motion made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Justes to approve the August 22, 2022, minutes.

Motion passed unanimously (18/0)

### **#2 – Notaries** – Amy Calhoun, Evangeline Lauth, Nicole Creson and Monica Savage

Motion made by Commissioner Scarbrough to approve the aforementioned notary applicants; Commissioner Kreis seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Executive Langley asked Property Assessor Biff Wilson to make his presentation. Mr. Wilson stated that the county has been in a lawsuit with Knox Energy since 2014 over real vs. personal property. He explained the difference between the two types of properties that the county taxes. He also explained that for each well that is drilled the producer gets 7/8 of the proceeds and the property owner gets 1/8 of the proceeds along with paying the severance tax. They have been to court 4 times and are losing at this point and up to this point the attorney for the county have been pro-bono, however the state has now moved our attorney to another case. Mr. Wilson is asking for the counties approval to continue to fight this suit with Anderson County. The cost for the attorney is \$265.00 per hour and would be split equally with Anderson County.

### **#3 – Motion – Approval to Continue Legal Battle with Knox Energy**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the hiring of a new attorney Bobby Lee and any special witnesses and to split all cost with Anderson County equally. There will also be a meeting set up with Representative Windel, Senator Yager and Will Denali to get on the same page in helping the county win the case, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Assessor Wilson also stated that our property tax ratio is really out of whack. In the second year after reappraisal the state does a ratio from current assessments to current selling prices. Mr. Wilson stated that he is normally involved in this process but because of COVID they proceeded without him. He has called and stressed his point that this new ratio will really hurt our distressed county.

### **#4 – Motion – Opt out of Building Codes**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to opt out of State Building Codes, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

### **#5 – Motion – To Approve Increase in Park & Recreation Grant to \$200,000.00**

Commissioner Bryant made a motion to approve an increase in the Park & Recreation grant to \$200,000.00 due to increase in prices of supplies since COVID. This is a 50/50 grant, however the counties 50% will be in-kind, Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Committee on Committees are the official that received the top vote count in each district. This will be the following:

- Dist. 1 – Steve Walls
- Dist. 2 – Fred Snow
- Dist. 3 – Vernon Justes
- Dist. 4 – Doug Vespie
- Dist. 5 – Gary Kennedy
- Dist. 6 – Debbie Lively

Meeting called to recess.

### **#6 -Motion – Approval of All Committees**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve committee appointments as recommended by Committee on Committees as follows:

#### **Jail Mitigation**

Steve Walls  
DJ Currier  
Kenneth Morgan  
Doug Vespie  
Gary Kennedy  
Eli Anderson

#### **Park & Recreation**

Terry Jackson  
Vera Scarbrough  
Kenneth Morgan  
Susie Kreis  
Gary Kennedy  
Eli Anderson

**Budget**

Randy Roberts  
Fred Snow  
Vernon Justes  
Doug Vespie  
Gary Kennedy  
Debra Lively

**Public Service**

Terry Jackson  
Vera Scarbrough  
Vernon Justes  
Robert Gibson  
Gary Kennedy  
Eli Anderson

**Building**

Steve Walls  
Vera Scarbrough  
Kenneth Morgan  
Susie Kreis  
Rick Plank  
Debra Lively

**Back Tax**

Steve Walls  
David Hennessee  
Susie Kreis  
Melissa Bryant

**Industrial/Economic**

Randy Roberts  
DJ Currier  
Vernon Justes  
Doug Vespie  
Melissa Bryant  
Janet Adkisson

**Litter**

Steve Walls  
DJ Currier  
David Hennessee  
Robert Gibson  
Rick Plank  
Debra Lively

**Beer Board**

Steve Walls  
Cindy Pollard  
Vernon Justes  
Curt Williams  
Bill Shannon  
Harry Gosnell

**Road**

Steve Walls  
Vera Scarbrough  
David Hennessee  
Susie Kreis  
Rick Plank  
Janet Adkisson

**Tourism**

Randy Roberts  
Vera Scarbrough  
Kenneth Morgan  
Susie Kreis  
Gary Kennedy  
Janet Adkisson

**Solid Waste**

Terry Jackson  
DJ Currier  
Vernon Justes  
Susie Kreis  
Rick Plank  
Debra Lively

**Intergovernmental**

Terry Jackson  
Vera Scarbrough  
Kenneth Morgan  
Robert Gibson  
Rick Plank  
Eli Anderson

**Planned Growth**

Steve Walls  
Vera Scarbrough  
Kenneth Morgan  
Robert Gibson  
Melissa Bryant  
Eli Anderson

**Finance**

Randy Roberts  
Fred Snow  
David Hennessee  
Debra Lively

**Audit Committee**

Paul Hudson  
Darlene Headrick  
Bryan Taylor  
Margie Kennedy  
Tiffany Terry  
Randi Anderson

Commissioner Hennessee seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**Back Tax**

**#7 -Motion – Sell Back Tax Property**

Commissioner Kreis made a motion to approve the selling of back tax property located at the following:

Map 52 Parcel 60.01	Mitch Copas	\$ 5,250.00
Map 162 Parcel 5.14	Erin & Doug Miller	\$ 101.00
Map 161 Parcel 017.00	Sanford Grubbs	\$15,000.00
Map 156 Parcel 005.00	Erin & Doug Miller	\$ 3,600.00
Map 071 Parcel 20.00	Lee Roy Cox	\$ 7,500.00 to be Deeded to Donald Cox
Map 071 Parcel 20.01	Lee Roy Cox	\$ 2,550.00 to be Deeded to Donald Cox

Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**Budget Committee**

**#8 – Motion – Budget Amendment 101-6 – Miscellaneous Grants**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendment 101-6 Miscellaneous Grants in the amount of \$253,105.54, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**#11 – Motion – Budget Amendment - BOE - #4-#22**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendments #4-#22 for BOE, Commissioner Hennessee seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**#12 – Motion – Purchase of New Vehicle and Transfer of Used Vehicles to Other Departments**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for the Sheriff's Dept and the Sheriff's dept will be conveyed to the Morgan County Rescue Squad and in turn they will convey to the Chestnut Ridge Vol Fire Dept their vehicle, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**#13 – Resolution – Tax Anticipation Note for \$175,000.00 by Solid Waste**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve Tax Anticipation Note 2022-1 in the amount of \$175,000.00 for Solid Waste, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**#14 – Motion – Approval of 5-year Lease of Washer/Dryer for Jail**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion approve a 5-year lease of a washer and dryer for the Jail with \$4000.00 to finish this fiscal year out of undesignated funds, Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

**#14 – Motion – Approval of ARP Funds for Pine Orchard Community Cnt Roof**

Commissioner Roberts made a motion approve the donation of \$2,800.00 to the Pine Orchard Community Center to help complete a roofing project

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Commissioner Lively asked about the HOME grants. Executive Langley will have Bret send her some information on it.

There being no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Roberts made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Justes seconded.

**Meeting Schedule**

Budget Meeting

-Monday – Oct 10 - 6:00 pm

Commission Meeting

-Monday – Oct 10 - 7:00 pm