

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE DON ADAMS, BRYAN COLLIER, AND KENNY HALE. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; AND JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

**2024 COMMISSARY REPORT**

Bryan Collier made a motion to acknowledge the Sheriff's Commissary Report. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**BOARD OF FINANCE**

Kenny Hale made a motion to nominate Bryan Collier Chairman of the Board of Finance. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 2-0-1. Bryan Collier abstained.

Kenny Hale made a motion to nominate Dan Bastin, Morgan County Treasurer, as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

Kenny Hale stated that they have to review the policy every year. The current policy was adopted as Exhibit "A" of Ordinance 2023-13 and authorizes the investing officer to make investments with a final maturity of more than two years but not more than five years after the date of purchase. Total investments cannot be more than 25% of the total portfolio of public funds invested by the county. Josh Messmer noted that both Commissioners and Council approved the policy in 2023. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the Investment Policy. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

Kenny Hale stated that the beginning cash balance on January 1, 2024 was \$99,148,732.65 and the ending balance on December 31, 2024 was \$105,513,915.68. There were 512 employees with a total payroll of \$22,912,942.28. Don Adams made a motion to accept the report. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Kenny Hale stated that the Board appointed Ashley Duke to the Mooresville Public Library and Ms. Wright submitted a Conflict of Interest Form for her position with First Merchants Bank and the library has accounts with the bank. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**ELTF GRANT APPLICATION** – *Highway Department*

Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, stated that he has been working with PDI regarding a grant to reimburse 50% of the cost to replace underground storage tanks. They currently have three tanks and will reduce this to two tanks; one unleaded and one diesel. They are waiting for the quote for the cost to replace the tanks. This replacement has not been budgeted, as the issue was brought forward after the budget was set. They hope to start the project in March and be complete within three months. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the grant application. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**EMA 2024 REVIEW AND 2025 INITIATIVE REPORT**

Abby Worth, Morgan County EMA Director, stated that this end of year report outlines what was done for the prior year and what is planned for the future year. It also shows the state that they have met or exceeded requirements. The report shows the grants that were applied for, tornado sirens that were installed, trainings, community outreach, EOC activation and EMA response. The report also outlines EMA responsibilities and goals for 2025. Bryan Collier noted that tornado sirens were installed at Paragon Elementary School, Hoosier Harvest Church, Foxcliff Utilities Facility and near Liberty Church off I-69. Ms. Worth stated that they were approved for a BRIC Grant they would allow for three more sirens and they plan on adding two more with county funds. The project ends in 2028 and they should have full coverage for the county as far as outdoor activities are concerned.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Kenny Hale stated that Anne Cowgur has worked with him to compose a Memorandum of Understanding for the Old Town Waverly food court electric project. RFPs were issued and a vendor has been selected. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the MOU with Live Wire Consulting, Inc. for \$45,608.57. The scope of work includes installing 16 outdoor panels for

power stations and breakers for the food court. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**TORT CLAIM**

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

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the \$70.00 Emberton claim for a mailbox. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**COMMENTS** – *Bottom Road*

Kenny Hale stated that there were several people present that asked to speak about the Bottom Road project.

Debbie Harker, Morgan County resident, stated that they want to work with the county regarding the Bottom Road project and asked what type of facility/structure is planned. Kenny Hale stated that a salt barn is planned. Ms. Harker asked if there were plans to widen the road from Centerton to the 90 degree turn in front of Dallas Roses’ house. Kenny Hale stated that they had some initial engineering plans, but it is just to help straighten out the curve, not widen the whole road. Ms. Harker stated that two cars can get through, but there is no place to move if a wider vehicle comes through because there is a ditch. Bryan Collier stated that they are aware that if they put a salt barn on the property, there would have to be some improvements to the road. Kenny Hale stated that the RFP has been issued and approve and the property has not yet been rezoned. Ms. Harker stated that they are concerned about water contamination with a salt barn and asked if the original objective was to build a salt barn when the county obtained the property. The Board replied that it wasn’t. Kenny Hale stated that he has met with other landowners to discuss purchasing property.

Chase Harker, Morgan County resident, handed out a list of properties the county currently owns and stated that many of them are good pieces of property that the county should consider for the salt barn or a county highway facility. Kenny Hale stated that many of the properties listed were obtained through FEMA grants or with CDBG funds and have deed restrictions. Mr. Harker also provided a list of properties for sale. Mr. Harker stated that it would be better suited fiscally if the county invests more money into a good piece of land rather than continue to use flood plain areas for the transportation department. Mr. Harker also suggested selling some of the county-owned property in order to have funds to purchase other property.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Kenny Hale thanked Eddie Fisher and the highway crews for their work the past few weeks during the inclement weather.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

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Don Adams

Attest:

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Bryan A. Collier

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Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Kenny Hale