

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL MELISSA GREENE AND CHIP KELLER. ALSO PRESENT WERE DAN BASTIN, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Coroner Quarterly Update/Additional

Mike Ellis, Morgan County Coroner, handed out a quarterly report and stated that there have been 124 deaths so far this year, compared to 121 total last year. Mr. Ellis requested an additional appropriation of \$50,000 from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.31230.000.0007 (Autopsy). Mr. Ellis demonstrated how small one gram is (a packet of artificial sweetener) and explained that this amount of fentanyl is enough to kill 250 adults. Mr. Ellis stated that this drug is being mixed with street drugs and the combination is killing people. He has been on 19 overdoses so far this year. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes – 8/1/22 and 8/15-16/22

Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the August 1 and August 15-16, 2022 minutes. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriations:

- *Commissioners*

Josh Messmer stated that they talked about this item at budget time. This \$25,000 request is for PR (Public Relations) services. There are a lot of things happening in the county, from the Justice Center Project, ARPA, to the recently uncovered log house. There is a need to tell the county's story and let the community know what is going on. The Council has requested that the Commissioners get the ball rolling. The Commissioners will put out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and these services will be contracted and not an employee. Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from the Riverboat Revenue Sharing Fund into Acct #1191.31500.000.0068 (Professional Services). Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$1.7 million from the ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (8950) into Acct #8950.39008.000.0068 (Aquifer Study). Mr. Messmer stated that at the first ARPA Committee meeting, one of the recommendations was for a study on the aquifer within the county in order to protect it and possibly commoditize it. Since the request was submitted, they have received a proposal of \$1.26 million. There was a study done through the IFA (Indiana Finance Authority) to determine where there were water issues and good sources of water. There are areas of aquifers that are being depleted and the aquifer in Morgan County was determined to be a resource. The IFA reached out and suggested that an in depth study be done and even offered funds for water testing. The county cannot protect what they can't quantify and this is the first step in the process. Chip Keller stated that they don't want to be in the same position that they are in in the southwest. Mr. Messmer stated that it is a long process. Bryan Collier, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that right now they can do nothing if someone would pull all the water out and sell it. They need to determine the how quickly the water table replenishes itself. They would not want someone digging in their backyard and taking all the gold; water is becoming more of a precious commodity. There will be approximately 48 test wells all across the county in areas where they want to test the water; these will be monitored for three years. Kelly Alcala stated that the entire committee was 100% behind this decision and it was an excellent was to use the funds. Kelly Alcala made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$1.3 million. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Health Department*

Jeanne LaFary and Cyndy Wells, Morgan County Health Department, were present to request an additional appropriation from the ARP Health Issues Fund (8952) as follows:

- \$15,500 into Acct #8952.11510.000.0000 (Part-time RN)
- 1,200 into Acct #8952.16510.000.0000 (FICA)
- 300 into Acct #8952.21100.000.0000 (Office Supplies)
- 841 into Acct #8952.31220.000.0000 (Lab & X-rays)
- 841 into Acct #8952.31505.000.0000 (Professional /Medical Services)
- 100 into Acct #8952.32200.000.0000 (Postage)
- 300 into Acct #8952.32300.000.0000 (Travel)
- 500 into Acct #8952.39500.000.0000 (Instruction/Education)
- \$19,582 Total

Ms. LaFary stated that this is for a lead program that the state has a grant for. This is a two-year grant. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Auditor*

Dan Bastin requested an additional appropriation of \$1,000 from the Plat Book Fund (1181) into Acct #1181.39265.000.0000 (Document Management). Mr. Bastin stated that this is connected to the project related to scanning in transfer cards and transfer books. The documents will be available online. If other offices want to add documents to the online portal, it would be available to them for a fee of \$250 per month. The amount for the Auditor's Office is included in the 2023 budget. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

- *EMS*

Jon Joseph, Morgan County EMS Director, was present to request the following additional appropriation:

- \$13,000 1151.15600.000.0000 (Director)
- 52,700 1151.15612.000.0000 (Duty Officer)
- 15,000 1151.15625.000.0000 (EMT)
- 30,000 1151.19700.000.0000 (Holiday Pay)
- 50,000 1151.22000.000.0000 (Ambulance Supplies)
- 25,000 1151.22111.000.0000 (Gas/Oil/Tires)
- 2,700 1151.32002.000.0000 (Cell Phone)
- 11,000 1151.36100.000.0000 (Contractual Services)
- 41,000 1151.36400.000.0000 (Vehicle Maintenance/Repair)
- 30,000 1151.39101.000.0000 (Interlocal Agreement)
- \$270,800 Total

Mr. Joseph stated that some line items were running short even before inflation, but some items such as gas, and supplies have taken an unexpected increase due to inflation. He has been working with Dan Bastin to get the budget more in line. Mr. Bastin stated that there will be other accounts that will be short, but they are hoping that they will be able to take care of this with transfers. Kelly Alcalá asked if there are funds for an inventory tracking system. Mr. Joseph stated that the system they tried was very cumbersome and slow and didn't work. They are trying to set up some other options; if nothing else, an Excel spreadsheet. The EDOs are the only ones that have keys to the supply area. Supplies that are used on runs are documented. Vickie Kivett stated that they have confidence in him. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcalá. Motion carried 7-0.

Transfers:

- *Weights & Measures*

Josh Messmer stated that Scotty Manley, Morgan County Weights & Measures Director, was not able to be present. The Weights & Measures vehicle was kept in the garage on Mulberry Street, because of the Justice Center Project, that building will no longer exist. Mr. Manley was able to find money within his budget to construct a structure at the EMA/Dispatch building that will cover the vehicle and protect the equipment from the elements. Mr. Manley requested a transfer of \$2,199.12 from Acct #1000.37100.000.0308 (Equipment Rental) and \$1,100 from Acct #1000.40000.000.0308 (Equipment) into Acct #1000.44005.000.0308 (Garage/Carport). Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

- *Election*

Tammy Parker, Morgan County Clerk, was present to request a transfer of \$3,000 from Acct #1000.4000.000.0062 (Equipment) to Acct #1000.32200.000.0062 (Postage). Kelly Alcalá made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Confirmatory Resolution Public Hearing – Deckers Outdoor Corporation

Kim Merideth opened the public hearing for the Confirmatory Resolution of the County Council of Morgan County, Indiana Approving Personal Property Tax Abatement.

Mike Dellinger, Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, stated that the Declaratory Resolution was approved in August for the spec building in Westpoint Business Park. The resolution approved the \$50 million project for personal property to compliment the \$55 million 750,000 square foot spec building. Mr. Dellinger introduced Suzan Mills with EY, (tax consultant for the project) and Marsha Baker with Deckers. This is a ten-year abatement on the personal property.

Kim Merideth asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none. Kelly Alcalá made a motion to approve the Confirmatory Resolution. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing – Harrison Township Fire District

Jason Maxwell made a motion to recess the meeting. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth.

Vickie Kivett made a motion to open the public hearing for Harrison Township Fire District.

Kim Merideth asked if there were any questions or comments from the public or any comments from a Harrison Township Fire District representative. There were no comments.

Vickie Kivett made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing – Monroe Township Fire District

Kelly Alcalá made a motion to open the public hearing for the Monroe Township Fire District. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Fire Chief Chris Mills and Advisory Board Chairman Mike Wagner were present to answer any questions. Chief Mills handed out a copy of their budget. Mr. Wagner stated that the Council used to allow a portion of the LOIT Public Safety for fire departments and they haven't received it for four or five years; it would really be a help right now. They have had extra costs with high fuel prices and they have also been sued by Walmart for the fire they assisted with at their Plainfield warehouse. They have 20 sets of gear that will expire next October. They have warehouses being built and another 260 homes are going in across from the Homestead development. Vickie Kivett stated that she would like to see some of the ARPA funds go to some of the fire departments. Kim Merideth stated that the LOIT funds went to the wayside when the county had to fund EMS services. Ms. Kivett asked how they were doing on the five-year plan. Chief Mills stated that it would fall together if they had more money. There were no public comments. Troy Sprinkle thanked them for the work they do and made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Kelly Alcalá. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing – Morgan County

Kelly Alcalá made a motion to open the public hearing for the Morgan County budget. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0. There were no public questions or comments. Vickie Kivett made a motion to close the hearing. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer's Earned Interest Report

Terry Clelland, Morgan County Treasurer, stated that Josh Messmer and Dan Bastin suggested to her that it would be a good idea for the Council to see how much interest the county is earning quarterly on accounts. Ms. Clelland handed out information showing the amount earned through August from First Merchants and Home Bank (\$243,816.88). These are sweep accounts and not investments. Kim Merideth suggested that they look into shopping rates.

