

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Moment of Silence*

**CLERK’S REPORT**

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

**GRANT APPLICATIONS - EMA**

Abby Worth, EMA Director, stated that one application is new, the other is an amendment to an application that was submitted at a prior meeting. The costs came in \$10,000 over the initial grant application for the window mitigation for schools. The quote for the window film was \$21 per sq ft, but they did not initially mention that there was a \$4 per linear ft additional fee; however, they are still able to match the 25% county match with in-kind contributions, so there is no additional cost to the county. The amended total for this grant is \$223,086.24. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the amended grant application. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

The second grant is a \$150,000 State Homeland Security Grant (SHSP) that is for evacuation software that EMA can use for training, planning and exercises to forecast what an evacuation plan would look like for certain areas in the county and what the exposure risk would be for people as they evacuate. This can also be used for long term health impacts in addition to planning evacuation routes should they ever need to run an evacuation. Public safety agencies and private stakeholders come together and create large emergency response plans for potential incidents for threats and hazards. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the grant application. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Anne Cowgur stated that the Board had an Executive Session and received advice from counsel on privileged information related to a recommended course of litigation. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the recommendation of counsel and move forward with legal action. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Josh Messmer stated that the county has Travelers Insurance, which is up for renewal. The renewal quote has increased for auto coverage and the amount is dollar for dollar the same amount as the losses sustained this year over last year. There are some other minor changes overall, but holds fairly constant. There are several companies that are pulling out of the municipal market and it is becoming increasingly harder to obtain coverage in some instances. A lot of municipal clients had to change to large deductibles and Mr. Messmer felt pleased with the renewal and recommended that the county renew with Travelers. Bryan Collier noted that his business insurance increased by 43% due mostly to tornado damage. Mr. Collier asked if Travelers would help design a program to help mitigate auto increases or if they have a defensive driving course. Mr. Messmer stated that they would need to come up with something. The total annual premium is \$1,189,135.52. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the insurance renewal as presented. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**GAI CONTRACT** – *Small Structure 1251*

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that there was an emergency shut down of a small structure on Leonard Road in January. They have selected GAI from the pool of applicants for the design. GAI has presented the scope of work and the fee for the design and the right of way acquisition. The attorney has reviewed and approved the contract. Bryan Collier asked Mr. Schneck to explain to the public why bridges like this can take up to two years to so. Mr. Schneck stated that the existing structure has a 14’ span and this is more involved than just placing a pipe in the ground. They must look at hydraulic analysis to make sure that adjacent property owners don’t get flooded out during a big rain event, so they need to take precautions to make sure it’s properly designed for the safety of property owners and traveling public. The county would be liable for insurance losses and the possible loss of life if someone just took a

backhoe and installed a culvert where the bridge used to be. That's why they take the proper channels for these projects. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the revised GAI contract for Small Structure 1251. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **WATER PROJECT PROGRESSION**

Josh Messmer stated that they are in the second year of the water study. It took a while to install sensors throughout the county and they have been collecting data. Intera is helping to build a dashboard to start to interpret the results. They have been discussing the need to engage with the state legislature. Morgan is only one of two counties that utilized the opportunity through ARPA Funds to look into water resources and start to quantify that. Mr. Messmer submitted a three-year contract from Intera to continue the project, including upkeep for the well network, supplying and monitoring the wells, evaluating local aquifer impacts from the data and entering information into the portal for decision making. This is an annual cost of \$305,000 and would be paid through ARPA Funds. Jack Whitman, Intera, stated that they are collection data that has never been collected before and they are looking forward to finding all the ways that this data can provide more useful information to decision makers that are looking at growth and change in the county and how this water piece fits in and prevent the chaos that has been seen in other parts of the state. Local people should know where the water supplies are and what areas should or should not be developed. Don Adams stated that they have a great resource that they need to be able to protect and the information would be valuable for generations. Mr. Whitman stated that this is an important step and the county is leading in taking this step. Bryan Collier stated that he takes great pride in hearing a doctor state that Morgan County is leading on a positive study that will affect generations to come. There will not be economic stability or growth if they can't drink any water. Mr. Whitman stated that they are in the right spot for the future. Bryan Collier made a motion to move forward with the project. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Josh Messmer stated that they prepare a contract for approval.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-5-20 TRESPASS ORDER**

