

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, BRYAN COLLIER, AND KENNY HALE. LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR; KERSTIN WOODARD, RECORDING SECRETARY; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

MINUTES

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the April 15, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CLAIMS

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the April 12 and April 26, 2024 payroll claims of \$866,729.14 and \$882,197.71; PERF \$76,112.23 and \$76,665.26; FICA \$62,808.56 and \$64,008.01; and monthly claims of \$1,668,815.26. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

PROCLAMATION

Keylee Wright, Executive Director of the Kendrick Foundation, stated that the Kendrick Foundation, in partnership with the Morgan County Mental Health Task Force, is requesting a proclamation for May as Mental Health Month in Morgan County. The Task Force is also asking that everyone be seen in green as green is the official color for mental health awareness.

The Task Force aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma and increase access to services. They have trained mental health first aid responders, promoted “988” as a method of reaching the suicide and crisis lifeline and developed a comprehensive mental health resource list for Morgan County. Plans for 2024 include promoting mental health month, sponsoring a concert series, partnering with YMCA, offering free mental health trainings and helping with the distribution of the local opioid settlement funds.

Bryan Collier made a motion to proclaim May as Mental Health Month for Morgan County. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. (Proclamation follows minutes.)

TREASURER’S REPORT

Bryan Collier made a motion to acknowledge the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

DEED OF DEDICATION – *Timber Lake Woods*

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that taking the roads in Timber Lake Woods into the county highway system was discussed a couple of months ago and there were two conditions for taking them in; one was a deed of dedication and the second condition was to crack seal the roads. The crack sealing has been done and has been inspected. The road mileage will be certified to the state. Kenny Hale made a motion to accept the Deed of Dedication for Timber Lake Woods Section 1. Motion seconded by Bryan Collie. Motion carried 3-0.

DEED OF DEDICATION – *Allison Estates*

Mr. Schneck stated that he submitted maintenance and performance bonds for the roads in Allison Estates Sections 1 and 2 a few months ago. This subdivision was in the Mooresville buffer zone and approved through the Mooresville Plan Commission. The buffer zone is no longer in effect and the roads will be certified to the state. Kenny Hale made a motion to accept the Deed of Dedication for Allison Estates Section 1 and 2. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2024-9 – *Rezone Ag to R1*

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Commission Director, stated that Ralph Ennis has requested that three acres located at 4355 State Road 44 in Green Township be rezoned from Ag to R1. The Plan Commission voted 7-0 in favor of the request. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-9, rezoning property at 4355 State Road 44. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD NAMES

Sandy Mosier, Morgan County Plan Commission, stated that Echo Lake Mobile Home Park has

requested addresses for camping areas. There are not enough ranges for the existing road names and the area is on its own road. Ms. Mosier suggested a name of Echo Lake Camper Drive. This will distinguish where the campers are located. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the road name. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Mosier also submitted a list of additional road names for approval and would like to readdress the south old state road sections and a couple north of Martinsville as having an “Old State Road” is causing some confusion. Kenny Hale made a motion to accept the proposed road name list as presented. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Old State Road 67 be readdressed with another road name. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

2023 ANNUAL HIGHWAY REPORT

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, presented the 2023 Annual Highway Report. Mr. Fisher stated that District 1 paving totaled \$933,375.65; District 2 totaled \$854,531.94; and District 3 totaled \$750,868.88 for a county total of \$2,538,756.43. Don Adams stated that districts are based on population and District 2 has more road mileage. Bryan Collier noted that the roads that need it the most are the ones that are paved. Mr. Fisher noted that they were at or below budget. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Report for the Morgan County Highway Department. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

BONDS – Enclave Section 5

Justin Schneck stated that this is a subdivision northeast of the Heartland Crossing Golf Course. They have inspected the roads and the developer is submitting a performance bond for the HMA surface layer and maintenance bonds for the stone base and the HMA intermediate layers for the curb and storm sewers. They are working on a Deed of Dedication for acceptance at the next meeting. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Enclave Section 5 bonds. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

