

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY,
MARCH 4, 2024 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; ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY; AND JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Minutes

Brian Culp made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer's Report/Clerk's Report

The Council acknowledged the receipt of the Treasurer's Report and Clerk's Report.

Additional Appropriations:

• *Commissioner*

Josh Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$18,752 from the General Fund (1000) into Acct #1000.39114.000.0068 (Mental Health). Mr. Messmer stated that the county is required to pay funds for mental health services per Indiana Code. The amount was not known at budget time and the estimated amount is \$18,752 short. Melissa Greene asked if this amount increases by a percentage each year. Linda Pruitt stated that the state has a formula and provides the amount each year. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Jail*

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, requested an additional appropriation of \$7,325 from the Work Release Intake Fee (4905) into Acct #4905.40000.000.0000 (Equipment/Vehicles). Mr. Rogers stated that they "inherited" a trailer from the Probation Department (Court Services) years ago when they took over the jail corrections program and the trailer is at its end of life. A new trailer has been purchased to take its place. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Jason Maxwell. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Court Services*

Linda Pruitt stated that at the time the budget request was submitted, two positions were requested to be funded from the Supplemental Adult Probation Service Fund (2100) but there was confusion and only one position was funded. Ms. Pruitt requested the following additional appropriation:

\$14,640 into Acct #2100.16500.000.0000 (PERF)
10,825 into Acct #2100.16510.000.0000 (FICA)
30,000 into Acct #2100.16540.000.0000 (Insurance)

Ms. Pruitt noted that there will be changes to the budget process this year. Requests will be sent out earlier so it can be entered and sent back out to departments for review before it goes to the Council. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Tax Abatement

Mike Dellinger, Morgan County Economic Development, was present to submit two SB-1s for tax abatement. Mr. Dellinger stated that this is for a 10-year tax abatement for Decker Outdoor Group. In 2022, the Council approved a 10-year abatement on \$50 million in personal property for their building in WestPoint Business Park. There will be a declaratory resolution in April and a public hearing and confirmatory resolution in May for the SB-1s. The first SB-1 has approximately \$76 million attached to it that incorporates the \$50 million. After the building was completed, it was determined that the commitment should be increased to \$76 million rather than the \$50 that was originally approved. In addition, the second SB-1 is for another \$13 million in personal property. Mr. Dellinger handed out a scale showing what a 50% tax abatement savings would be for the company and what the county would gain. State statute allows for a waiver of non-compliance because the company placed the personal property in the building prior to granting the abatement and since they have exceeded the \$50 million, the company will ask to waive the non-compliance as though the abatement hadn't happened. The value of the increased investment speaks for itself.

HMPG 4704 FEMA Grant Introduction

Abby Worth, Morgan County EMA Director, and Emily Shields, Morgan County Deputy Director, were present to discuss the HMPG 4704 FEMA Grant. Ms. Worth stated that this grant stems from the tornados that came through in April of 2023. Because the county received a federal declaration for this disaster, it opened the community up to FEMA funding at the start of this year. They applied for approval from the Board of Commissioners to apply for a grant that focuses on tornado mitigation. EMA referenced back to the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and one of the two big things the plan outlines is the lack of safe sheltering in school districts as well as public education on what to do during severe weather or tornados. They have met with all of the school districts in the county as well as Mooresville Christian School. They have approximately 4,000 sq. ft of windows that they have identified as being eligible for the addition of a film that will make the window non-shattering and will allow for safe sheltering in the room. Once the window films are installed, they will meet with students on how to prepare for disasters at home as well as at school. The grant is a maximum of up to \$150,000 with a county match of up to \$50,000. The company that installs the window film also donates 10%. For example, if they purchase \$100,000 worth of film, they will donate an extra \$10,000. This can be used as part of the county's matching funds, as well as in-kind matches through the education program. These items will be purchased by the county and FEMA will reimburse the costs. They looked at polycarbonate glass replacement, 3M, and Safehaven. Safehaven was the least cost per sq. ft and also included the cost of installation.

Resolution 2024-3-4 – Land Acquisition

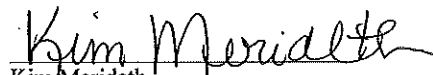
Josh Messmer stated that the county had to stop the recycling program because of the escalating costs and lack of ownership with dumping rather than recycling. They have identified a site off of State Road 67 and have a landowner that is willing to entertain the process. They Commissioners have obtained two appraisals and have executed a purchase agreement, pending Council approval. Step one is a resolution, step two is an ordinance. If the owner signs the purchase agreement, the Board of Commissioners would like to begin the process of due diligence process. The average of the two appraisals was \$262,500. One portion of the site would be allocated for recycling and the other portion would be utilized for an EMS facility.

Anne Cowgur stated that the resolution is to approve the idea of purchasing the property. The purchase agreement approved by the Commissioners this morning is 100% contingent upon an ordinance being approved by the Council at a later date. There are several items of due diligence, (environmental, zoning tenants) so the resolution allows the Commissioners to move forward with the understanding that the purchase agreement is dependent on Council approval. It is also possible that the seller might not agree to the purchase terms. Jason Maxwell made a motion to approve Ordinance #2024-3-4. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

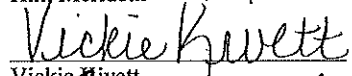
Adjournment

Brian Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

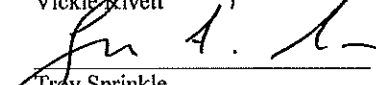
MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL



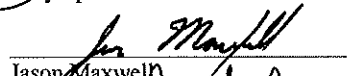
Kim Merideth



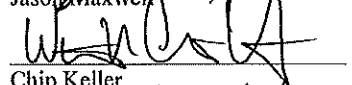
Vickie Rivett



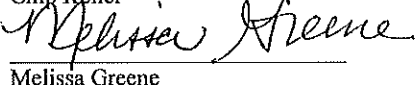
Troy Sprinkle



Jason Maxwell



Chip Keller



Melissa Greene



Brian Culp

ATTEST:



Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor