

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 21, 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; AND ANNE COWGUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

PRAYER – *Kenny Hale*

CLERK’S REPORT

Kenny Hale noted that they received the March Clerk’s Report.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REPORT

Kenny Hale noted that the Redevelopment Commission Report has been received per I. C. 36-7-14-13.

RESOLUTION 2025-4-21 – *Monroe Township Fire District Cumulative Fund*

Mike Waggoner, Monroe Township Fire District, and Niki Franklin, with Peters Franklin LTD, were present to discuss Resolution 2025-4-21, A Resolution Approving Increase Establishing Cumulative Firefighting Building and Equipment Fund by Monroe Township Fire Protection District. Ms. Franklin stated that they are the financial advisors for the Fire District. The current rate is .03 and they would like to raise it to .033. Kenny Hale asked if there were any comments or concerns from the public. There were none. Don Adams made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING - Health Department

Anne Cowgur stated that she has reviewed the MOUs. Each MOU had an Exhibit A and an Attachment A; the Attachment will need to be corrected to “B”. Tricia Runningen, Morgan County Health Director, could not be present. Don Adams stated that the state has provided “Health First Indiana” funds and there have been several applicants for funding a variety of health concern issues for the county. A committee was formed to evaluate the proposals. There are three MOUs as follows: American Diabetes Association \$25,000; First Response Wellness Foundation \$58,000; and Hall Civic Association \$150,000. Don Adams made a motion to approve the three MOUs. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier.

Kenny Hale stated that he had some concerns about the agreement with the Hall Civic Association and asked Randy Marsh, Hall Civic Assn., to speak. Mr. Marsh stated that they have been working on this project with the National Fitness Campaign for a while. They have eight acres to build an outdoor fitness infrastructure called a Fitness Court. They were awarded \$30,000 from the National Fitness Campaign and should be able to raise the remainder of the funding. Kenny Hale asked if there were any other comments or questions from the public. There were none. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Hale noted that they supplied a resolution supporting the Fitness Court. Anne Cowgur stated that the MOU documents are clear and the resolution could cause confusion. The Board agreed not to consider the resolution.

MORGAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL AGREEMENT

Mike Dellinger, Morgan County Economic Development Corporation, was present to request approval of the annual contract for 2025. This is a \$75,000 contract. The Town of Mooresville, City of Martinsville and a number of private businesses also partner with them. Don Adams referred to it as seed money to improve jobs and bring business into the county and made a motion to approve the annual contract. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

MEDICAL CONSULTANT AGREEMENT

Anne Cowgur stated that Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, was present at the previous meeting and spoke to them about the need for this assignment agreement to continue services that the jail is receiving in terms of health care for inmates. The addition is to add language whereby Morgan County consents to the assignment and makes the Board signatories to the agreement. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the assignment agreement as presented. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION – WHITE RIVER GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

Kenny Hale stated that this plan has been discussed at the last two meetings. He did not have an issue with sending the plan back to the committee and removing the maps. Bryan Collier stated that the plan is a guideline and understood that several property owners felt threatened by the plan. Mr. Collier stated that the plan needs to address safety and liability concerns before they vote on it.

Mr. Collier would like to have a path from the Waverly boat ramp to the Henderson Ford boat ramp because there are so many kayakers. Mr. Collier made a motion to send the bill it back to the committee. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Mr. Adams stated that he was concerned that people said they did not know about it until the last minute. Kenny Hale stated that they had notice in the paper twice, had scheduled four workshops, although one the was to be held at the Waverly Festival was cancelled due to the weather.

The following people signed up to speak during the meeting:

Sam Lasiter – Have spent years developing recreational facilities in the county, it's a pie in the sky. Burden on the taxpayer.

Otis Pugh – No comment

Dave Ferguson – No comment

Marcia Smith – There are other places to walk and hike. They use their property to shoot and hunt.

Sierra Smith – There are safety concerns and need certified mail as means of notification.

Susan Goldsboro – No comment

Dianna Jennings – Present to speak on another subject.

Lumar Griggs – Does not have a dog in the fight, but safety should be addressed.

Jim Griggs – No comment.

Joe Crone – No comment.

Isaac Duckworth – Too much of a safety concern and needs to be denied.

Bailey Fowler – Goes through the middle of his backyard off of SR 67 and he does not feel safe.

Clint Cragen – Idea of using railroad or utility right of way is a de facto taking of the property.

Norman Voyles, Jr. – Concerned with lack of notification. A plan isn't a bad thing, but the people it involves should be included in the planning.

Cody Clarkston – Hunts on farm in Waverly and can see people walking the trail from his deer stand. It is unacceptable that he was not notified of the meeting.

Loren Moore – Was present to speak on a different topic.

John Duckworth – No comment

Bill Duckworth – It is silly, just deny it.

David Allison – Has a concern about notification and people affected should be notified. The cost is millions of dollars and it floods. What will maintenance costs be? Nothing in proposal about fence. Vast majority of people using Waverly Park are not from Morgan County. Highest crime rate area in Indianapolis is on Monon Trail.

Dalena Smith - Represents family which is Smith Family Farming. It is a flood area; the proposed trail goes over levees and this would prevent them from maintaining the levees.

Bryan Collier rescinded his motion. Mr. Collier stated that he owns 173 acres along the river and he can't keep people from coming off the river and building campfires or hunting on his property and respects the concerns mentioned; however, if they fail to plan, they plan to fail. He would like to better the community for everyone involved but can see how the property owners could see the plan as a threat.

Don Adams stated that there was a plan at one time to dam the river and flood the valley and he couldn't imagine how farmers felt about that back then. Mr. Adams made a motion to deny the plan. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Kenny Hale thanked the attendees for their participation.

TORT CLAIMS

Bryan Collier made a motion to send the Stocks, VanHook, Beal and Taylor-Wilson tort claims to the insurance company. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that for the good of the county was what they saw happen today at the meeting.

COMMENTS

Loren Moore stated that at a meeting on February 24th, (meeting was actually February 18th) after the vote, he was getting comments that he used foul language. Several people stated that they heard it, but he doesn't use that type of vocabulary.

Carol Dunphy and Dianna Jennings, Morgan County Democratic Party and women's group, was present to commemorate Earth Day and express concerns about coal ash being discharged into White River and how it's being stored. Ms. Dunphy stated that eight government agencies allowed illegal activities and it shouldn't cost Morgan County taxpayers to clean it up. There is an organization called 50 Protests and 50 States with One Movement. It is to uphold the constitution and executive overreach. They would like to organize a rally on the Courthouse Square or at the Administration Building. Don Adams stated that on April 19, 1775, 77 people stood in front of 700 British soldiers to protest tyranny. A shot rang out and one British soldier and 8 militiamen ended up dead. Mr. Adams stated that that is what they do – if they don't like something, they protest. The construction of the Courthouse will start the end of July or first of August. Ms. Jennings stated that they want to give people a voice.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Don Adams

Attest:

Bryan A. Collier

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale