

THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET ON MONDAY, APRIL 7, 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 February and March 2025 Treasurer's Report and Clerk's Report.

Dan Bastin, Morgan County Treasurer, stated that he is increasing the amount of money invested in CDs. The total invested is \$86,555,000. The earnings on interest will decrease in the banking accounts because there are now more funds in CDs.

Tax bills were put in the mail on Friday. First Merchants has been able to take property tax payments for several years now and Mr. Bastin is working with BMO and Citizens and is hoping to do the same with Key Bank. They will have a drop box just outside the office door for check payments. The only place cash payments can be made is at the Treasurer's Office.

Minutes

Chip Keller made a motion to approve the March 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 7-0.

Additional Appropriation:

• *Clerk*

Tammy Parker, Morgan County Clerk, stated that in October of 2024, the Council allowed a part time employee to help scan old files prior to moving into the new building. This position is being paid from the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund (1119) and there are only enough funds through May. Ms. Parker would like to extend this through August. Ms. Parker requested an additional appropriation of \$9,000 from the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund (1119) as follows: \$8,311.50 into Acct #1119.12100.0000.000 (Part Time) and \$688.50 into Acct #1119.16510.0000.0000 (FICA). Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Health Dept*

Tricia Runningen, Morgan County Health Director, stated that they have a couple of projects with the septic and environmental health divisions and the state is asking that they spend down the legacy funds before using the Health First Indiana Funds for these types of projects. The appropriation would be used to purchase GIS equipment for each septic inspector so they can come within 24" of mapping septic system locations and a program to make the information publicly accessible. Ms. Runningen requested an additional appropriation of \$15,000 from the Local Health Dept Trust Acct (1206) as follows: \$5,000 into Acct #1206.40000.0000.0000 (Equipment) and \$10,000 into Acct #1206.36100.0000.0000 (Contractual Services). Kim Merideth noted that there would most likely be an annual subscription fee once the software was implemented. Ms. Runningen stated that there is an annual \$460 fee and they would be able to use the HFI funds for this in the future. Chip Keller stated that there would still be a \$94,000 balance in the Trust Fund.

Ms. Runningen requested an additional appropriation from the 93.354 Crisis COAG COVID-19 Fund (8953) as follows: \$20,000.00 into Acct #8953.11505.0000.0000 (Full-time Nurse) and \$145,000 into Acct #8953.36100.0000.0000 (Contractual Services). Ms. Runningen stated that the \$20,000 should get them through the rest of 2025 for a full time position and the contractual services will be used for adult and child services and Centerstone to place mental health counselors and therapists in all four school systems. This continues the project that is already in place. Ms. Runningen noted that they are collaborating with Kendrick Foundation, Youth First and Centerstone and three years of funding will last them almost six years. This fund receives \$82,500 every quarter for three years for a total of \$990,000. They've spent approximately half of the funding. This position will focus on vaping, tobacco use, physical activity and nutrition. They are also offering "Stop the Bleed", "Safe Sitter" and "Safe Schools" programs. They have

enough in the budget for PERF, FICA and health insurance. This position is classified as PAT III and will require a four-year degree. The pay range is \$34.196 to \$39.624 per hour with \$36.022 being the mid-point. Vickie Kivett stated that she was worried about the state cutting budgets. Ms. Runningen stated that they should be able to continue the program through 2027, but employees, when their position is grant-funded, are made aware that funding could end.

Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the \$10,000 and \$5,000 additional appropriation from the 1206 Fund. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 7-0.

Melissa Greene made a motion to approve the \$20,000 and \$145,000 additional appropriation from the 8953 Fund, noting that the position would start at \$32.41. Motion seconded by Chip Keller. Motion carried 6-1. Kim Merideth was opposed.

• *EMS*

Linda Pruitt stated that salaries were re-calculated at budget time and when the EMS salaries were calculated, they were done at the lowest level rather than the highest level and unfortunately this will make EMS short for the year. Ms. Pruitt requested an additional appropriation from the EMS Fund (1151) as follows:

\$125,033 into Acct #1151.15625.0000.0000(EMT Full-time)
\$217,595 into Acct #1151.15630.0000.0000 EMS Paramedic Full-time)
\$38,374 into Acct #1151.16500.0000.0000 (PERF)
\$26,211 into Acct #1151.16510.0000.0000 (FICA)

Kim Merideth made a motion to approve the additional appropriation totaling \$407,213. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

• *Monroe Twp EMS Station Fund*

Josh Messmer stated that they negotiated with the developer for the Westpoint TIF area, Raindrop, LLC, to provide \$600,000 to the county. They have received \$200,000 of this and will receive the remainder in quarterly installments. This additional appropriation request is to allocate the funds and is limited to establishing an EMS station in the Monrovia area. Mr. Messmer requested an additional appropriation of \$200,000 from the Monroe Township EMS Station Fund (4801) into Acct #4801.44050.0000.0000 (Monroe Township EMS Station).

Mr. Messmer stated that a TIF district was put into place in the early 2000s and the developer came back and asked to restructure the TIF. Part of the agreement was to give \$600,000 to the county for the establishment of the EMS station. Troy Sprinkle made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Redevelopment Commission Report

Kim Merideth noted that the Morgan County Redevelopment Commission provided an annual report per IC 36-7-14-13.

Jail Inspection/Annual Report

Dave Rogers, Morgan County Jail Commander, stated that they are required by state law to give an annual report to the Council, Commissioners and judges. Mr. Rogers usually sends the report out via email, but would like to discuss a few things on the report. Over the past two years, the work release program has grown from approximately \$50,000 per year to \$170,000. They have built partnerships and gotten people working and paying child support. They are getting licenses back, starting bank accounts and being productive members of society. These inmates tend to be more successful than the average inmate.

Mr. Rogers stated that Morgan County was one of the first counties to set up a residential substance abuse program (RSAP) and obtained a \$180,000 grant through the state that has a 71% success rate for the inmates that go through the program. They track the program participants for five years. The rate of inmates processed into the facility has fallen for the past few years and the jail population has lowered by 46%. This has been attained by working with community partners, court system, probation, community corrections and prosecutor's office. However, they have more violent offenders and more mental health issues. Even though the population is down, the services provided is up, requiring transportation to doctor appointments. The past year, they traveled 88,313 miles including trips to California, Texas, Nevada and Florida. Staff is very important to keep things running and keep them from getting sued. They haven't had a contract price increase with Kellwell, the food service provider, since they started service. (Food prices have fluctuated, but the contract price has not.)

The facility is deteriorating, they will need to invest funds into the building, such as replacing 20 doors at \$8,000 each next year. There are plumbing issues and windows are breaking from the building settling. They have run out of storage space and have several mini barns to store supplies and equipment.

Morgan County Sheriff, Rich Myers, noted that the recently built Vigo County Jail was overcrowded on the day they opened. Morgan County Jail is not overcrowded.

Salary Ordinance Amendment – Plan Commission

Laura Parker, Morgan County Plan Director, stated that there are two employees that do the same thing with the same skill set and would like them to have the same pay. They created the two tiers because at one time they had a huge disparity in years of service and experience. Both employees are now gone and they have new ones in place that are able to hit the ground running and have cleared up a backlog in less than a week. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment setting an hourly rate of \$28.19. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution 2025-4-7 - Auditor Cash Change Fund

Linda Pruitt stated that she made this request at the March meeting and has purchased and installed a small safe. This resolution would allow the office to have a cash change fund for those times when someone comes in with documents, and they collect a fee. An employee will not have to take the cash and go to the Treasurer's Office to obtain change. Chip Keller made a motion to approve the resolution establishing a change fund in the amount of \$200. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

Request to Fill Vacant Position

Ms. Pruitt stated that she had a new part time hire this spring that had no office experience and wanted to try it out. The employee was great but did not like the office environment and resigned the position. Ms. Pruitt would like permission to replace this position. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the request to fill the part time position. Motion seconded by Melissa Greene. Motion carried 7-0.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meeting scheduled for May 13th will not work for Reedy Financial. An alternative date is May 21st. Melissa Greene and Brian Culp will not be able to attend. This meeting will be at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment

Brian Culp 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

ATTEST:

Linda Pruitt
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Brian Culp

Joe Crone
Joe Crone