

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023 AT 9:30 A.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 – *Kenny Hale*

CLAIMS

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the May 12 and 26, 2023 payroll claims of \$749,011.59 and \$726,563.36; PERF \$67,649.80 and \$65,760.71; FICA \$54,622.82 and \$52,919.97 and monthly claims of \$3,252,264.24. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES – 5/15/23

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

GRANT APPLICATION – *Court Services*

Miranda Beauchamp, Morgan County Court Services, was present to request approval to apply for a \$60,000 Justice Partners Addictions Response Grant through the Indiana Office of Court Services and Family and Social Services Administration. This grant would be used to address the opioid and substance abuse crisis by providing funding for the Court Community Outreach liaison who works to develop community networking and coordination of services. This person has also started the local suicide overdose fatality review board. This will be the fifth year for this grant. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION - *Sheriff*

Sheriff Rich Myers was present to request approval of a \$55,000 Click It or Ticket Grant through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. This grant is used by different agencies within the county to work overtime to enforce seatbelt and car seat use, high speed visibility, etc. Don Adams noted that he contributed to the “fund” because he did not “click it” and made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – *Morgan County Health Department*

Carol Bruner, Morgan County Health Department, requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Morgan County Health Department and the Adult and Child Health Services in the Martinsville School District. This just extends the agreement but does not change it. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TAKE HOME VEHICLE APPLICATIONS - *EMS*

Josh Messmer stated that some departments have take-home vehicles. EMS now has two co-directors and this formalizes their ability to take vehicles home. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the take-home vehicle applications for Summer Brown and Brent Worth. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE #2023-14 – *Stop Sign*

Josh Messmer stated that at the previous meeting, the Board was presented with several studies. One of the studies recommended installing traffic control at the intersection of Cragen Road and New Harmony Road. This ordinance authorizes the placement of a stop sign that will require northbound traffic on Cragen Road to stop at the intersection of New Harmony, a stop sign that will require eastbound traffic on New Harmony to stop at Cragen Road and a stop sign that will require westbound traffic on New Harmony to stop at Cragen Road. Bryan Collier stated that this was professionally engineered. Don Adams made a motion to approve the ordinance and waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

EMPLOYEE REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTY

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that an employee that was on a leave of absence chose not to return when their leave was over. During the leave, the county paid the employee’s insurance premiums. According to the Employee Handbook, Page 49, Section 4.3.6A, “If an

employee chooses not to return to work for reasons other than a continuing serious health condition of the employee or the employee’s family member, or a circumstance beyond the employee’s control, the county shall require the employee to reimburse the employer the amount it paid for the employee’s health insurance premium during the leave period.” The County Attorney sent the employee a letter in March requesting reimbursement, but has not received a response. Ms. Fry asked if the Board would like to go the next step and file in small claims court. Bryan Collier stated that it is the Board’s responsibility to protect the taxpayer. Ms. Fry suggested that they send another letter offering to set up payments and if there is no response, then they can take the next step. Jim Wisco stated that if the Board obtained a judgement, they would probably take payments but court filing fees, attorney fees and 8% interest would also be added. Don Adams made a motion that the County Attorney send a letter offering to accept payments for three months and outline the next steps if reimbursement is not made. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MOORESVILLE SENIOR CENTER

Krysti Corona, Mooresville Senior Center Executive Director, stated that the Senior Center is a non-profit entity that serves not just Mooresville seniors, but other areas as well. They had a flood in 2022 that caused them to close the facility and they have been meeting at an alternate site. They are in need of \$22,000 to fix an underlying issue that was not part of the flood, which includes termite damage. They are not asking for the whole amount, but are asking for assistance from entities that they have not reached out to in the past. Their insurance will cover the flood damage, but will not cover the termite damage. They receive support from the Town of Mooresville, Madison Township Fire and Brown Township Fire. They have requested additional funds from these entities. They have a fund raiser scheduled for October. Don Adams stated that he was a former member of the board and is aware of the financial constraints. This entity serves a specific area of the county and the county is not able to support every municipality’s need. Mr. Adams stated that while he is sympathetic to the need, there is an opportunity to borrow funds and pay it back over time and Mr. Adams suggested that they look into this. Kenny Hale stated that the Community Foundation and Kendrick Foundation provide opportunities for grants and could also be resources. Ms. Corona thanked the Board for their advice and for the opportunity to present the request.

2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Bryan Collier stated that he would like to speak with a few Council members before approving the schedule. Don Adams made a motion to table the 2024 Holiday Schedule. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TORT CLAIM

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

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Bryan Collier stated that he was driving across the beautiful vastness of the US from Washington with his daughter, he realized that our time here is so short and the Board of Commissioners is blessed to lead the county, but they must rely upon other elected officials and department heads to make it a go. The hills in Morgan County aren’t as tall and the rivers not as swift, but Mr. Collier feels very blessed to live in beautiful Morgan County. Mr. Collier wanted to thank the fellow Board members, department heads and taxpayers.

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