

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, CHIP KELLER, MELISSA GREENE, BRIAN CULP AND JOE CRONE. ALSO PRESENT WERE; LINDA PRUITT, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER (*Vickie Kivett*)

Treasurer's/Clerk's Report

Kim Merideth noted that they received the December 2024 and January 2025 Treasurer's Report and the January Clerk's Report.

Minutes

Chip Keller made a motion to approve the January 14 and February 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation:

• *Highway Department*

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, requested an additional appropriation of \$300,000 from several funds (3385) Cumulative Capital Development, (1176) MVH Unrestricted, (1112) LIT Economic Development and ((1191) Riverboat. Mr. Fisher stated that the underground storage tanks for fuel are failing. They are 13 years out of date. IDEM inspected them several months ago and stated that the walls are thin and the first layer has failed. The county has been awarded a grant that will cover a portion of the cost. Mr. Fisher stated that they got a new system two years ago that tracks fuel usage and everything would be new and updated for a cost of \$277,220.00 after reimbursement from the state. Using Highway Department equipment to haul the soil to a designated site would save \$87,300. They will also be able to back fill once the new tanks are in. The current tanks are 8,000 gal. and they are upgrading to 10,000 gal. There are three tanks currently and they are reducing to two tanks; one for diesel and one for gas. Kim Merideth suggested that the Riverboat Fund (1191) be used since they don't budget from this fund. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the \$300,000 additional appropriation from the Riverboat Fund (1191) into Acct #1191.44412.00000.0529 (Underground Fuel Tank & Station). Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2025-3-3A – Transfer Funds to Rainy Day Fund

Linda Pruitt stated that with all of the investments in 2024, they received a little over \$4 million in interest. Ms. Pruitt recommended that they transfer that amount from the General Fund (1000) to the Rainy Day Fund (1186). Ms. Pruitt stated that this moves the money out of the General Fund and they aren't banking on having this, because they don't know what is going to happen in the next few years. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3-3-A A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of \$4,000,000 to the Rainy Day Fund. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2025-3-3B – Jail Commissary Fund Expenditures

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander and Sheriff Rich Myers were present to discuss Resolution 2025-3-3B A Resolution of the Morgan County Council Authorizing Additional Expenditures from the Morgan County Jail Commissary Fund. Mr. Rogers stated that throughout the state of Indiana, there have been sheriffs that have not been very responsible with their commissary accounts, which has lead to indictments. Morgan County has not had that problem, but the Sheriff's Association and State Board of Accounts has made a push to have a resolution in place. Indiana Code gives permission to use the account without appropriation, but it is vague on what the uses are for. This resolution makes it more transparent and outlines the uses. The resolution states that anything over \$1,000 would require Council approval. They have purchased computers, training, jail transport vehicles, drug treatment for inmates, TVs or entertainment for inmates, and products for the inmates. The revenue comes in from the products sold to inmates, inmate phone service, visitation, and a device that inmates receive messages on. The amount of revenue varies each year but runs between \$300,000 to \$400,000. Rich Myers stated that the State Board of Accounts also attends training and conferences; they have two people dedicated to the Sheriffs and jails. Melissa Greene made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-3-3B. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Auditor Cash Change Fund

Linda Pruitt stated that the request to have a cash change fund would require a resolution and since it was a last minute request, the county attorney was not able to draft the resolution. Ms. Pruitt asked that this item be tabled.

Ms. Pruitt stated that she has worked in the Auditor's Office for over 24 years and they have never had their own cash. If someone comes in with documents, and they collect a fee, they do not have the capability to accept a debt or credit card payment, and they cannot provide change. An employee must take the cash and go to the Treasurer's Office to obtain change. This creates a liability if the customer states that they gave the employee a larger bill, they don't have it in front of them anymore. It also is not time efficient. Ms. Pruitt is asking to set up a \$200 cash change fund, and they are also working to accept debit and credit cards. Brian Culp made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 7-0.

Salary Ordinance Amendment – Highway Department

Linda Pruitt stated that during the budget workshop, the Highway Department requested two additional floater/laborer positions and a civil engineering technician. These positions started out in the Highway and Bridge Fund (1112), but with all the changes in the budget, this was moved to the (1176) MVH Fund. This amendment is just a clean-up to show the actual number of positions that are being paid out of the Highway and Bridge Fund (1112) and changing the three new positions to the correct fund (1176) in the Salary Ordinance. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 7-0.

Job Maintenance Committee

Josh Messmer stated that Daree Fry, HR Director, was not feeling well and had to leave. Mr. Messmer stated that the Council is the statutory authority over job descriptions so any time there is a change, it is brought before them. It is not a formal job description until the Council approves it. HR is the official keeper of the job descriptions that are approved

The first change before the Council is a change to the hours of a seasonal/part-time position in the Treasurer's Office. This position will be no more than 28 hours per week. No other changes were made. Troy Sprinkle stated that the Job Maintenance Committee approved the changes and made a motion to approve the job description. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Tricia Runningen, Morgan County Health Department Director, requested a change to the School Liaison position. This position is currently part-time and funded through the school liaison grant. The position is vacant and they are looking to make it a full time position. They have funding through 2025 and would fund the position through the 1161 state funding in 2026. Benefits would come from this fund as well. Brian Culp stated the change would not impact the 2025 budget and they could have a further discussion at budget time. The Job Maintenance Committee approved the request. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the job description as presented. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Runningen stated that they are requesting a Finance/Grants Manager position. This is currently the Administrative Assistant/Office Manager position. They have been through four employees in the last four years. Each employee has lasted approximately nine months. Ms. Runningen stated that along with the additional funding from the state, their responsibilities have increased. Ms. Runningen is looking for a right-hand type person to do the administrative tasks, typical finance, claims, budgets for the nine funds, purchasing, board meetings and minutes and back up for the vital records clerk and clinical secretary. This person will also manage grants. In the last 12 months, they have awarded over \$600,000 to 14 new partners. This requires collecting data from each partner that is then submitted to the state, they will manage the invoicing from the partners and provide technical assistance. This position will not be in the office all the time; they will be out working with the community partners and seeking other grants. This would be a 40-hour position. This position was classified as a COMOT II and would now be classified as a PAT II. The position would require a Bachelor's degree and would be an annual salary of \$69,000. Funding is available for 2025 if the position is filled in April. Brian Culp stated that the Job Maintenance Committee also discussed a seven-hour per day position for a salary of \$60,000. Mr. Culp stated that he wouldn't want to approve it now, just to inform her at budget time that the position would need to be eliminated. Ms. Runningen asked if it would be more amenable to use the 1161 funds for 2026. They are holding up on filling one of the Health Educator positions until they know what the 2026 budget will be. Kim Merideth

made a motion to table the Finance/Grants Manager position until the May meeting. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting

Kim Merideth noted that the next meeting is April 7, 2025.

Adjournment

Vickie Kivett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth
Kim Merideth

Vickie Kivett
Vickie Kivett

Troy Sprinkle
Troy Sprinkle

Chip Keller
Chip Keller

Melissa Greene
Melissa Greene

Brian Culp
Brian Culp

Joe Crone
Joe Crone

ATTEST:

Linda Pruitt
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor