

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

TREASURER’S REPORT

Don Adams made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING – *Farm Lease Bids*

Linda Pruitt opened bids as follows:

55-11-27-100-003.000-018	4244 S Lingle Rd.	\$500 Brent Sample
55-11-22-400-005.000-018	3960 S Lingle Rd	No bid
55-11-23-300-005.000-018	3695 S Lingle Rd.	\$442 Cragen Farms, LLC
55-11-27-200-002.000-018	4005 S Lingle Rd.	\$100 Cragen Farms, LLC
55-10-26-300-011.000-009	7609 SR 44 and	
55-10-26-300-012.000-009	7805 SR 44	\$701 Tony Derringer \$675 JD Fletcher Farms
55-08-22-200-003.000-014	2920 Lower Patton Park	\$250 Lankford Farms \$120 Randy Pruitt
55-10-23-200-002.001-009	2776 Dillman Rd.	\$350 JD Fletcher Farms
55-11-23-300-006.000-018	3641 S Lingle Rd.	\$400 Cragen Farms, LLC
55-11-22-400-007.000-018	3823 S Lingle Rd.	\$350 Cragen Farms, LLC

The following properties will be leased on a percentage-basis:

55-09-03-400-003.000-006	5400 Blue Bluff Rd.	33% of gross value Milhon Farms
55-13-12-200-005.000-020	Leonard Rd (row crops)	33% of crop value Voyles Bros Grain, Inc.
55-13-12-200-004.000-020	Leonard Rd (hay only)	30% of harvest Voyles Farm, Inc
55-13-12-200-005.000-020		
55-13-12-200-005.001-020		
55-14-07-100-005.000-012		

Don Adams made a motion to accept the high bid. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MARTINSVILLE YOUTH CENTER – *OCRA Grant Application*

No one was present for this item. Don Adams made a motion to table. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

REZONE ORDINANCE #2023-28 – *Mapleturn Meadows Ag to R1*

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Director, presented a request to rezone 12.753 acres in Washington Township from Ag to R1 at Mapleturn Meadows. The Plan Commission gave the request a favorable recommendation with a vote of 8-0-1. (Kenny Hale abstained.) Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance #2023-28 An Ordinance Rezoning Land Within the Jurisdiction of Morgan County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

REZONE ORDINANCE #2023-29 – *Hodges’ Sunset Ridge Ag to R1*

Ms. Parker presented a request to rezone 12.461 acres in Harrison Township from Ag to R1 at Hodges Sunset Ridge. The Plan Commission gave the request a favorable recommendation with a vote of 8-0-1. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance #2023-29 An Ordinance Rezoning Land Within the Jurisdiction of Morgan County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION – *Sheriff’s Office*

Sheriff Rich Myers was present to request approval of a \$3,459 grant through Wal-Mart for a

thermo imaging device for use by the SWAT Team. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

GRADELLNET SHAREPOINT AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that this agreement regards a project that they have been wanted to get started for a few years now. The Council appropriated funds for next year and funds will be also be encumbered for use next year to implement SharePoint. This is a data management tool for all departments to use. It will be a platform for all employees internally, as well as storage of data. Don Adams stated that he was excited to get involved and learn a lot and made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE INVENTORY INSPECTIONS – Phase I

Josh Messmer stated that the former county attorney was working on an issue with CenterPoint Energy. They have a long-term lease and would like to convert this to a permanent easement. Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, who the county has worked with before, represents CenterPoint in other areas and provided the name of a firm, Withered Burns, that they have worked with before. Mr. Messmer requested approval of the engagement letter so the county can work with this firm in converting a lease to an easement. Don Adams made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE INVENTORY INSPECTIONS PHASE I

Steve Jones, United Consulting, introduced Kyle Kent to present the Phase I Bridge Inventory. Mr. Jones stated that this is a four-year contract with inspections every two years. Mr. Kent is a structural engineer and was responsible for putting the report together. The contract is paid using 80% federal funds and 20% county funds. Mr. Kent stated that the four-year period started in 2022. Bridge inspections are required for bridges with a span length greater than 20 ft. There are 155 bridges in Morgan County with 5 fracture critical bridges and 3 scour critical bridges. The top 5 bridges on the replacement list are: #68, #29, #166, #108 and #188. Three of the bridges on the list have already been replaced. The top 5 bridges on the rehabilitation list are: #60, #99, #137, #4 and #112.

BRIDGE #29 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT

Steve Jones stated that Bridge #29, Mahalasville Road over Indiana Trace Creek, is a federally funded project. This amendment is to add additional services, environmental services at \$25,650 and land acquisition services \$7,215. Don Adams made a motion to approve the supplemental contract for Bridge #29. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

INDOT SR 39 UNOFFICIAL DETOUR

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that this detour on Robb Hill Road will not be the official detour, but it is inevitable that increased traffic will be on this road. INDOT is willing to work with the county and has submitted a Letter of Agreement. They will use a video device to rate the condition of the roadway prior to the project, monitor the condition through construction and compare after construction. If the county finds damage, INDOT will pay reimburse the county for the repairs. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the INDOT SR 39 Unofficial Detour on Robb Hill Road. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

SMALL STRUCTURE INVENTORY CONSULTANT SELECTION

Justin Schneck stated that this item is similar to the bridge inspection that was just presented. Small structures are a vital asset to the county and it is imperative that that are inspected to help prioritize which structures need to be rehabilitated and replaced and in what order. A small structure is any large culvert that has a span of less than 20 feet. An RFP was issued and three teams submitted interest. A scoring committee reviewed the submittals and United Consulting, Crossroad Engineers and Banning Engineering as a team were the most qualified for this project. The total contract amount is \$453,625. Some of this funding is in the 2023 budget and the remainder is in the 2024 budget. Don Adams made a motion to accept the small structure inventory consultant. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER – Baker Tilly

Josh Messmer stated that this is for arbitrage services. The investments that the county has made with the bond proceeds for the BOT project are potentially making more interest than what will allow them to be tax free. If the bonds make too much interest and it is not paid to the federal government, then the bonds could lose their tax-free status. This agreement is for Baker Tilly to make arbitrage calculations and submit any payment due to the IRS. The fee for this is estimated at \$3,500. Don Adams made a motion to approve the engagement letter. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

LOW SOFTWARE AGREEMENT

Linda Pruitt stated that this agreement is for property tax software. A contract with Xsoft was approved a few years ago, but this was not compatible with county programs and they were able to cancel the contract. Low had been in this business since 1975 and 72 of the 92 counties are using them for the financial software. They have a support team and Ms. Pruitt believes that using this software will help with accuracy and prompt property tax billing and collections. This software will be used in both the Treasurer and Auditor's Offices. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

MORGAN COUNTY EDC AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that this agreement is the same as the last several years and the amount remains at \$75,000 annually, paid out in quarterly installments. Don Adams explained the EDC is for the Economic Development Corporation and they are very active right now in insuring positive growth for the county. Don Adams made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

KORE AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that the Council approved a redundant fiber loop from the dispatch center to the jail as well as the Administration Building. If the line is damaged this would prevent loss of information while the line is repaired. The cost for this is \$201,721.50 and the available funds will be encumbered to use next year. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE #2023-27 – Disposition of Personal Property

Josh Messmer stated that an ordinance similar to this was passed a few years ago. The ordinance allows three methods of disposing of property, it can be sold at public sale, recycled, or disposed of. Sheriff Myers stated that the department has old tasers that are no longer supported and they want to destroy them. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance #2023-27 An Ordinance Approving Disposition of Personal Property. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Linda Pruitt and Councilman Chip Keller submitted Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements to disclose possible conflicts of interest. Kenny Hale made a motion to accept the two Conflict of Interest Statements. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION APPROVING PLEDGE OF TAX INCREMENT

Josh Messmer stated that no action is needed on this item, it is just being introduced and will be on the next agenda. The Westpoint TIF District was recently restructured by the Redevelopment Commission. The original TIF dollars would go to Hendricks County, this is no longer the case. The district has been expanded and new bonds will be issued. The county will pledge 50% of the new TIF area. When the bonds are issued, Morgan County will receive \$600,000 to be spent towards public safety; namely an EMS station in the area.

APPOINTMENTS

Kenny Hale made a motion to appoint William "Eddie" Fisher as Morgan County Highway Superintendent. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Fisher thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity and stated that he looked forward to moving forward with positive things. Bryan Collier thanked Charlie Wilson for his service as the interim superintendent.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve all reappointments as follows:

Plan Commission – Brian Patrick

Board of Health – Mike Ellis

Robert Curts

Harrison Twp Fire District – Chuck Christofferson

Community Corrections – Marlene Tyler-Black

Local Alcoholic Beverage Board – Howard McCormick

Mooresville Public Library – Ashley Duke

Monroe Twp Fire District – Brett A. Everett

Tax Board of Appeals – Linda Bryant

Jan Stroud

Economic Development Corp. – Terry Brock

Bryan Collier

Regional Workforce Board – Kenny Hale

Redevelopment Commission – Jeff Pipkin
Brad Shields
Carole Snyder
Dr. Jake Allen

Convention, Visitors and Tourism Commission – Joe Tutterrow
Jamie Thompson Taylor

SCCAP – Don Adams

Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

LEASE TERMINATION AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that Centerpoint has added .1 acres to the amount of land that they need and the state code has changed since the original lease was done, so they have to go through a whole new process. Mr. Messmer suggested tabling the item until attorneys could discuss the matter. Don Adams made a motion to table. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

EMA SOPs

Abby Worth was not able to attend, but Don Adams was able to speak with her concerning the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures). Mr. Adams stated that this outlines the procedure for operations at the Emergency Management Agency and made a motion to approve the SOPs. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TRASH REMOVAL QUOTES/AGREEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that the Maintenance Director is on vacation this week so he would present the information regarding quotes for trash disposal services. Rays Trash was bought out by Waste Management; prices have gone up and service has gone down. Quotes were received from Jack's Trash and Rumpke. Avas Waste indicated that they were not able to provide a quote. Jack's Trash was the lowest quote and the service agreement has been reviewed by an attorney. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Erick Kivett stated that at the previous meeting, the Board set a goal to come up with a solution for recycling, whether permanent or temporary. Charlie Wilson suggested a temporary solution to set up at the fairgrounds for recycling. The fairgrounds representatives and the county were able to work together and beginning on December 23 through early January. Best Way Disposal will be the vendor. There will be cameras at the site and Mr. Kivett will also be on site during business hours to monitor activities. Bryan Collier noted that they are still seeking a permanent solution.

TRANSFER LETTER

Kenny Hale made a motion to submit the transfer letter to the Council. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

TORT CLAIM

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

COMMENTS

Vickie Kivett, Morgan County Councilmember, thanked the Board for all the extra time they have put in on the construction project.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Bryan Collier wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted that there were 14 viewers on YouTube. Morgan County government meetings are streamed live here:
<https://www.youtube.com/@morgancountyindianagovernm9971>

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