

**THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025 AT 6:30 P.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 – (*Kenny Hale*)

**MINUTES**

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

**CLERK’S REPORT**

Kenny Hale acknowledged receipt of the Clerk’s Report and Treasurer’s Report for February.

**WHITE RIVER GREENWAY MASTER PLAN**

Kyle Lueken, HWC Engineering Senior Project Manager and Landscape Architect, and Tanner Williams, Landscape Architect. Mr. Lueken stated that the purpose of the plan was to establish consensus and refine a possible route for the continuation of the White River Greenway throughout Morgan County. Part of the effort was to identify additional spur or trail connections which may branch off of the main spine along the White River or nearby and identify doable segments that could be future project opportunities. They hope to see connectivity of Morgan County communities, improve and support public health, economic development, awareness of the trail network in Morgan County and building on what has already been done at Waverly. A trail along the White River has shown up in at least eight Morgan County plans going back to 2004 and seven regional plans. The surrounding areas have trail extension plans and development. There is a segment of the trail already built at Old Town Waverly Park.

In preparing the plan, the committee looked at the inventory and analysis, mapping, road network, existing and proposed trails, hydrology and relief and parcels and land cover. They had public workshop and had a public survey to gauge what types of trails were preferred and what segments should be prioritized. There were 14 survey questions and 126 responses were received. There are five segments and Segment 2 and 3 were voted as a priority through the survey. A loop trail for the Waverly Trail was suggested. The segments range from 2.1 miles to 5.2 miles. The plan also lists alternate routes for each segment. Segment 1 is 2.6 miles, \$1.13 to \$1.3 million per mile budget, connects to the Morgan Monroe State Forest and ultimately makes a connection to the Knobstone Trail. Segment 2 is 2.8 miles, \$1 to 1.4 million budget and would need a bridge crossing at Stotts Creek, another bridge along the route and a retaining wall along New Harmony Road. Segment 3 just under \$1 million per mile, is 5.2 miles and runs along the White River, it will need two bridges, shoreline improvement and switchbacks. The Waverly Loop, \$1.1 to 1.2 million per mile, would need a possible boardwalk and small culvert. Segment 4 is 4.1 miles, \$1.6 to 1.8 million per mile, also runs along a portion of the river and will need to cross SR 144 and the White River. Segment 5, \$1.2 to \$1.3 million per mile, would connect to the existing Landersdale Trail and would need a small bridge. The next steps would be to adopt the plan and continue conversations with trail partners, identify potential funding and start the design.

Ann Cowgur stated that she would like to see a resolution to adopt the plan and would prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

**ORDINANCE 2025-2 and FOXCLIFF AGREEMENT**

Kenny Hale stated that Foxcliff Estates South Homowners’ Association, Inc. (FESHA) and Morgan County have had an agreement for several years for the county to enforce traffic regulations on the privately-owned property with the Foxcliff Estates South community. The agreement is included as a part of Ordinance 2025-2. The ordinance and agreement expire after December 31, 2028. Bryan Collier made a motion to waive a second reading of Ordinance 2025-2 An Ordinance to Adopt/Extend Additional Traffic Regulations on Private Roads as Requested by Foxcliff Estates South Homeowners’ Association Inc. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale, Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to adopt and approve Ordinance 2025-2. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Contractual Agreement between Foxcliff Estates

South Homeowners Association, Inc. and Morgan County Commissioners. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-3-17 – Authorizing Investment of Public Funds**

Kenny Hale stated that the prior resolution was approved April 15, 2024. Josh Messmer stated that this is something the county started doing a few years ago. It allows the county to invest in CDs outside the corporate limits of the county. This resolution expires annually. There are CDs held outside the county and in order to continue to hold those CDs, the resolution must be updated annually. Bryan Collier noted that there could be legislation that would make this unnecessary and made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Investment of Public Funds Pursuant to I.C. 5-13-9-5. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **INDOT LPA CONTRACT**

Josh Messmer stated Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, was not able to be present. The Board had discussed the proposed agreement between INDOT and Morgan County at a previous meeting. The concerns regarding the pricing breakdown have been resolved on the HSIP Agreement and the state is requiring approval of the LPA Contract between INDOT and the Local Public Agency (Morgan County). INDOT will send the agreement via Docusign for signature. Don Adams made a motion to approve the contract. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **MANAGED SERVICES IT AGREEMENT**

Josh Messmer stated that the county migrated to SharePoint over the past year and are working on the domain and network. They are understaffed and have one IT director. Instead of hiring additional employees, they are exploring bringing managed services in-house. They sent out an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and Gadellnet submitted a strong application. Joel Johnson, IT Director, and Mr. Messmer have been working with Gadellnet and recommend this firm for managed services, cybersecurity, and network monitoring. This agreement allows Gadellnet's IT tools to be deployed on Morgan County's systems and allowing Mr. Johnson oversight. The cost for this is \$12,556 per month. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Master Services Agreement, Statement of Work and Schedule F. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **MONROE TWP CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Anne Cowgur stated that she ran into some issues with this document and it was not ready to present. Don Adams made a motion to table the item. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0. Josh Messmer stated that this item is part of the agreement for Westpoint Business Park. The Commissioners negotiated with Raindrop LLC to have that entity put money back into the area to take care of public safety. This money is allocated for an EMS facility. The money has been received and they need to set up a fund to receipt it into.

#### **BAKER TILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Josh Messmer stated that Baker Tilly advises the county in many ways. There are two documents for approval. One document is to update the Master Services Agreement and Engagement Letter, the second document is for a Project Evaluation and Feasibility Analysis for a proposed data center. Don Adams made a motion to approve both the updated Master Services Agreement and Engagement Letter and the Project Evaluation and Feasibility Analysis. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **COMMENTS**

Joe VanZandt, Morgan County resident, stated that he had a petition with 30 signatures regarding the road conditions of Sims Lane. Mr. VanZandt stated that they have called several times, there are no ditches and raccoons and opossums live in the drainage under the road. Kenny Hale stated that the last time the road was chip and sealed was in 2019. Mr. VanZandt stated that the roads around them have been paved. Mr. Hale stated that they are preparing for paving and chip and seal and he is preparing his list. Mr. VanZandt stated that it is a dead end road and there is no place to turn around. Mr. Hale stated that he would talk to the Highway Department about the road.

Chuck Frentz, Morgan County resident, stated that the road is rough, needs ditched, and when they plowed this winter, it just brought up the asphalt. Mr. Frentz stated that the road is narrow and people will drive into yards when meeting another car. It also appears that a section of the road is sinking and the school bus will no longer go down the road.

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

Don Adams stated that items for the Good of the County include the Judicial Campus, seeing the growth and beauty of the county and the benefits of the Correspondent newspaper.

Bryan Collier stated that the Board of Commissioners and County Council get blamed for property taxes because the county sends them out. There is legislation in the works that could triple property taxes. Mr. Collier stated that he hates property taxes, but he pays his fair share and there is legislation to move levies around that is out of the county's control. This could trigger a 30% increase in property tax and the county will not be able to stop it. Or there will be such drastic cuts in services that citizens will not be able to see the beauty because there won't be any roads. There are things coming down the pike that are alarming him.

Kenny Hale stated that he agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. 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