

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRYAN COLLIER, PAUL PRATHER, DAVE ZOLLER, KIM MERIDETH, DAN ELLIOTT, AND VIRGINIA PERRY. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT; AND ROD BRAY, COUNTY ATTORNEY. VICKIE KIVETT WAS ABSENT.

AFTER MANY COMMENTS REGARDING HIS SUIT, (PHOTO BELOW) MR. COLLIER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER.



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (*Virginia Perry*)

PRAYER (*Daniel Elliott*)

**Transfers:**

- *Sheriff*

Sheriff Robert Downey was present to request a transfer of \$40,000 from Acct #1000-105-4221 (Gas) and \$5,000 1000-105-4221.10 (Oil & Tires) into Acct #1000-105-4444 (Patrol Cars). Sheriff Downey stated that the Council granted two additional officers but there weren't additional funds for vehicle maintenance. Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the transfer as listed above. Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 6-0. (Vickie Kivett was absent.)

- *Jail*

Sheriff Downey requested a transfer of \$5,000 from Account #1000-135-4117 (Correction Officer) to Acct #1000-135-4363 (Maintenance). Sheriff Downey stated that these funds will be used for end of the year maintenance costs. Kim Merideth made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

**Police Retirement Plan Amendment**

Sheriff Downey stated that during the budget hearings, he stated that he would drop the benefits from 80% of the prosecutor's pay basis to 60%. This would take effect January 1, 2019. Morgan Stanley, the company managing the plan, stated that this was a smart move and will help out the pension plan in the future. Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the "Second Amendment to Morgan County Police Retirement Plan". Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 6-0.

**Transfers:**

- *Coroner*

Annette Rohlman, Morgan County Coroner, was present to request a transfer of \$1,500 from Acct #1000-107-4312.20 (Lab/Xray) to Acct# 1000-107-4440 (Equip/Furn) for the purchase two televisions and closet doors. The televisions will be used for training and the review of crime scene photographs. The closet doors were overlooked when the building was remodeled. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

- *Extension*

Jan Walters, Morgan County Extension Office, was present to request a transfer \$451.50 from Account #1000-126-4361 (Rental Lease) into Account #1000-126-4211 (Supplies). Ms. Walters stated that a portion of the postage fees comes from the postage and part from supplies for pre-stamped envelopes. Virginia Perry made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0.

- *Plan Commission*

Kenny Hale, Morgan County Planning Commission Director, was present to request a transfer of \$4,000 from Acct #1000-127-4124 (Assistant Inspector) and \$3,200 from Acct #1000-127-4176 (Plan Commission Board) to Acct #1000-127-4362 (Contractual Services). Mr. Hale stated that Morgan County has a pilot program with 39° N for an online permitting process. This amount covers the 2016 and 2017 maintenance agreement. Daniel Elliott made a motion to approve the transfer as requested. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

Paul Prather asked how the mapping process and cell phones interacted. Mr. Hale stated that sometimes it is hard to pinpoint a cell phone call location, but they were working on it.

- *Court Services*

Carole Kinder, Morgan County Court Services Director, was present to request a transfer of \$2,394.40 from Acct #1000-140-4395 (Instruction/Education) to Acct #1000-140-4195 (Sick Time Payout). Ms. Kinder stated that there are two employees that did not use all their sick days. Virginia Perry made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

- *Veterans' Service Officer*

Rick Baum, Veterans' Service Officer, was present to request a transfer of \$250 from Acct #1000-152-4361 (VectraSpec) to Acct #1000-140-4211 (Office Supplies). Mr. Baum stated that there were funds available through a grant for VectraSpec and these funds could now be used for printer toner. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0.

- *EMS*

Troy Whedon, Morgan County EMS Deputy Director, was present to request a transfer of \$2,500 from Acct #1151-000-4342 (Insurance) to Acct #1151-000-4441 (Equip/Furn). Mr. Whedon stated that these funds would be used to pay for pagers at the Paragon and Morgantown stations. Paul Prather asked why there were extra funds in the insurance account. Mr. Whedon stated that there was a misunderstanding regarding the monthly insurance cost and too much was budgeted. Dave Zoller made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Whedon also handed out information and quotes regarding the remodel of three satellite locations. Kim Merideth stated that there is termite damage to the Paragon location and they should proceed with caution in using taxpayer money to make major repairs to something the taxpayers do not own. Daniel Elliott stated that there should be an interlocal agreement in effect for the use of the property. Bryan Collier asked that EMS hold off on making any repairs. Dan Bastin mentioned the possibility of building on property the county owns, but it is all FEMA property and nothing can be built on it.

Mr. Whedon stated that EMS does not have any portable radios, they are using EMA's radios and Martinsville Fire Department is letting them use their old radios, but they plan on selling them back to Motorola. EMS asked for funds for computers in the 2018 budget, but they were able to obtain the computers this year. Mr. Whedon asked if the Council would permit the purchase of radios in 2018 instead of the computers. The Council replied that the funds are in the budget and it is still equipment, so there would not be a problem.

- *EMA*

Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA Director, was present to request a transfer of \$2,660 from Acct#1000-132-4213 (Operating Supplies) to Acct #1000-132-4362 (Contractual Services). Mr. Tumey stated that these funds will be used to cover the contract expenses with VIA. They purchased six more computers in addition to the computers they already had. Paul Prather made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Daniel Elliott. Motion carried 6-0.

**Highway Pay Rate** – *Experienced/Part-time Equipment Operators*

Marvin "Sport" Whaley, Acting Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that the part time rate of pay is sufficient for mowing side ditches, taking asphalt tickets, or checking sign reflections, but operating heavy equipment or driving snowplows requires a CDL license. There will be two drivers leaving at the first of the year and he will not be able to replace them until all their vacation, sick, and comp time is paid out. There are a few retired employees that have CDLs and knowledge of the roads that could be called upon to fill in in a pinch; however Mr. Whaley felt uncomfortable calling them in at the part-time pay rate. Mr. Whaley suggested a

\$20 rate of pay for an experienced driver. Dan Bastin stated that this would require an amendment to the 2018 Salary Ordinance. Paul Prather asked if the drivers would only be called upon in emergency situations. Mr. Whaley agreed. Mr. Bastin stated that the description he used for the salary ordinance amendment was “part-time experienced truck driver, equipment operator, and laborer.” Mr. Prather was concerned that this would cause other departments to also want a higher part-time rate of pay for experienced employees. Discussion followed regarding the definition of an emergency. Kim Merideth stated that the 2018 Salary Ordinance has been set and that it should not be changed until budget time. Virginia Perry stated that bringing in a retired employee at a higher rate probably wouldn’t set well with other employees. Dave Zoller stated that there is a lot of time involved in getting a CDL license. Mr. Whaley thanked the Council for their time.

### **Veterans’ Service Officer**

Norman Voyles, Morgan County Commissioner President, was present to request that the Veterans’ Service Officer position be a full time position rather than a part-time position. Mr. Voyles stated that the position is currently a 28 hour position and now that veterans know that there is an office, appointments have exploded. If the position is changed, an additional appropriation to cover the \$12,848 compensation could be requested in March or before the end of the year. Kim Merideth applauded the Commissioners for filling the position; she has heard nothing but good. Rick Baum, Veteran’s Service Officer, thanked the Commissioners and Council and stated he was humbled to represent them. Veterans are bringing \$22 million into the county in pensions and benefits. There are approximately 5,000 to 6,000 veterans in the county. His office averages four appointments a day and is booked two weeks out. It takes several appointments in order to submit a fully developed federal claim; however he has been able to submit more state and local claims such as property tax exemptions and tuition waivers. He has been putting in more time than the 28 hours outlined in the position. Several county VSO offices have assistants and this could free up more time to work on claims. Daniel Elliott stated that he realized that this issue might be a budget time issue; however, this department has been started from scratch and there are things the Commissioners and Council were not aware of last year when the budget was submitted. Mr. Elliott stated that he would like time to study the issue and bring it back up at the next meeting. Paul Prather stated that it is important to have a complete application or it will delay the process. Mr. Prather stated that he was in total support of having a full time office.

Mr. Baum stated that another concern is having transportation for veterans to make it to doctor appointments. They need a vehicle and a contingent of volunteer drivers as well as someone to organize the drivers and vehicle. Mr. Baum stated that he does not have the time to do this, but it would be a great volunteer position for the right person.

Mr. Prather asked how to move forward in honoring the request to make the position full time. Dan Bastin stated that they could amend the 2018 Salary Ordinance, at this meeting or a future meeting, or they could wait until budget time for the 2019 Salary Ordinance. Mr. Elliott stated that this is a new department and he would like time to look into the issue. Mr. Prather asked that it be put on the next agenda. Kim Merideth stated that they have turned down other departments and didn’t think they should set the salary ordinance and then change it.

Mark Tumey stated that Mr. Baum has been helping him complete an application and it takes numerous hours. It will probably be another two months before he gets in to see any doctors. There are veterans out there that don’t have the six to eight months to a year to complete an application. Mr. Tumey asked that the Council seriously consider increasing the position to full time so the veterans that need help can get it.

Bryan Collier stated that in fairness to the office, it was discussed at budget time that this was a new office and a moving target. Mr. Collier thanked Mr. Tumey for his comments and asked for a consensus to add this item and the highway request to the next agenda. The Councilmembers agreed.

### **Agenda**

Virginia Perry stated that there were two items put on the agenda at the last minute and she did not think it was fair to add items and ask the Council to vote on it when they haven’t done any research. They are not taking care of the taxpayer’s dollars when they haven’t done their due diligence. Mr. Bastin stated that he did not have a problem with a cut-off date for agenda items, but he needs to know. Mr. Collier stated that the Council is responsible for a lot of money and a lot of budgets and they need to do their homework. Mr. Collier apologized to Mr. Bastin for not

conveying earlier that there has been an unspoken rule of at least one week's notice for any agenda item.

**Appointments**

Virginia Perry made a motion to reappoint Daniel Elliott to both the Economic Development Corporation Board and the Data Board. Motion seconded by Paul Prather. Motion carried 6-0.

**2018 Salary Ordinance Amendment**

Dan Bastin stated that in the 2018 Salary Ordinance, under Title IV-D Incentive Fund (8897) there was not a part time pay rate approved. This would be the regular \$11.25 per hour rate. Paul Prather made a motion to approve a part time rate of \$11.25. Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjournment**

Kim Merideth made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Virginia Perry. Motion carried 6-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Bryan Collier

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Paul Prather

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Daniel Elliott

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Vickie Kivett

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Dave Zoller

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Kim Merideth

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Virginia Perry

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor