

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Lydia Glaize - FEMA*

MINUTES – 4/3/23

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

INSURANCE RENEWAL

Josh Messmer stated that with inflation and replacement costs, they expected a higher renewal quote for the insurance; however, the quote for the property and liability insurance came back with a 6% increase. Steve McConnell, Morgan County Insurance, was very happy with this rate and recommended accepting the renewal with Travelers. The cost would be \$1,016, 057.00 and this includes worker's comp. Don Adams made a motion to approve the renewal with Travelers and authorize Josh Messmer to sign the contract on the Board of Commissioners' behalf. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BOT AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that the BOT agreement for Phase I was signed approximately one year ago, they went through a financing process, and have completed all the steps for Phase II, except signing the BOT agreement with GM Development. This agreement reflects the bond proceed totals and includes the mechanics of payments and title transfer. Taft Law has reviewed the agreement and recommends it for approval. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the BOT agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

SBA UPDATE / FEMA UPDATE

Delvonnie Burgess, US Small Business Administration, was present to provide the Board with a disaster assistance update. Ms. Burgess stated that they have received 16 applications and approved \$384,000 of loans. Statewide, there were over 1,800 applications referred to SBA and out of these referrals, 160 applications were received. Homes constitute the highest number of applications and there have been over 1,500 applications received statewide. Over \$4 million has been approved so far. SBA is here to assist every applicant that was affected, including renters, homeowners, businesses and non-profits. Ms. Burgess stated that they are at the fairgrounds and encouraged residents to get the assistance that they need. The deadline is June 14th. The business interest rate is 4% and the homeowner, business and non-profit rate is 2.365%.

Lydia Glaize, FEMA Intergovernmental Specialist, thanked the Commissioners for the help they have provided and introduced Roberto Baltrodano, FEMA External Affairs Officer. Mr. Baltrodano stated that FEMA provides grants for minor repairs, clothing, food and items that were lost in a disaster so people can get back to work, back on their feet, so they can be functional again and the local economy doesn't start to crumble. They have approved over \$5.5 million, the bulk of it through SBA (\$4 million). SBA is not a conventional loan, it is a federal disaster loan with low interest and a long term. Mr. Baltrodano stated that when applying for FEMA, residents should also apply with SBA. The bulk of the recovery funds will come from private insurance or savings, or the SBA. The next step after registering with FEMA is a phone call from an inspector. The inspector will verify that the address is correct and the losses are legitimate. If there is no inspection, there is no claim. After the inspection, the resident will receive a determination letter within 7 to 10 days. If the letter states that they have been declined, this is typically because they are missing information or the application is incomplete. Applicants may appeal up to three times. Applicants have until June 14th to apply.

Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA Director, stated that it has been wonderful working with FEMA and SBA. Mr. Tumey wanted to thank Kathy Halterman in the Auditor's Office for the forms she prepared to submit to FEMA, Deb Verley supplied anything they needed, Josh Messmer helped immensely, and Davey Skaggs, Abby Worth, (EMA) and Steve Lyday (Emergency Health Preparedness) worked hard and put in a lot of hours.

All the information has been submitted for public assistance, the damage assessment team has a limited presence; they had 2,900 contacts in the county. Mr. Tumey stated that the lesson learned from this is that the Comprehensive Emergency Plan needs to nail down the specifics. They have an intern from Vincennes that will be working with Abby Worth and several other counties to get the paperwork approved. The Board thanked the EMA crew for all they do.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Steve Lyday, Morgan County Emergency Health Preparedness Coordinator, presented an Emergency Response Plan that outlines how the Health Department responds to various emergencies throughout the county. The plan is also approved by the Sheriff, Coroner, Board of Health and Emergency Management Agency. Bryan Collier noted that this is a living document. Mr. Lyday stated that it is reviewed every year. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Morgan County Health Department Emergency Operation Plan. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

SRI AGREEMENT

Linda Pruitt stated that SRI is the company that does the county's tax sale every year. They are increasing their fee to \$125. The county fee is an additional \$25. This fee will apply to any properties that are eligible for tax sale as of July 1st. Kenny Hale stated that SRI has done a great job for many years. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ANNUAL HIGHWAY REPORT

Grant Collinsworth, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that he has compiled the 2022 Annual Report for the local roads, streets and bridges and it is ready for submittal to the state. Included in the report is the budget for the 2024 season. Don Adams made a motion to approve the report and submit it to the state. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 2-0. (Kenny Hale stepped out of the room.) Mr. Collinsworth noted that there wasn't much cost management in the past, but this report summarizes what project product was used on and thanked the employees at the Highway Department for their contribution in bringing the department up to a professional standard.

ROAD STUDIES – *Hadley Rd, Godsey Rd, Centennial Rd, New Harmony Rd*

Mr. Collinsworth stated that there is new development in the Hadley Road area and the Highway Department has received phone calls regarding the speed limit in the area. USI did a study in the area and recommended that centerline and edge line striping be applied and a solar powered speed radar sign be installed for westbound traffic east of Landersdale Road. Mr. Collinsworth has requested quotes for striping and the solar powered sign is approximately \$3,800.

The study USI completed for Godsey Road stated that the road meets design criteria for 40 MPH and they recommended adding a speed limit sign along Turkey Track Road, south of the Godsey Road intersection.

No changes were recommended for the Centennial Road and Old Morgantown Road intersection.

USI recommended that the intersection of New Harmony and Cragen Road be monitored. If there is driver confusion, the county should move forward with an intersection improvement that reduces driver confusion and provided a diagram showing where stop signs and yield signs should be installed. Mr. Collinsworth stated that if there is an accident that shuts down I-69, traffic will be detoured through this area and not having traffic control in place before this happens is asking for trouble.

Mr. Collinsworth stated that he has learned that LTAP offers studies free of charge, but the county might have to wait for six months before it can be completed. Mr. Collinsworth stated that they will try to utilize them for some of the studies. Kenny Hale made a motion to accept the recommendations of the studies as presented. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

CLINICAL AGREEMENT

Summer Brown, Morgan County EMS Director, submitted an agreement with Columbus Regional Hospital Training Institute. This agreement would allow employees who are attending the institute to do their EMT advanced clinicals with Morgan County EMS. There are currently two employees that are attending. The county has a similar agreement with Ivy Tech. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint Bryan Collier to the newly formed Finance Committee.

This committee consists of two Council members, a Commissioner, County Auditor, County Treasurer, HR Director and County Administrator. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

SCANNING SERVICES

Deb Verley presented a Commissioner minute book from 1867. This is the oldest book in storage. The book, along with others is falling apart. Ms. Verley obtained a proposal from IRA / SBS Portals to scan approximately 37 Commissioner books, 7 Council books and some HR records for an approximate cost of \$8,653.38. This scanning process would also make the records searchable. Bryan Collier stated that they need to move in this direction in order to preserve the records and eliminate storage needs. There is a setup fee and a monthly maintenance cost. Linda Pruitt stated that this could be an additional module on the Auditor's portal and noted that she is happy with the work they have done in scanning Auditor records; it just hasn't been a very fast process. Bryan Collier stated that he believed it is the Board's responsibility to proceed. In his research for today's groundbreaking ceremony for the new Judicial Campus, he was presented with the following information: "On the 31st of March 1876, the records of the county in the offices of the clerk and auditor were largely consumed by fire; supposed to have been done by some rascally official to conceal evidence of his crimes". Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement for scanning services. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2023-12 PARK FEES – 2nd Reading

Kenny Hale noted that a second reading was not waived for Ordinance 2023-12, an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 35.48 of the Morgan County Code of Ordinances Concerning Fees at Morgan County Parks and made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Julie Keister, on behalf of the Rally in the Valley 5K, requested use of the Courthouse Square on Saturday, June 24th. They have obtained approval from the city to leave from the fairgrounds, down Washington Street, Jefferson and Columbus. They would like to use the parking area of the Courthouse as this will make it 5K exactly. This will be in conjunction with the Antique Machinery Show and proceeds will benefit Stability First. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

TORT CLAIMS

Don Adams made a motion to submit the Mills tort claims to the insurance company. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Bryan Collier stated that they had a groundbreaking ceremony for the Judicial Campus prior to the meeting and it is a very exciting time in the history of Morgan County.

Don Adams stated that there was a ribbon cutting for Monrovia's Town Hall and it's exciting to see things grow. Mooresville is getting ready for its bicentennial next year. There is a lot to celebrate.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Bryan Collier

Attest:

Don Adams

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale