

MORGAN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY

February 12, 2024

Be it remembered that a Morgan County Legislative Session was begun and held in the town of Wartburg, Tennessee on the 12th day of February 2024. The Honorable Brian Langley was present and presiding.

Sheriff Wayne Potter called the session to order.

The following members were present:

Johnny Lindsay, 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 and Steve Walls

Absent were: Vera Scarbrough, Terry Jackson

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

Invocation was led by Pastor Lonnie Cook

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pastor Lonnie Cook

Chairman Langley Executive Report:

ETDD Meeting	ETHRA Meeting
Leadership Morgan	Executive Retreat
Marsha Blackburn Representative	Solid Waste Meeting
Road Committee	Fire/Rescue Meeting

Citizens Comments: None

#1 – Approval of Minutes and Financial Statements

Motion made by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Justes to approve the January 8, 2024, minutes.

Motion passed unanimously (16/0)

#2 – Notaries – Jeffrey Brandon, Stephen Thatcher, Daniel Orange

Motion made by Commissioner Justes to approve the aforementioned notaries applicants; Commissioner Kries seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

Executive Langley introduced Jim Hart – Jail Management Consultant of CTAS/TCI and asked him to make his presentation. Mr. Hart gave a power point presentation on the needs assessment of the jail.

1. Age of jail
2. No separation or classification of inmates within pods
3. Noise separation
4. Booking area not large enough
5. No perimeter security
6. Recreation area not large enough
7. Storage area not large enough
8. Jail Administration – no separate offices
9. Medical Clinic too small
10. Food Service area not large enough

The average number of inmates is in the 70's and the housing is 46 beds. There are 30 men and 16 women. The state prefers less than 85% capacity, which would be 39 beds. Basically, the jail is overcrowded continually, and they are suggesting a new jail

with about 130 beds. Commissioner Roberts asked when should the county start on this? Bob Bass with TCI interjected that the county should have started 8 years ago but the county should begin as soon as fiscally possible. Commissioner Gibson asked if there are fines imposed if the county does not comply. Mr. Bass states that there are no fines, but decertification causes liability problems as well as insurance premium increases. However, liability is the biggest threat.

#3 – Motion – Sheriff's Department Surplus

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to surplus several older vehicles at Sheriff's department, Commissioner Justes seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

Executive Langley asked Sheriff Potter to make his presentation. Sheriff Potter stated that on September 13, 2023, there was a car accident involving a pond and a citizen of Morgan County and an officer with the Sheriff's department jumped right in the pond to help the lady that had wrecked with no thought for themselves. He expressed his gratitude and thankfulness for these individuals. He then presented Jerry Cromwell and Officer Tony Taylor with plaques for their heroism.

Executive Langley then wanted to recognize the emergency personnel that worked on the snowstorm we had in the middle of January. He commended each person that worked to help citizens during that time. He recognized the following departments:

Road Dept. – Joe Miller
Sheriff's Dept. – Sheriff Potter
EMA – Ethan Webb
EMS – Doug Lamance
Rescue Squad – Neil Noe
E911 – Matthew Brown
John Bonham and Bill Rigsby

#4 – Resolution – Urging the Prioritization of TDOT Widening Projects along State Route 62

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the Resolution 2024-02 – Urging the Prioritization of TDOT widening projects along state route 62 from Petit Lane to state route 61, Commissioner Roberts seconded.

Motion passed (16/0)

#5 – Motion – Approval of Morgan County Road List

Commissioner Kries made a motion to approve the road list as presented, Commissioner Gibson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

Budget Committee

#6 – Motion – Budget Amendment 116-6 – Sanitation Management

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendment 116-6 for Sanitation Management in the amount of \$12,500.00, Commissioner Justes seconded. Build Shop at Solid Waste

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

#7 – Motion – Budget Amendment 131-2 – Highway Insurance Recovery

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendment 113-2 for Highway Insurance Recovery in the amount of \$9,469.27, Commissioner Justes seconded. Wrong line item

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

8 – Motion – Budget Amendments BOE - #37-41

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve budget amendments 37-41 for Board of Education, Commissioner Hennessee seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

#10- - Motion – To Approve EMS to Scrap Ambulance and Use for Parts

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to approve the scrapping of ambulance for parts., Commissioner Bryant seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. (16/0)

Solid Waste

Commissioner Lively stated a meeting was held January 29 at Courthouse – discussed non-resident dumping at convenience centers, they are working on safety issues and looking into cardboard issues and recycling.

Meeting February 26 @ 5:00 pm

Building Committee Meeting – March 4th 5:00 pm

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

Meeting Schedule

Budget Committee	-Tuesday – February 20 – 6:00 pm
Budget Committee	-Monday – February 26 = 6:00 pm
Solid Waste Committee	-Thursday – February 29 – 5:00 pm
Building Committee Meeting	-Monday – March 4 – 5:00 pm
Budget Committee	- Monday – March 4 – 6:00 pm
Budget Meeting	- Monday – March 11 – 6:00 pm
Commission Meeting	-Monday – March 11 - 7:00 pm