

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION
ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 9:30 A.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 – *in honor of two deceased veterans, Sandy Perry and Emily Armstrong*

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

MINUTES

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the December 18 and December 29, 2023. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

Don Adams acknowledged that the Board had received the Clerk's Report per requirements of IC 33-17-2-3.

BOARD OF FINANCE *(IC 5-13-6-7)*

Terry Clelland presented the Investment Policy, a report showing the account balances at the beginning and ending of the year and the interest earned. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Investment Policy and appoint Don Adams as the Chairman of the Board of Finance. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

OCRA GRANT – *Martinsville Youth Development Center*

Shelby Burkett, Martinsville Youth and Development Center, stated that they currently occupy a 40,000 sq ft building, of which 10,000 is unfinished. In order to better serve the youth, they would like to expand the facility to have a large recreational space as well as an educational kitchen. They would like to apply for a \$500,000 grant through OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) and have obtained matching funds of over \$56,000. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request to apply for the OCRA grant. Bryan Collier seconded the motion and noted that the funds would be used for a community development project that include the following: mechanical, plumbing, electrical lighting upgrade, security improvements, exterior lighting, security cameras, new walls and doors, interior finish upgrades, parking lot and building entrance upgrades and new building signage. Motion carried 3-0.

PURDUE ANNUAL AGREEMENT

Rena Sheldon, Purdue Extension Agent, stated that a third of the funding comes from the county, a third comes from the state and a third is federal. They added an educator two years ago and this year that position is full time. Don Adams noted that the Extension service is an important service that started in 1914. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement between Purdue University and Morgan County. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier noted that programs that invest in youth hopefully deter them from being future residents in the "county facility" and save the county money.

TITLE VI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

Daree Frye, HR Director, stated that the County Highway Engineer applied for the Community Crossing Grant and realized that the Title VI Implementation Plan must be updated every year. The only change is the updated census information. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Title VI Implementation Plan for 2024. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2024-1-16 – *Approving the Title VI Implementation Plan*

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1-16, Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Approving Updated Title VI Implementation Plan. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Linda Pruitt stated that the beginning balance was \$101,990,695.85; receipts totaled \$229,807,844.87; expenditures totaled \$232,649,808.07 and an overall ending balance of \$99,148,732.65. Payroll for 498 employees totaled \$19,836,273.43. The average number of employees was 405. Bryan Collier made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenditures. Motion seconded by Don Adams; Motion carried 3-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Don Adams stated that the appointment to the Mooresville Public Library holds the position of treasurer on the board and also works at a bank. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the Conflict of

Interest. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT LETTER – *Community Crossings*

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that he is working on the Community Crossings 2024-1 grant application. He is anticipating requesting \$2.4 million in funding. The state match the grant dollar for dollar up to \$1.5 million. In July, they anticipate fully utilizing the grant. Mr. Schneck requested approval of a financial commitment letter for this project. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the proposal for the Morgan County Community Crossings application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Don Adams thanked the Highway Department for their work during the recent snowstorm.

DISCUSSION – *Technical Design Standards*

Mr. Schneck presented the technical design standards that the county will use for new development going forward. This means that all new roadways would need to adhere to these standards in conjunction with the Indiana Design Manual, Morgan County Thoroughfare Plan and Unified Development Ordinance. Mr. Schneck has reviewed the standards with the Plan Director, Laura Parker, and with Surveyor, Terry Brock. There will be an ordinance or resolution at the next meeting to adopt the standards. Kenny Hale asked if they could adopt a 10 ft. right of way because most grants for trails require that.

HIGHWAY UPDATE – *Leonard Road*

Mr. Schneck stated that a small structure on Leonard Road was shut down due to deficiencies. A citizen called regarding a dip in the road and upon further investigation, it was discovered that a timber bent cap was saturated with water and beginning to crush. Mr. Schneck did not feel that it was safe to leave this open to traffic and has been shut down. The structure is close to a floodway and a DNR permit will be required and it is anticipated that the structure will be shut down for nine to twelve months. They will begin design this year and will budget for the construction next year.

TAKE-HOME VEHICLE APPLICATION

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that his transfer to Superintendent opened a position for a crew boss for Highway District 3 and this position is an on-call position. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Fisher stated that this would take effect the first of February.

DONATION OF TIME

Daree Fry stated that there are several couples that work for the county and one spouse approached her and asked that the other spouse be allowed to donate time. The employee will be using FMLA to care for a family member with a serious illness. Anne Cowgur (being the new county attorney) stated that she had not reviewed the employee handbook yet and asked several questions about the situation. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that the Executive Director of the Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, Mike Dellinger, will be having surgery and asked that everyone keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Adams stated that they will be resuming “Coffee with the County” at Bran N Shorts on Saturday, February 3rd at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Bryan A. Collier

Attest:

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale