

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

**MINUTES**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the April 1, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**UNOFFICIAL DETOUR**

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that INDOT is working on State Road 42 and there are three unofficial detours for approval while this work is being done. Mr. Schneck will monitor the condition of the detour before the work begins and compare it with the post construction condition. INDOT will help with any repairs if needed. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the unofficial detours. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLERK'S REPORT/TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-7 – Drug Task Force Fund 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Anne Cowgur stated that some time ago, a fund was established to receive donations from a community partnership for a drug task force. When receipting in \$9,000 in grant funds, it came to their attention that the fund had not been properly established, which requires an ordinance. Ms. Cowgur noted that funds come from not only donations, but grants, forfeitures, and even budgeted funds. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the ordinance establishing the drug task force fund. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**RFP/RFO GREENWAY TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

Kenny Hale stated that he has several maps for the trails in the White River area, but would like to have an official plan in order to be eligible for grant funds. The notice requesting the proposals will be on the county website as well as newspapers. Kenny Hale made a motion to move forward with the Request for Proposals/Request for Qualifications for the White River Greenway Trail Master Plan. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Mr. Hale stated that there are 37 miles of trails planned in Morgan County for connectivity to other trails. Motion carried 3-0.

**ORDINANCE 2024-6 – Public Purchasing 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Anne Cowgur stated that Taft Law drafted this ordinance and she reviewed it. The ordinance is an update with amendments to the purchasing policies for the county. The ordinance adds the county engineer, sets forth specifics for approval requirements and when purchases of certain items can be made in order to facilitate business. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-6 An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Amending Morgan County Code 30.04 to Further Define the Role of the Purchasing Agents and Establish a Purchasing Policy for the County. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Bryan Collier stated that he had some questions regarding checks and balances. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION 2024-4-15 – Investment of Public Funds**

Anne Cowgur stated that this authorization for investing public funds needs to be renewed on an annual basis. The resolution regards investment of public funds into Certificates of Deposit and they need a resolution allowing it every year. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Public Funds Pursuant to I.C. 5-13-9-5. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Don Adams stated that the Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session earlier in the day regarding litigation. Kenny Hale made a motion to void the action taken in 1997 on the easement for Williams Cemetery access and to move forward on the procedure. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**LEASE AGREEMENT – 911 Dispatch**

Anne Cowgur stated that the county made revisions per statute and the lease company had questions regarding this language and the lease should be ready for the next meeting. Kenny Hale made a motion to table the lease. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TEMPLATE – Health Department**

Anne Cowgur stated that this MOU was introduced at the previous meeting and there have been some changes such as wordsmithing and including more details on services to be provided. They also included appropriation language in the terms. Ms. Cowgur suggested approving the MOU template as long as there is no cash outlay for the county. They would need a separate resolution or agreement that would authorize the Board of Health to enter into contracts under a certain money threshold. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the MOU template with the Health Department as presented. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**ORDINANCE 2024-8 – Art Advisory Board 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Don Adams stated that with the new Judicial Campus Building, there are opportunities for two areas of art. One will be a 21' X 8' mural at the end of Morgan Hall. This ordinance creates an advisory board to pursue the design and painting of the mural. The other part of the artwork will be the posting of work by local artists and/or schools. The advisory board will establish policy for this work. The advisory board will consist of five appointments from the Commissioners and two from the Council. Anne Cowgur stated that ultimately, the decision falls to the Commissioners. The advisory board will explore options and provide a suggestion to the Commissioners. Don Adams stated that this would include the greenspace. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**TORT CLAIM**

Bryan Collier made a motion to submit the Blair tort claim to the insurance carrier. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**PTO DONATION**

Daree Fry, Morgan County HR Director, stated that an employee’s spouse is experiencing a health issue and other employees in the department are requesting to donate time to the employee. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams thanked the Highway Department for the work they have done with the recent flooding. Bryan Collier stated that the person who cuts the lock on the flood gate, then leaves it open so the mother with three children goes through it at night, not knowing that it’s three feet deep, suffers the consequences for that action. Mr. Collier stated that cutting the locks is a prosecutable offense and endangers others. Don’t cut the locks.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bryan Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. 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