

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.**

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

PLEDGE – *Kevin Rowland, Banning Engineering and a U.S. Marine veteran*

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

INTRODUCTIONS

**MINUTES**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023, January 2 and January 16, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the January 5 and 19, 2024 payroll claims and January 26 uniform claim of \$865,254.58, \$83,571.25 and \$69,850.00; PERF \$75,783.65, \$73,616.42, and \$3,396.40; FICA \$62,854.69, \$61,125.49 and \$5,343.79; and monthly claims of \$5,502,160.09. Bryan Collier questioned the validity of a claim and it was determined that the claim was valid. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**ORDINANCE #2024-3 – INTRODUCTION**

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Director, stated that this ordinance, Flood Damage Prevention for Morgan County and the Towns of Bethany, Brooklyn and Paragon is an update to Ordinance 7-3-7.2. There will be new maps coming out later this year. DNR (Department of Natural Resources) reviewed the existing ordinance and proposed a few changes. The information is basically the same with a few additions. Ms. Parker also included a Table of Contents to compare the two ordinances. Don Adams noted that the ordinance could affect his financial interest in a property and that he would recuse himself. Kenny Hale stated that they would take the ordinance under advisement and consider it at the next meeting.

**ORDINANCE #2024-2 TECHNICAL DESIGN STANDARDS – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that he presented the final version of the technical design standards and has reviewed them with the County Surveyor and Plan Director. Ordinance #2024-2 An Ordinance Adopting and Implementing Morgan County Technical Design Standards, adopts the standards. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Don Adams stated that the county is growing and congratulated Mr. Schneck on his soon-to-be addition to his family. Mr. Schneck stated that they just learned it will be a boy.

**BOT III AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that the BOT (Build Operate Transfer) process is the same process they are using to build the judicial building and this phase is for the historic Courthouse. They close on the financing this week. The judicial building is expected to be complete July 1, 2025 and this project is expected to be complete at the end of February 2027. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Don Adams stated that this agreement represents a much needed improvement and is an investment in the future. Motion carried 3-0.

Gary Oakes, City of Martinsville, stated that the public and groups that use the Courthouse Square will need to be updated on plans and progress so they can make other plans for events that could be impacted by the construction. Mr. Adams thanked the city for the cooperation they've shown in working with the county for this project and the benefit of the residents.

**ANNUAL CONTRACTS**

Josh Messmer stated that the annual contracts are unchanged from previous years. Don Adams outlined the services that each entity provides for the county. The contracts are as follows:

Hilldale Cemetery Assn.	\$ 1,550
Sycamore Services	\$54,000
Morgan County Connect	\$47,000

CICOA Aging and In-Home Solutions	\$182,706
Morgan County Fair and 4-H Assn.	\$125,000
Humane Society	

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreements with Hilldale Cemetery, Morgan County Fair and 4-H Assn. and Humane Society. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement with Sycamore Services. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0-1. Bryan Collier abstained.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreements with Morgan County Connect. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement with CICOA. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Rena Sheldon, Purdue Extension, noted that the fair will be July 5<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. Don Adams stated that the Wall that Heals, a model of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be at the Fairgrounds August 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bryan Collier stated that these organizations provide critical services to the community and the contracts haven't been adjusted in years. He and Josh Messmer had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Humane Society and he was humbled by his lack of education regarding all that the Humane Society provides. The county will be working with the City of Martinsville and towns within the county in developing a blanket ordinance that provides uniformity for animal control. They will need to have the Sheriff's Office and Prosecutor's Office at the table so they are all on the same page. Kenny Hale thanked the Humane Society and Sheriff for help in getting an issue with a pack of dogs killing livestock resolved in his district.

**FARM LEASE AGREEMENTS**

Anne Cowgur stated that these leases have been revised from leases that were done in the past. A provision has been added, so if there would be a need for the county to terminate a lease early, they would be able to do that. Mr. Messmer stated that these leases will be on the next meeting agenda, unless there are substantive changes that are needed.

**ENGAGEMENT LETTER - Appraisal**

Josh Messmer stated that recycling has been put on a temporary hold and the Board is looking to identify land that is centrally located and can be fenced in. A possible property has been located and this letter is a proposal from Beam Longest and Neff to provide two commercial appraisals; they will provide one and sub out the other one. Mr. Messmer noted that two appraisals must be provided and the county can offer the average of the two appraisals. Mr. Messmer stated that the cost is \$6,000 for each appraisal and Mr. Messmer thought this was a little high. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the two appraisals. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**PURCHASE AGREEMENT – Radio Equipment**

Josh Messmer stated that the Council budgeted for radio equipment and the Board of Commissioners has approved a resolution for a special acquisition. The county attorney would like to add some language into the purchase agreement before approval. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUEST TO USE SPACE OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE**

Joe Disney was present to request the use of the Courthouse Square for a Cruise-in on Thursday evenings from April through October. They average between 60 and 75 cars. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**TIMBERLAKE ESTATES**

Justin Schneck handed out maps and pictures of core samples for roads in Timberlake Woods, a subdivision off of Egbert Road. The HOA reached out and asked about the process of taking the roads into the county network. Mr. Schneck informed them that certain criteria would need to be met for county road standards. Mr. Schneck stated that he took pavement cores to show that the roads meet standard depth requirements, the curbs and gutters were inspected and the storm sewers were inspected with a sewer cam. Three of the four legs in the subdivision met the 4" depth requirement. The one leg that did not was 3-1/2". The plat was approved in 2005. The roads are generally in good condition; however Mr. Schneck was concerned about the age of the roads and would ask that the HOA help with crack sealing to help prolong the life of the roads. There is another subdivision that is planned to attach to this subdivision. There is not a deed of

dedication to take them into the county road system. Kenny Hale made a motion to give conditional approval pending receipt of a deed of dedication and stating that the HOA is responsible for completing the crack sealing. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMENT**

Steve Clymer, a Morgan County resident, stated that he contacted the Highway Department last year regarding lines on Baltimore Road and a culvert that is partially collapsed. Mr. Clymer stated that it is a hazard especially on a dark rainy night. There is no shoulder and the pavement is breaking away. Justin Schneck stated that he would look into it.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams stated that there is a new director position in the Health Department that has just been filled by Tricia Runningen. Ms. Runningen stated that she is now in her second hour of the job and is happy to be here. There are new dollars coming into the Health Department from the state and she is happy to plan what to do with those funds to help improve the health of the county.

**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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan A. Collier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenny Hale