GRANT APPLICATION - EMA

Abby Worth, Morgan County EMA Director, requested approval of the 2024 State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP). This is a \$150,000 grant through the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The grant is proposed for use in increasing security efforts for soft targets (large gatherings with low security). The grant will be used to purchase a trailer that will be stocked with portable barriers, medical equipment, handheld scanners and portable cameras that could be made available to event hosts; increasing their ability to protect the event while it’s happening. They would also apply for a vehicle to pull the trailer and update the EMA truck that they have had since early 2000. This is a 75/25 grant and the county would need to match 25% of the funds. The 25% match could be met through in kind time and they plan to do this through *Stop the Bleed* and other training. Bryan Collier stated that it behooves them as county leaders to be ready for the unthinkable and thanked Ms. Worth for applying for the grant. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE

Josh Messmer stated that the county has opioid settlement funds that will be distributed over the next 18 years. They have talked about instituting a stable process with continuity and longevity so it isn’t a free-for-all each year. The Better Communities Coalition was formed a couple of years ago and one of the major task forces is mental health and they have asked for a broad perspective of professionals, especially those that are in touch with communities that would be affected by these opioid dollars to be able to vet RFPs and come back to the Board with feedback. Mr. Messmer presented a draft of a timeline showing what the Better Communities Coalition could do. The goal would be to work towards a kickoff of the RFP process by January 2025 and look toward multi-year funding for initiatives they may be doing. There is a draft RFP that Tricia Runnigen and Keylee Wright put together. Exhibit “E” is from the state and lays out the final uses for the funding. There is also a resolution similar to a Hendricks County resolution. If this is something that the Board is interested in doing, Mr. Messmer proposed that he, Keylee and Tricia move forward on suggesting a committee and come back for final approval. Don Adams stated that the strength of the Better Communities Coalition is in making improvements in a variety of areas of health. Bryan Collier made a motion to pursue the task as outlined. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – County Line Road, Old State Road 267

Josh Messmer stated that this item is an update. Justin Schneck came before the Commissioners with an MOU from Hendricks County for improvements on County Line Road. The county has since found out that there is an Interlocal Agreement with Mooresville for Old State Road 267 that was completed several years ago so this road is not the county’s jurisdiction.

ORDINANCE 2024-6 – *Purchasing Agents 2nd Reading*

Kenny Hale questioned Section 2.B(6) “The designee of any of the above persons” for 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, and asked that this item be struck. Bryan Collier stated that he was comfortable with any office holders or department heads making purchases, but was uncomfortable with a designee. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the Ordinance on second reading with the change. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2024-7 – *Drug Task Force 2nd Reading*

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-7, An Ordinance to Establish the Morgan County Drug Task Force on second reading. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2024-8 – *Art Advisory Board*

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-8 An Ordinance to Establish a Public Art Advisory Board for the Morgan County Judicial Campus. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

EQUIPMENT LEASE – *911 Dispatch*

Josh Messmer stated that the chairs in the 911 Dispatch Center are not standard chairs; they are much more long-term and durable. It is actually less expensive to lease them than to buy them outright. This three-year lease actually allows for refurbishment year in and year out and is a few thousand dollars less than purchasing the chairs. They will come and replace parts and if it can’t be refurbished they will replace the chair. A lot of dispatch centers have moved to this method. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the equipment lease agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

CENTERPOINT LEASE/EASEMENT

Josh Messmer stated that CenterPoint requested that a lease be turned into a purchase. The Assessor’s Office put a value on the land and it was more than CenterPoint was willing to pay. They will need to let the county know if they want to move forward. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the item. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

TORT CLAIM

Anne Cowgur noted that insurance has already denied the Nuetzman tort claim.

INTRODUCTION

Alan Galloway, Triad Associates, stopped by to introduce himself and stated that they were interested in submitting a Statement of Qualification for the White River Trail RFQ.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Bryan Collier stated that he weekend was consumed with lies and falsehoods of what the Board is going to do to a not-for-profit organization. Mr. Collier stated that they are not shutting down a festival that has been going on for years and years. They are not doing anything to end that tradition. It is good that citizens love their traditions and are able to have a voice. Yes, there will be renovations at the Courthouse, but as far as greenspace, that has not been determined, and it is not his intention to eliminate any parking. There is complete transparency on hosting events at the Courthouse. The Board accepted the petition to use the Courthouse and gave them a head’s up that there is construction coming. Timelines have not been finalized. There is no parking garage.

Don Adams noted that tomorrow is primary election day.

ADJOURNMENT

Bryan Collier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0.

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Bryan A. Collier

Attest:

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale