

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.**

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

PLEDGE – *Kevin Rohland, veteran*

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

**MINUTES**

Kenny Hale noted that he did not attend the meeting and there was an error in the date of the March 18<sup>th</sup> minutes. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes with the date correction. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0-1. Kenny Hale abstained.

**CLAIMS**

Linda Pruitt noted that there is one hold for the claims pending approval of a contract. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the March 1, March 15 and March 28, 2024 payroll claims of \$862,034.67, \$836,632.55 and \$838,865.42; PERF \$76,640.50, \$75,245.52 and \$74,966.15; FICA \$62,503.79, \$60,478.61 and \$63,401.65; and monthly claims of \$1,771,852.72 pending approval of the chaplain contract. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**RECESS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to recess the Commissioner meeting and open the public hearing for the Monroe Township Fire District. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Don Adams asked if there were any public comments regarding a request from the Monroe Township Fire District to petition the DLGF for an increase in the tax levy. There were no comments.

**RECONVENE**

Bryan Collier made a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the Commissioner meeting.

Linda Pruitt asked if the Public Hearing had been advertised. There was no one present from the district to answer questions. No action taken.

**GRANT APPLICATION** – *Prosecutor*

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that the Board had earlier approved an update to the EEOC Plan that must be in place for this grant and the grant funds a portion of the victims advocate position. A representative from the Prosecutor's Office was not present. Kenny Hale stated that there is discussion about this grant funding ending and he has talked with state representatives to encourage them to continue the funding. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the application for the \$77,846.34 VOCA grant that requires \$19,461.59 in matching funds for a total of \$97,307.93. These funds will be used to support victims of violent crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault and other victims of crimes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**LEASE AGREEMENT** - *Enterprise*

Josh Messmer stated that this lease agreement with Enterprise for the Health Department to add a vehicle to the fleet. This will be a 2024 Nissan Altima. They have a new food inspector position and this position requires a vehicle. Don Adams stated that the document was delivered electronically and he has already signed it. Kenny Hale made a motion to ratify the approval of the lease agreement. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUEST TO REMOVE ROAD NAME**

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, stated that in December of 2000, the Board of Commissioners approved a road name of Lincoln Crest for a road in Washington Township. The road was not built and was removed from the plat, but it is in the GIS mapping and road index.

Ms. Mosier asked that this road name be removed so there is no confusion. Ms. Mosier will bring more road names to the Board for removal. Kenny Hale made a motion to remove Lincoln Crest Drive from the road list. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**LEASE AGREEMENT – 911 Dispatch**

Bryan Collier made a motion to table this item. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**2024 CHAPLAIN AGREEMENT**

Don Adams stated that this group is called upon during crisis situations and other times too and is an important service. The agreement is for \$40,000 per year. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**FAIR BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Don Adams stated that a Commissioner is typically appointed to the Fair Board. A few years ago, he was elected to be on the Fair Board, and that left an open vacancy. The Board appointed a youth leader, Kaydance Towell-Crook, and she has been an excellent appointment; however, she is now attending Purdue and is not able to attend meetings. Mr. Adams suggested appointing Garrett Wilson, who is President of Martinsville FFA Chapter. Bryan Collier made a motion to appoint Garrett Wilson to the Fair Board. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**BRIDGE #29 RIGHT OF WAY**

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that Bridge #29 on Mahalasville Road is a federal project in the design phase. The bridge has historical railing and they must do an in-depth report to determine the historical status of the bridge. This has the potential to delay the project for six to eight months, which in turn causes a risk of losing the funding through INDOT. In order to stay on schedule, Mr. Schneck proposed to take the right of way portion of the project and buy it with 100% local funds. Typically, they must wait for environmental approval before purchasing right of way with federal funds. The total for right of way services, land acquisition and management is \$18,400 and this amount is in the budget. They would like to proceed so they can keep the project on track. They will also need a supplemental for Section 106, Design and review, and this will be forthcoming as they are still putting the numbers together for that. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Don Adams stated that he appreciated Mr. Schneck's professionalism and jumping into things the way he has.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – Hendricks County**

Justin Schneck stated that at the intersection of SR 267 and Hendricks County Road, Hendricks County would like to install improvements. This Memorandum of Understanding gives Hendricks County full control of the project which would include buying any right of way on the Morgan County side of the line and financial responsibility for the project. Don Adams stated that he thought the Town of Mooresville had taken over the Morgan County side. Mr. Schneck stated that he thought jurisdiction ended just south of there; he will check it out. Drew Farrington stated that the MOU has been reviewed and that they would also need a resolution. Once they agreement is approved, they may ratify it with the resolution afterwards. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the MOU between Hendricks County and Morgan County. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TEMPLATE – Health Department**

Josh Messmer stated that with the new funding from the state, the Health Department will be engaging in services with other entities and felt it prudent to draft a template for a standard contract. They are not asking for any action to be taken today, this will be on the next agenda. The intent of the template is so the Health Department can fill out the scope of services anytime they have a new engagement. Kenny Hale made a motion to table the template. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**VOTE CENTER/FACILITY USE AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that the county uses different facilities for vote centers on primary and general election days and Tammy Parker, Morgan County Clerk, thought it would be prudent to have a facility use agreement in place to protect the county. Mr. Messmer asked that the Commissioners authorize the Election Board to sign the agreement. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Vote Center Building/Facility Use Agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier amended his motion to add that they delegate the Election Board to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE - AMENDED**

Josh Messmer stated that the Board approved and signed a contract for purchase of real estate for

the recycling center near Centerton. The property owner was not willing to accept the contract price and asked that the appraisals be reevaluated. The appraiser amended the appraisal and the average of the two appraisals was \$298,000, an increase of \$35,500. The property owner has signed the amended agreement. Bryan Collier stated that this is a move in the right direction to get recycling back. Don Adams stated that this is a plus for the county to get this location. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Contract for the Purchase of Real Estate. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE SQUARE**

Organizers for the National Day of Prayer have requested the use of the Courthouse Square on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 1 pm. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMENTS**

Dianna Jennings and Carol Dunfee, on behalf of the Morgan County Democratic Women, were present to request approval to clean up around the Courthouse Square for Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Don Adams thanked them for their interest in doing this.

Ms. Jennings thanked the Commissioners for trimming the trees in the neighborhood and for plowing the roads so quickly after the last snow.

**MONROE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT**

Kenny Hale stated that Michael Wagoner, Monroe Township Fire District, returned his phone call and the request for the tax levy increase is the same as what they did three years ago based on the population increase. The deadline is today and if they have to wait until next year, it will hurt them. Drew Farrington asked if the fire district advertised the public hearing. Proof of Publication was not submitted along with the fire district meeting minutes and the minutes were not dated. Don Adams stated that he was reluctant to approve this without having the proper information. Bryan Collier stated he did not want to hamstring a fire department, but he didn't know what he would be voting on.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

David Mow, Morgan County Soil and Water, stated that there will be a "Weed Wrangle" on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Burkhardt Creek Park and April 20<sup>th</sup> at Old Town Waverly Park. They will be pulling garlic mustard.

Don Adams noted that they are prepared for the solar eclipse and that the Chamber has extra solar eclipse glasses available. Mr. Adams stated that he appreciated all the preparation EMA, 911 Dispatch and the Sheriff's Department has done.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

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Don Adams

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Bryan A. Collier

Attest:

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Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Kenny Hale