

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023 AT 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR AND DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

MINUTES – *10/16/23*

Don Adams made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Don Adams made a motion to approve the October 13 and 27, 2023 payroll claims of \$728,232.59 and \$754,255.39; PERF \$65,804.64, and \$67,609.35; FICA \$52,978.55 and \$55,038.26; and monthly claims of \$3,277,219.27. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING – *Paving*

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, opened Fall 2023/Spring 2024 Roadway Resurfacing Project Bids as follows:

Milestone	\$349,158
Baumgartner Asphalt Services	\$397,000
Howard Companies	\$342,665.20
Midwest Paving	\$376,909.08
Wallace Construction	\$431,696.31
E&B Paving	\$377,700

Mr. Schneck stated that he would review the bids and report back with the results.

PETITION TO VACATE EASEMENT – *RR Kinton, Patton Park*

Dale Coffey, attorney representing petitioners asking that easements in two different subdivisions in Jefferson Township be vacated, stated that when he appeared before the Board at the previous meeting, he had missed serving notice on one adjoining landowner. That has now been done. Mr. Coffey requested approval of Ordinance #2023-20, vacating various easements and splitting easements between property owners on each side of the particular easements. Mr. Coffey noted that the Board held a public hearing on October 2nd for this vacation. Bryan Collier asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. Don Adams made a motion to approve the petition to vacate the easements. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Kenny Hale stated that the Auditor's Office suggested some minimal changes, but felt that they should be addressed. Mr. Coffey stated that he had no problem adding et al to the names. Don Adams amended his motion to approve Ordinance #2023-20 with the corrections. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION – *Court Services*

Miranda Beauchamp, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, was present to request approval of a FY24-25 Juvenile Community Corrections Grant not to exceed \$160,000 through the Indiana Department of Corrections. The funding would be available July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This grant is used to fund juvenile officers' salaries and miscellaneous items for the office. They have been applying for and receiving the grant since 1989. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – *Health Department*

Michelle Dyer, Public Health Nurse with the Morgan County Health Department, was present to request approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for expanded Adult and Child Health services for behavioral Health Programming and group support with Monroe-Gregg School District. These services would be provided through the school liaison grant monies. \$13,770 is available in this fund for the first year. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT FUNDING

Bryan Collier noted that a few meetings ago, he had requested a list of grants that the county receives. The Auditor's Office provided a spreadsheet showing that the county receives \$1.4

million that is budgeted out of grants.

LEASE TERMINATION AGREEMENT

Bryan Collier stated that there are some questions regarding this agreement and until legal can advise, he is not comfortable acting on this item. Don Adams made a motion to table the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2023-11-6A – Debt Policy

Josh Messmer stated that this resolution will also go before the Council at their November 8th meeting. During the budgeting process, both the Council and Board of Commissioners asked for a framework for debt and liquidity and for a reserve policy. They have been working with Baker Tilly to draft documents that give the current and future Commissioners and Council rails for operations. Bryan Collier stated that they should have had a plan like this years ago. Don Adams made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-11-6A – A Resolution of the Morgan County Commissioners Approving a Reserve Policy and Debt Policy. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE #2023-25 – Veterans Burial Allowance

Courtney Kemp stated that from 2024 moving forward, they are requesting to increase the burial allowance to \$200.00. They surveyed the counties in the state and the average allowance is \$200.00. The current amount for Morgan County is \$100.00. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the ordinance increasing the burial allotment to \$200 and to waive a second reading. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENTS – Harrison Township Fire District, EMA Director

Kenny Hale stated that he is working on the Harrison Township Fire District appointment.

Bryan Collier stated that Mark Tumey, EMA Director notified the Board of Commissioners that he would be retiring effective November 3rd. The EMA Advisory Board met and reviewed candidates for the position of director and recommended that Abigail “Abby” Worth be appointed EMA Director. Ms. Worth introduced herself and outlined her experience and qualifications. Ms. Worth stated that she was looking forward to serving the county in this new role. Don Adams made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Advisory Board and appoint Abby Worth as EMA Director. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier stated that it was impressive that little Morgan County updated and drafted spreadsheets after the April tornado and the state and FEMA have both adopted the spreadsheets. Mr. Collier thanked Ms. Worth for her service and congratulated her on the appointment.

RESOLUTION 2023-11-6B – Motor Fuel Budgeting Program

Josh Messmer stated that this resolution was provided as a template from the Indiana Bond Bank for a unique program that hedges increasing fuel prices. The Highway Department bids fuel for the year and has a set price; EMS, Sheriff and other fleet vehicles are subject to the whims of the market. This program allows the county to purchase options contracts at 15 cents per gallon. For example, if prices would rise from \$2 to \$3, the county would save \$1 on every contract that was purchased. The Council would also need to approve a Resolution. Mr. Messmer is working with outside counsel to finalize an exhibit (Qualified Entity Reimbursement Agreement) that is also part of the agreement, which can be finalized closer to the end of the year when they receive options pricing. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Authorizing the Participation of Said County in the Motor Fuel Budgeting Program of the Indiana Bond Bank for the 2024 Budget Year, the Execution of the Qualified Entity Reimbursement Agreement in Connection Therewith and Other Related Matters. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION #2023-11-6C – Authorization to Purchase Radio Equipment

Scott Hamilton, Morgan County 911 Dispatch Director, stated that when the Dispatch Center was built, only a third of the radio system installed was new equipment, the majority of it is at its end of life. The cost through Motorola is \$457,000 and the cost for the entire system through Kenwood is \$377,000. Don Adams made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER - BLN

Josh Messmer stated that this Engagement Letter is related to the BOT. State law requires an appraisal on the facility that is leased and the county will need to go through the same process for the BOT III phase (Courthouse renovation) as they did for the BOT I phase. BLN offers professional appraisal services for commercial buildings and this is the same firm that was used for the previous appraisal. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Motion

seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING – Bridge #107

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, presented a request to apply for federal funding for the design and construction of Bridge #107 on Measel Road. Over the last few years this bridge was originally in the INDOT system to be replaced, but was pulled due to internal issues; however, they have the funds in the five-year bridge plans and in the 2024 budget for this design and construction. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the application for federal funding for Bridge #107. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY-WIDE SMALL STRUCTURE INSPECTION

Mr. Schneck stated that every four to five years they would like to hire a consultant to inspect all the small structures across the county. This is an often overlooked asset that can have a big impact on the budget if it is not monitored. Mr. Schneck would like to send out an RFQ to consultants that are pre-qualified through INDOT to perform these inspections. This will get them back on track to plan the budget for the rehabilitation of these structures moving forward. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request to issue RFQs for the inspection. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

REQUEST TO DONATE TIME

Josh Messmer stated that there is an employee whose spouse has health concerns. They have used all their time and are on intermittent FMLA. There is an employee in this department who is moving to an elected position and would like to donate their time to this employee. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD CONCERNS

Bryan Collier stated that there were a lot of unfamiliar faces in the crowd this evening and was told that there were people present that wanted to address concerns about County Road 1075 N and Beech Grove Lane. Mr. Collier asked if there was anyone present to discuss concerns with County Road 1075 N. There were no comments.

Mr. Collier asked if there was anyone present to discuss concerns about Beech Grove Lane. Ronald Westfall, a Morgan County resident and retired Brigadier General, United States Army, stated that he was present representing 24 citizens in the Beech Grove Lane neighborhood. Mr. Westfall stated that there is a safety concern as well as concern over declining property values in the neighborhood. Neighbors have filed several complaints regarding Ordinance 9-94-20 in 2022 and 2023. Those complaints have gone unanswered or were not acted upon. Mr. Westfall believes that the county's inaction has contributed to the further deterioration of 1486 Beech Grove Court. The deterioration led to the property being sold for \$74,500 to a known drug dealer out of Marion County. They have contacted the Morgan County Sheriff and Morgan County Drug Task Force. Mr. Westfall stated that he did not expect the Board of Commissioners could do anything to fix the current safety situation; however their intent is to voice their concerns as to how situations can escalate if county ordinances are not enforced.

Bill Mitchell, Clay Township Trustee, stated that there is a property on Beech Grove Road that is being used as a dumping area. Kenny Hale stated that IDEM is aware of the property and it is being cleaned up.

ROAD NAME

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, stated that in 2015, Waverly Park Road was originally submitted and approved as Waverly Park Way. It was a few years before notices went out and notices went out as Waverly Park Road. Ms. Mosier asked that the Commissioners accept Waverly Park Road. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the name change. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0

ROAD NAME LIST

Ms. Mosier stated that she submitted a list of road names for approval, but some spelling changes were needed. Don Adams stated that there were some names he would like to add. Kenny Hale stated that in the past, there were issues with citizens choosing road names and that is when the county started the procedure of assigning road names. Ms. Mosier stated that assigning the names from an approved list is a much faster process and does not delay home loans and closings or permits. Kenny Hale stated that it also eliminates confusion with similar road names. Kenny Hale made a motion to table the proposed Road Name List. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

TRANSFER LETTER

Josh Messmer stated that this transfers funds from one project to a different project. The Council appropriated money for the county to implement Sharepoint. They will not have to appropriate all the costs of the project because there are funds available to transfer. Don Adams made a motion to approve the transfer letter. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMENTS

Dana Lynn, a Morgan County resident, stated that the Town of Brooklyn is in violation of its own zoning ordinance. Ms. Lynn handed out paperwork and maps and stated that the setback lines for the mining company are not being observed; they are within 1,000 feet of the homes and built a new kiln without permits from IDEM. They are running the kiln at night. Ms. Lynn stated that it is a dirty operation and asked for the Commissioners to help. Bryan Collier stated that they would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Bryan Collier

Don Adams

Attest:

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale