

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, JASON MAXWELL, CHIP KELLER, MELISSA GREENE AND BRIAN CULP. ALSO PRESENT WERE; LINDA PRUITT, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

NOTE: Kim Merideth noted that the internet was not working because of damages from the tornado and there would be no live stream of the meeting.

Minutes

Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the March 6, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Storm Update

Steve Lyday, Morgan County Health Preparedness Director, stated that Mark Tumey, EMA Director, was out today with IDHS and FEMA assessing damage. An Emergency Order has been drafted and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Shelter operations have been opened and temporary vouchers have been issued. Red Cross has offered to staff and manage the shelter (at the fairgrounds) for two more days. Everyone has been working hard to do what they've done. Community groups have pulled together to provide meals. Superior Court I Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen stated that they have fed over 300 people out of St. Martin's Catholic Church, either delivered or in person. They made over 400 hot dogs at the parks for families and linemen.

Transfer:

• *Superior I*

Superior Court I Judge Dakota VanLeeuwen, was present to request a transfer of \$550 from Acct#1000.45100.000.0201 (Law Books) to Acct #1000.32300.000.0201 (Travel & Lodging) and \$250 from Acct#1000.45100.000.0201 (Law Books) to Acct #1000.36201.000.0201 (Dues & Subscriptions). This will be used for additional training and to further Judge VanLeeuwen's education. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation:

• *911 Dispatch*

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Dispatch Director, was present to request an additional appropriation of \$149,620 from the PSAP Operating Fund (4914) into Acct #4914.31508.000.0000 (Contractual Services). Mr. Hamilton stated that in moving funds around during budget time, it was suggested that this amount come from ARPA funds, but Josh Messmer stated that he would rather not take this expense from the ARPA Fund. \$79,250 is needed to finish out the year's contractual service obligations and \$70,380 is for year one of a 5-year agreement for the recording system. The amount to pay the total cost of the recording system was \$215,000, but this is not a large discount for paying for it up front. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$149,620. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0. This amount was reduced by DLGF to \$148,060.

Budget Reduction:

• *Highway Department*

Bryan Collier, Morgan County Commissioner, requested a budget reduction of \$2,000,000.00 from the Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund (9110) Acct #9110.36002.000.9606 (CCMG Paving). This was budgeted, but since the matching grant was awarded the prior year (2022), the county can't apply for 2023. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the budget reduction. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Tornado Update

Kenny Hale, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that he talked to Homeland Security and legal counsel for the Governor today and they are pushing to add Morgan County for disaster

relief. They should know by tomorrow if the county is included in the emergency disaster proclamation. The state will then request federal assistance at 75%.

Pro Build donated 80 sheets of OSB and Catholic Charities donated tarps.

Transfer:

- *Parks & Recreation*

Kenny Hale requested a transfer of \$1,439.56 from Acct #1112.37300.000.0803 (Communication/Internet) to Acct #1112.40000.000.0803 (Equipment). Mr. Hale stated that this will cover the cost of a door lock that the vendor would not accept because it was not in the original box, two new file cabinets and a printer/storage cart for the Parks Office at Wilbur School. They were able to obtain desks and three filing cabinets from the old Reporter Times office at no cost to the county. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Amendment to Resolution #2020-12-22c

Linda Pruitt, Morgan County Auditor, stated that this amendment came to light as the State Board of Accounts was doing the 2022 audit. In December of 2020, the Council adopted Resolution 2020-12-22c that allocates 80% of the MVH distribution to MVH Restricted Fund. The intent was for this to begin 2021 going forward, but the resolution stated that this would only be for 2021. The State Board of Accounts suggested amending the resolution. Prior to this resolution, the amount was 50%. The amendment presented will make this amount 80% unless the Council would take action to amend it. Chip Keller made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-4-3 A Resolution to Amend Resolution #2020-12-22c. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Water Study Presentation

Bryan Collier stated that part of the ARPA Fund is being used to study the county's underground water source. If Mr. Collier dug around in a Councilmember's yard, they would be upset that he was digging under their house; however, there are companies that are digging in the county's backyard and taking the water. The county has started an aquifer study with Intera in order to find out how much water there is and at what rate it is being drawn down and at what rate it is replenished. The county does not have a leg to stand on without this study. The laws east of the Mississippi are not as favorable to landowners as the laws west of the Mississippi. They will monitor wells on a voluntary basis, collect data and this will be the basis of future decisions. Morgan County is starting to see economic growth and housing demand has gone up. Intera will collect and analyze data about the water availability to provide local insight to form development systems, install a long term monitoring system and design a sustainable approach to increase use of water resources. The water monitoring system will be a small unit that pings the bottom of the well and will be able to tell the depth of the water. This will then start a graph and transmit the data for several years. These 50 to 60 units will be placed on volunteer wells throughout the county to collect the data. The results of the data will be used to help make decisions on growing and sustaining economic development. The installation will be free to the property owner and they will have access to their well data. Kenny Hale stated that there are currently several wells that are being used to send water out of the county. Kim Merideth asked if there was a way to prevent that, or any recourse. Mr. Collier stated that once they obtain the data and can show harm, then the county has a leg to stand on. Anyone interested in having their well monitored is asked to contact Josh Messmer jmessmer@morgancounty.in.gov. Mr. Collier stated that this study benefits every citizen and is a good use of ARPA Funds.

Finance Committee

Josh Messmer handed out information on resolutions for the next meeting that will update the county's investment policy and the create a finance committee that will include two Councilmembers, a Commissioner, Auditor, Treasurer, HR Director and County Administrator. The main focus of these resolutions is to help build up a plan and that will meet with Reedy Financial before budget time. If the Council moves forward with this, they will then engage Baker Tilly to help with the investing. They are currently investing the bond proceeds and should make \$1.9 million in interest this coming year.

Building Project Update

They will break ground in May for the Judicial Campus. They are planning a groundbreaking ceremony on May 15th and more information is forthcoming. The project is coming in on budget and the project is moving forward. At budget time, there was an alternate to modify the façade of the Administration Building to match the new Justice Campus. This alternate came in at more than what they wanted to spend and they broke it down by north face \$700,000 and remainder of

building \$400,000. This was broken down because they will need to relocate some utility lines and if they wait to do this with the last phase of the project, they will need to tear up part of Bicentennial Park. The bond proceeds could be used to move this project forward instead of doing it later.

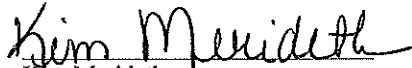
Business Cards

Brian Culp inquired about obtaining business cards. Several of the Councilmembers stated that they have obtained cards at their own expense and they would share the contact for this with Mr. Culp.


Adjournment

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

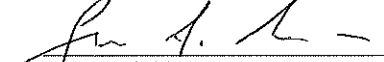
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



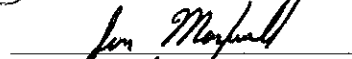
Kim Merideth



Vickie Kivett




Troy Sprinkle



Jason Maxwell



Chip Keller




Melissa Greene



Brian Culp

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor