

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 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*)

Transfers:

• *Surveyor*

Terry Brock, Morgan County Surveyor, was present to request a transfer of \$43,865.77 from Acct #1000.11223.000.0006 (Stormwater Coordinator) and \$10,000 from Acct #1000.11501.000.0006 (MS4 Inspector) to Acct #1000.31501.000.0006 (Consulting Services). Mr. Brock stated that this will be used to cover consulting fees for the year. They have a lot of additional fees due to the levy project in the City of Martinsville that will affect Nutter Ditch, and the Artesian Avenue project in Martinsville will affect Cemetery Ditch as it is at capacity. They have been awarded a READI grant of \$1.28 million and the cost of adding a two-stage system is \$1.78 million. Since this is a reconstruction of the ditch, they will need to send out notifications and hold public hearings before construction can begin. Mr. Brock noted that Burke Engineering is reviewing the plans for the levee and it will come before the Drainage Board before proceeding. There are options. There was a lot of storm damage to the ditches and hopefully there will be help from FEMA for repairs. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the transfer request. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Prosecutor*

Steve Sonnega, Morgan County Prosecutor, requested a transfer of \$4,931.10 from Acct #4906.40000.000.0000 (Equipment) to Acct #4906.31500.000.0000 (Professional Services) and \$5,000 from Acct #4906.40000.000.0000 (Equipment) to Acct #4906.39500.000.0000 (Instruction Education). Mr. Sonnega stated that this transfer is from the Law Enforcement Fund and is not taxpayer funds. They have started a drug task force with four sheriff deputies, two Martinsville officers and two Mooresville officers. This transfer will cover the cost of training and a claim to Taylor Law Firm, and an additional \$5,000 for training. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the transfer. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Job Maintenance Committee

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the Committee met this evening and approved two job descriptions for EMS. The Board of Commissioners has replaced the EMS Director and Deputy Director positions with a Director of Operations that will be in charge of the medical aspect and a Director of Administration that will be in charge of budgeting and several other responsibilities. These positions report directly to the Board of Commissioners. Kim Merideth stated that she is hearing good things from these changes. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the descriptions. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendment

This amendment regards the EMS positions that were just approved and makes both positions the same salary. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

Comment

Bryan Collier, Morgan County Commissioner, stated that the Board of Commissioners has heard concerns from the Council regarding the EMS budget going forward and they have some of the same concerns. EMS and the demands on the system have drastically changed and it doesn't look like things will change back to pre-COVID norms. As the community grows and baby boomers age, there are more calls, additional responsibilities, and additional cost. It is the job of the Commissioners and Council, as leaders within the community, to control the costs so the taxpayers find some type of comfort with what they are paying versus what they are receiving. The Board of Commissioners looked at management styles and made some changes. Brent Worth, with over 35 years of experience in public safety joins EMS after serving as Captain of the Morgan County Sheriff's Office for the past 9 years and as part of the department for 21 years. Worth holds a bachelor's degree from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs

from Indiana University. His vision for the future builds upon his education and proven leadership experience and makes him a great addition to Morgan County EMS. Commissioner Collier stated that Mr. Worth should be a familiar face and will help make sure that the taxpayers are getting the most bang for their buck and are running a tight ship with a tight budget. Mr. Worth stated that he is confident that this model will work and is excited to work in tandem with Summer Brown. They are already making some adjustments.

Commissioner Collier stated that Summer Brown is a paramedic and registered nurse with more than 15 years of EMS experience. She began her career in Morgan County in 2009 and has worked for Morgan County EMS since its inception. She holds an associate's degree in paramedic science and in nursing from Ivy Tech Community College. She brings a passion for patient care and is committed to the progress of EMS within the county. Commissioner Collier stated that he could not think of anyone better to have beside them when they have a family member in need. She will render the best patient care and having her in a leadership capacity will allow her to enlighten her fellow paramedics and EMTs and bring them up to her skill set. Ms. Brown stated that she is excited to show the county what they can do.

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, stated that he has been with the Sheriff's Office for 23 years and will be sorry to see Mr. Worth leave the Sheriff's Department, but it will be great for EMS.

Kim Merideth welcomed the new directors aboard.

Emergency Authorization of Rainy Day Funds

Josh Messmer stated that the tornado on Good Friday has necessitated that the county expend funds and are asking to use Rainy Day Funds for expenses related to this emergency. This will be followed up with an additional appropriation at the next Council meeting after it has been properly advertised. The estimated amount is \$100,000 for the debris management, drain maintenance, and other expenses prior to FEMA reimbursement. This would allow the contractors that have performed work to possibly be reimbursed as early as the next claim cycle. Vickie Kivett made a motion to authorize the emergency use of the Rainy Day Fund up to \$100,000. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Ordinance 2023-13 - Investment Policy

Josh Messmer stated that this ordinance does two things; it allows the investment and maturities that are in the range of two to five years. State code allows two years or less unless there is an ordinance allowing longer investment. It also updates the Investment Policy to outline what types of investments are allowed by state code and fiduciary responsibility. Kim Merideth stated that longer investments allow for greater gains. Brian Culp made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-13 An Ordinance Adopting the Morgan County Investment Policy and Authorizing the Investment of Public Funds for More Than Two Years and not More Than Five Years and to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Finance Committee

Josh Messmer stated that at the prior Commissioner meeting, the Board passed a resolution creating a Finance Committee. The intent of this committee is to be more hands on with the county's financial advisors to make sure that the financial situation is understood and they can communicate that back to the Commissioners, Council and public. The committee will consist of two Council members, a Commissioner, Auditor, Treasurer, County Administrator and HR Director. Kim Merideth stated that some of the Council members had expressed interest in being on this committee. Jason Maxwell made a motion to appoint Vickie Kivett and Brian Culp. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Investment Interest Earned

Terry Clelland, Morgan County Treasurer, handed out a spreadsheet showing that interest earned as of March from First Merchants, was \$184,685 and Home Bank was \$32,557. The current rate for First Merchants is 2.5% and it will be raised to 4%. Kim Merideth asked if Home Bank will match that. Ms. Clelland stated that she had not asked yet.

Minutes

Chip Keller made a motion to approve the April 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.


BOT Update

Josh Messmer gave an update on the progress of the BOT project.

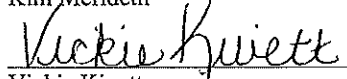
Adjournment

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

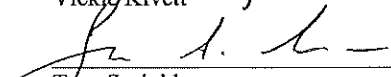
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



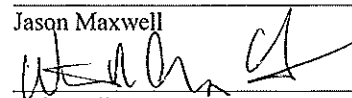
Kim Merideth




Vickie Kivett



Troy Sprinkle


Jason Maxwell


Chip Keller



Melissa Greene

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Brian Culp