

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR MORFE WINDOWS, LLC AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY WATER  
GARLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROOM 201  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 @ 1:30 P.M.  
MINUTES

Present: Garland County Judge Rick Davis, Garland County Finance Director Lanie Martin, West Central Arkansas Planning and Development Representative Vicki Anderson, Mountain Valley Water Representative Steve Taylor, and Morfe Windows Chief Technical Officer, Reed Whatley

County Judge Rick Davis opened the meeting and introduced Vicki Anderson, the representative for West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Incorporated. Ms. Anderson explained the reasons for the Second Notice of Public Hearing and asked each company to give a brief overview and update on the progress of their projects. Mr. Steve Taylor, with Mountain Valley Water, spoke first and explained how a preform, which looks like a small plastic tube, is turned into a bottle by using the new machine that was purchased with grant funds. Mr. Taylor noted that Mountain Valley Water completed installation of the machine and began production on April 1, 2018. Taylor also stated that the company's efficiency had improved since installing the new equipment in the bottling facility. Prior to the installation of this piece of equipment, the bottles were transported to another facility to complete the process. In addition, the new machine is more energy efficient. Taylor stated that the new piece of equipment is capable of blowing 35,000 bottles per hour, which is about 140 million bottles per year. Taylor stated that the company currently operates using two twelve-hour shifts. A shift consists of six production people, four quality people, and one maintenance person. Around January 2019, Mountain Valley Water would like to expand the workforce to four eight-hour shifts. The company also expects to increase employment in the transportation and warehouse sections as well.

Judge Davis introduced Reed Whatley, the Chief Technical Officer for Morfe Windows, LLC. Mr. Reed stated that the manufacturing plant in Mountain Pine is operational. Reed noted that Morfe Windows has one shift at this time but expects to expand to two shifts around January 2019. Reed stated that approximately 250 windows are produced each day. Reed also stated that the urban welder, which is a four-point welding system, was purchased using the grant funds. This machine has increased the capacity and speed when welding the window sashes, which is the part of the window that holds the glass and the framework around the glass to keep it in place. Reed noted that the grant funds also purchased the bending units, which are used to form various shapes of windows. Reed pointed out that the only piece of equipment that is not working at this time was the glass line. This piece of equipment was not purchased with the grant funds, but once operational should add five to six jobs to each shift.

Ms. Anderson stated that all the grant funds had been expended for the equipment purchases. Judge Davis said that the county appreciates the jobs created by these companies. With no further questions or comments, Judge Davis adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lanie Martin  
Garland County Finance Director

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Rick Davis  
Garland County Judge