Anne Cowgur stated that this resolution is an update to a resolution that has been in existence since February 2, 2018. The resolution banned a particular individual from contact with Morgan County office holders and staff and barred the individual from the Morgan County Administration Building. Some county offices that have been affected by the same individual are in the Courthouse and the amendment expands the barred buildings to include not only the Administration Building, but also the Morgan County Judicial Campus and Morgan County Courthouse unless entry is for the specific purpose of official court business. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5-20 A Resolution of the County Commissioners of Morgan County. Indiana Ordering the No-Trespass. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **AMBULANCE PURCHASE**

Brent Worth, Morgan County EMS Director, stated that a year ago, they looked at replacement of ambulances to sustain the operation long term. They currently have eight units that are in service and one that was sent off late last year for re-mount. It is still being re-mounted and getting close to being delivered. They have five 2017 ambulances, four of which are over 120,000 miles and one that is 80,000 miles; one 2019 and two 2021 units that have approximately 50,000 miles. Last year they requested \$350,000 for the purchase of a new ambulance and this was approved by the Council. The estimate from the manufacturer in December was \$356,000. Since then they talked with Braun and began negotiations with Horton and they quoted the specifications at a cost of \$374,000. Mr. Worth made contact with the sales rep to discuss the difference in the cost and during these negotiations, the sales rep contacted Horton and they had four orders that cancelled. They have one unit available at \$331,000 that could be delivered in October. Mr. Worth reviewed the drawings and specifications of the unit and it is very similar; it can also be re-mounted. Delivery is earlier and they have the funds appropriated. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the purchase and the deposit. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier stated that he was on a heart-wrenching call while in his other job role at a fire department and a young lady in a horrible state of mind did not want to talk to "some guy" and Mr. Collier commended the EMS crew for their professionalism and compassion.

### **SYCAMORE SERVICES (MORGAN COUNTY CONNECT)**

Bryan Collier stated that Morgan County Connect is a division of Sycamore Services. They provide services to county residents through a piggy-back contract with Hendricks County and have done this for many years. INDOT sent the contract back to Sycamore Services and stated that since Morgan County is reaping part of the benefits, they need a representative from Morgan County to sign off on the contract and approve a resolution. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the agreement with Sycamore Services. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5-20 B. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**CENTERPOINT LEASE/EASEMENT**

Don Adams stated that this item was tabled at the previous meeting and it looks like it should be tabled again. Kenny Hale made a motion to table the CenterPoint Lease/Agreement. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Don Adams stated that the county is looking at purchasing property for a recycling center and EMS station. They need to authorize a member of the Board to sign documents related to this purchase. Bryan Collier made a motion to authorize Don Adams as the signatory for the land acquisition. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE SQUARE**

Randy Miller, president of Ride to Cure, Inc., was present to request the use of the Courthouse Square as a stopping place for a lunch break during a 100 mile ride (Ram’s Ride) that donates all proceeds to benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. They are a 501(c)3. The ride is on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, starts in Plainfield and ends in Indianapolis. The 250 riders plan to patronize businesses and restaurants in the area for a lunch break. They asked if the parking area could be barricaded to allow room for the riders. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the request and asked that the Highway Department work with the street department to block off the parking area and post notice that parking will not be allowed from 9 am to the end of the event. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION 2024-5-20C – Interlocal Agreement**

Justin Schneck stated that over the last few meetings, they have discussed an interlocal agreement with Hendricks County regarding a signal project at Old State Road 267 and County Line Road. They determined that in 2017, an interlocal agreement was signed that gave Old SR 267 to Mooresville and they would be the party that Hendricks County needs to coordinate with. Upon further coordination with Hendricks County, they will be purchasing right of way for this project that is outside the limits of what the Town of Mooresville owns and they still need an interlocal agreement between The Town of Mooresville and Morgan County in order to give them permission to purchase right of way. This resolution mimics the one Hendricks County approved. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5-20 C A Resolution of the County Commissioners of Morgan County, Indiana Approving the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between Morgan County, Indiana and Hendricks County, Indiana. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams thanked the EMS Department for the service they provide.

Randy Miller stated that they like coming to Morgan County because it has the best roads of the counties they go through.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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