

MORGAN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY

May 12, 2025

Be it remembered that a Morgan County Legislative Session was begun and held in the town of Wartburg, Tennessee on the 12th day of May 2025. The Honorable Brian Langley was present and presiding.

Sheriff Rick Hamby called the session to order.

The following members were present:

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

Absent were: None

Also present: was Director of Finance Crystal Garrett and Morgan County Clerk Cheryl Collins 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

Chairman Langley Executive Report: He turned it over to Commissioner Kreis for some road sign dedications:

Hwy 62 near Deer Lodge – Branstetter Bridge
Hwy 62 from Williams Market to Hwy 329 – Russel Scott
329 from Hwy 62 to Sunbright - Veteran's State Hwy
In Lancing – Portion of Old Hwy 62 – Bissell Hurst

Citizens Comments: None

Executive Langley asked Senator Yager to speak. He spoke about the Resolution concerning the Tornado damage that was sent to the Governor's office. He stated that there are two grant funds that will become available July 1st – the first is the Governor's Response & Recovery fund of \$100,000,000.00 is for government entities, non-profits, businesses, farmers and forest land owners. The second one is the TEMA disaster relief grants of \$240,000,000.00. The details to obtain these monies are being worked on right now. He strongly encouraged the departments and the county to be ready to apply July 1st.

Commissioner Scarbrough asked about the voucher program and how it will affect Morgan County Schools. Senator Yager stated that the bill will not take money away from the local school systems.

#1 – Approval of Minutes and Financial Statements

Motion made by Commissioner Roberts to approve the April 14th meeting minutes and Trustees Report, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously (18/0)

#2 – Notaries – Randy Anderson, Sheila Walls

Motion made by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the aforementioned notaries, Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#3 – Motion to Recess – To Discuss Lawsuit with Commission

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to recess, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Executive Langley called the meeting back to order.

Executive Langley introduced Art Haskins of Enbridge and asked him to make his presentation. Mr. Haskins stated that Enbridge began this project in June 2021 when TVA stated they were retiring their coal plant in Kingston. The project was approved on April 2, 2025 with the Federal Regulatory Certificate and are on track to start this Fall. They are still working on 2 water permits to be approved. They will repair/restore everything they disrupt and have a third party that will inspect their repair work.

Executive Langley stated that the Resolution for the Amendment to the Private Act 1951 Chapter 467 for County Attorney was approved by the General Assembly on April 22. This allows the county attorney to be appointed and can be from outside the county. Commissioner Anderson stated that Governor Lee signed the bill on May 9th. Executive Langley stated that there are four parties that are interested in the position and he recommends that the county have a committee that will interview the candidates and come back to commission with a recommendation. Executive Langley would like this committee to be 3 members they would be the Sheriff, the EMS Director and 1 Commissioner.

#4 – Motion to Nominate Fred Snow to Committee

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to nominate Fred Snow as commissioner to this hiring committee, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#5 – Motion to Approve the Provisions of SB1463 as it Relates to Morgan County

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the provisions of SB1463, changing the election of County Attorney to an appointed position and also provides for outside of county boundaries, Commissioner Kennedy seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#6 – Motion – Sheriff's Back Pay Approval

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the pay to the current sheriff, which is already being done but did not formally get approved, Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#7 – Motion – To Appoint Anthony Rogers as General Sessions Judge Until Next Election

Commissioner Justes made a motion to appoint Anthony Rogers as General Sessions Judge, Commissioner Lively seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

County Executive wanted to recognize Jenni Goodrich as she Retires. Executive Langley read a prepared statement as well as presented her with a plaque recognizing her accomplishments and her dedication to her job. She will be missed.

#8 – Appointment of UT Extension Advisory Board

Commissioner Justes made a motion to approve the following to the UT Extension Advisory Board, Commissioner Bryant seconded.

County Commissioners
David Hennessee, Gary Kennedy, Rick Plank
Farm Men
Tim Sweat, Peter Penn
Farm Women
Dora Austin, Marsha Taylor

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Budget Committee

#9 – Motion – Budget Amendment 101-33 – Sheriff's Department

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendment 101-33 for Sheriff's Dept. in the amount of \$4,981.00, Commissioner Jackson seconded. Moving insurance recoveries within budget.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#10 – Motion – Budget Amendment 101-35 – Transfers Out

Commissioner Justes made a motion to approve budget amendment 101-35 Transfers Out in the amount of \$535,000.00, Commissioner Bryant seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#11 – Motion – Budget Amendment 171-2 – Transfers In

Commissioner Justes made a motion to approve budget amendment 101-36 for Transfers In in the amount of \$535,000.00, Commissioner Kennedy seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#12 – Motion – Budget Amendment BOE - #55-#63

Commissioner Justes made a motion to approve budget amendments #55-#63 for Board of Education, Commissioner Hennessee seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

#14 – Motion – To Approve Rate Increase for EMS

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the rate increase for EMS from \$700.00 to \$825.00, Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed (17/1) – Commissioner Lindsay - No

Solid Waste

Commissioner Jackson stated that the county continues to haul the Class I to Scott County. Director Kilby is in negotiations with Scott County on a new rate. The rate will be increasing. The pick up prices for businesses will increase from \$45.00 to \$65.00 and the trip fees for contractors will increase from \$25.00 to \$45.00.

#15 – Motion – To Increase Pricing on Pick up Rates for Businesses and Trip Fees for Contractors

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the fee increases as mentioned above, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

Director Kilby has been in contact with Scott County Solid Waste Committee and the rate unofficially will be \$48.50 per ton with an option of 5% price increase each year of the 5 year contract.

Industrial/Economic Committee

Commissioner Lindsay stated that a meeting was held this evening. The resolution that was previously presented failed in committee. Their major concerns were the Obed and how it will impact tourism, they were satisfied with Enbridge's plan. Warning systems will be in place in case of an emergency.

Back Tax Committee

Commissioner Hennessee stated they approve three items and made a motion to approve the following:

Second Advertisement of Vicky Johnson property in Oakdale

Approved Final sale of both tracks of Bruno Schubert property
Advertise for Sale the Mineral Rights on Regina West on Water Tank Hill
Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (18/0)

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

Meeting Schedule

Budget Committee	-	May 19 – 5:30 pm
Budget Committee		May 27 – 5:30 pm