

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M.**

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

PLEDGE

PRAYER

**MINUTES**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the January 13 and January 21, 2025 minutes. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the January 17 and 31, 2025 payroll claims of \$942,033.22 and \$935,956.57; PERF \$84,328.54 and \$83,292.52; FICA \$68,302.51 and \$70,798.30; and monthly claims of \$2,649,909.72. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Kenny Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s Report for December.

**BID OPENING** – 2024-2 CCMG

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Department Engineer, and Eddie Fisher, Morgan County Highway Superintendent, opened 2024-2 CCMG paving bids as follows:

E&B Paving	Milestone Const	Howard Co	Wallace Const	Midwest Paving
\$1,449,449.00	\$1,392,787.50	\$1,434,680.30	\$1,394,569.56	\$1,612,744.89

Mr. Schneck asked for time to review the bids and report back towards the end of the meeting. The Board agreed.

**BID OPENING** – Bridge #99 Rehab

Mr. Schneck and Mr. Fisher opened bids for the rehabilitation of Bridge #99 on Herbemont Road as follows:

Force Construction	HIS Constructors	Pontem Contractors
\$636,210.00	\$606,372.32	\$595,000.00

These bids will be reviewed and Mr. Schneck will report back.

**BID OPENING** – Multi Bridge Rehab Project

Mr. Schneck stated that his project involves placing a waterproof membrane and a new wearing surface over 18 of the county bridges and opened bids for the multi-bridge rehab project as follows:

All Star Paving	Baumgartner Asphalt
\$789,199.25	\$695,091.65

These bids will be reviewed and Mr. Schneck will report back with a recommendation for award.

**BRIDGE #68 REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Schneck stated that this item is for reimbursement for utility relocations for the Bridge #68 project on Ballinger Road. During the utility coordination process, SCIREMC has both electric and fiber within the easement and must relocate due to the project. The reimbursable costs total \$32,527.34. Once this agreement is signed, SCIREMC is ready to begin relocation so the bridge project can proceed. Don Adams made a motion to approve the reimbursement agreement. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**BRIDGE #68 PLAN APPROVAL**

Mr. Schneck presented the plans for Bridge #68. This project has been in the works for some time and they are at a point where they are ready to take the project to bid. They are anticipating a March 3<sup>rd</sup> bid date. Mr. Schneck requested approval and signatures on the title sheet. Kenny Hale stated that this project would be a nice improvement. Don Adams made a motion to approve the

plan. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **BRIDGE INSPECTION PRESENTATION**

Justin Schneck stated that it is a federal requirement that all bridges in the county are inspected every two years. For the last four-year cycle, United Consulting has been running that program. They just wrapped up phase two inspections. Kyle Kent, United Consulting, was present to review the findings. Mr. Kent stated that United Consulting is under contract to provide inspection services for the Morgan County bridge inventory. The contract is for a four-year period, which started in August of 2022. Bridge inspections are required for all bridges with a span length greater than 20 ft. The Federal Highway Administration has reimbursed the county 80% of the cost of inspections for this contract. The report is based on the findings of the second phase of inspections that were completed in August of 2024. There are 157 bridges, 11 load posted bridges, 5 fracture critical and 3 scour critical. Mr. Kent stated that several of the bridges listed for replacement are smaller bridges with less traffic. The county could consider combining two bridges into one project to obtain more competitive bids and applying for CCMG grants that would provide up to \$1 million in funding with a 50/50 match. They compared Morgan County with the average county in the state and Morgan County performs better than the average in every metric. Bridges have a lifespan of around 75 years and if the county replaces two every year, this maintains the infrastructure. In order to insure the most life out of the bridges, Mr. Kent suggested that the county continue to perform bridge deck patching, bridge deck overlays and installing rip rap on the banks of some channels to prevent erosion under the substructure. Mr. Kent praised the efforts of County Highway Engineer, Justin Schneck and his team.

### **BRIDGE #107 PROJECT UPDATE**

Justin Schneck stated that INDOT awarded funding for Bridge #107 and the project is under contract with Burgess & Niple. They received notice to proceed in late November of 2024. Ed Spar, Burgess & Niple, introduced himself and stated that they appreciate the opportunity to work with the county. Mr. Schneck stated that the bridge is slated for 2030 for INDOT funding through the federal aid process.

### **MORGAN COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT MOU**

Bryan Collier stated that this Memorandum of Understanding between the Morgan County Regional Sewer District, Morgan County Redevelopment Commission, Town of Bargersville and Morgan County Board of Commissioners sets out the basic terms to secure the transfer of the Waverly assets. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the MOU as presented. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Kenny Hale stated that there are two letters of support for the Indiana Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) from Comcast and SCI REMC. The board approved a similar letter from AT&T at a prior meeting. Kenny Hale stated that this program helps to get broadband throughout the county. SCI REMC will help the Jordan Road and Paragon areas and Comcast will help a lot of their service areas. Don Adams made a motion to approve the letters. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

### **APPOINTMENT**

*Harrison Township Fire District* – Kenny Hale stated that he had not received a resignation letter from the member yet. The board has business they need to act on and the member has not been able to attend meetings due to an accident. Bryan Collier made a motion to table the appointment. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **REQUEST TO USE ADMIN BUILDING**

The Central Indiana Council on Aging (CICOA) has requested the use of the Lucille Sadler Room in the Administration Building on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Don Adams made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

### **BID UPDATE**

Justin Schneck stated that the meeting went a little quicker than anticipated and they did not complete the bid review. He will come back at the next meeting with a recommendation. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept all bids as presented. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY**

Don Adams stated that he attended a political event and enjoyed seeing people get involved. Mr. Adams stated that the weather is looking good and encouraged people to get out to a park.

Kenny Hale noted that there is a program at Old Town Waverly Park on March 6<sup>th</sup> to show a film of the explosion of the old concrete bridge at Waverly. They will also present the history of the

bridge and the covered bridge that was there before that.

Kenny Hale acknowledged EMA for being selected by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security for the best county in the state of Indiana for their readiness assessment and overall accomplishments for 2024.

**COMMENTS**

Chase Harker, Morgan County resident, stated that he had some land for sale that the transportation could use as an alternative site for the salt barn or the facility. Mr. Harker stated that the property on Morgan Street is two minutes from I-69 and has a road that could support the equipment. The state acquired some property nearby so the county could potentially have four acres. Mr. Harker proposed that if the county were to purchase other facilities for the salt barn, he would buy back the corner on Bottom Road for the amount the county paid and put in the agreement to let the county use the property to straighten the curve. Mr. Harker suggested that the county move forward quickly. Kenny Hale stated that government does not typically move quickly.

Dianna Jennings, Morgan County resident, thanked the county for the excellent job they did with snow removal and asked about an update on the recycling center. Josh Messmer stated that the contract for construction was awarded in December on property the county has near Centerton. There will be an EMS station as well as recycling and the intent is to open later this year. Bryan Collier stated that the intent is also to have the site monitored so it isn't used for trash and material that contaminates the recycling.

**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