Other Business

Tony Hinkle, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that they had submitted a transfer request for the meeting, but it was determined after the submission deadline that they would need an additional appropriation instead. Two years ago, in the transfer agreement with INDOT, they were given \$250,000 specifically for a brine system and brine system equipment. This is in the MVH fund, but has not been appropriated because they do not currently have the room to house the system. The shop foreman has found a system that can be retrofitted on the vehicles and a mixer that can be utilized on the highway grounds. Mr. Hinkle requested approval to order the equipment so it will arrive in time to use this winter. They will be able to put this on main roads

24 hours before a storm hits. They will start a trial this year with four tanks and four sprayer applications for \$45,000. Grant Collinsworth stated that they want to start with baby steps to see how this will work in the county. The Council was agreeable to this proposal.

Budget

Dan Bastin handed out updated budgets with 3% plus \$500 wage increases and \$2,500 for public safety employees. The budget adoption will be October 19th. If there are no changes, this will be the amount that is the adopted budget.

There will be a Special Meeting on October 25th at 5 pm and the November 7th meeting has been moved to the 9th at 6:30 pm.

HR Update

Daree Fry, HR Director, stated that the Auditor's Office has updated all their job descriptions. The job maintenance committee met earlier and approved the descriptions that have also been approved by WIS (Waggoner Irwin & Scheele). The Council allowed an additional position for the Auditor's Office for 2023; however, Linda Pruitt, Auditor-Elect, Dan Bastin and Terry Clelland have gotten together and come up with a solution that they think the Council will like. Dan Bastin stated that for the 2022 budget, there was a position that has not been filled. The Auditor and Treasurer are proposing sharing a position. The new position in the Auditor's Office will be shared with the Treasurer's Office for approximately 12 weeks out of the year during the Treasurer's busy time, and that employee will be in the Auditor's Office the rest of the year. The rate of pay will be the same in both offices, but will be a bit more time in the Auditor's Office since it is a 40 hr/week position and the Treasurer's Office is a 35 hr/week position. There is an employee in the Treasurer's Office that is interested in this position. There are also changes happening in the Auditor's Office with digitized records and less of a workload in the future. There could be more opportunities for shared positions. The Council applauded these offices for initiating this process.

Thank You

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, thanked the Council for all the work they did in the budgeting process.

AIC Update

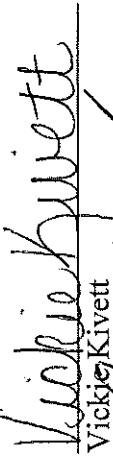
Vickie Kivett stated that there were approximately a dozen employees, office holders and elected officials that attended AIC. She attended a roundtable regarding non-profits that help in communities and a representative from Cook outlined how they provided affordable housing in Orange County. They gave ideas on how to help provide housing for employees to stay in the area.

Adjournment

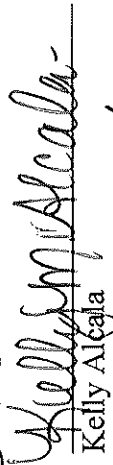
Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

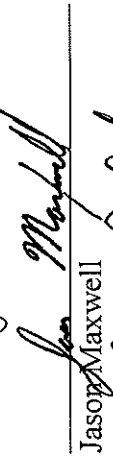
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

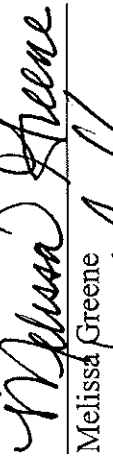

Kim Meredith

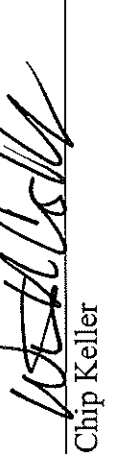

Vickie Kivett


Troy Sprinkle


Kelly Alcalá


Jason Maxwell


Melissa Greene


Chip Keller

ATTEST:


Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor