

THE MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, MAY 19, 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*

MINUTES – 5/5/25

Don Adams made a motion to approve the May 5, 2025 minutes. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 2-0-1. Kenny Hale stated that he was not present for the meeting and abstained.

CLERK’S REPORT

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

PAVING BID AWARD

Justin Schneck, Morgan County Highway Engineer, stated that they received four bids at the previous meeting for paving projects. The totals ranged from \$1.13 million to \$1.49 million. The projects were divided into seven groups and Howard Companies was the low bidder on the entire project at a total of \$1,130,440.55. The bid was submitted in accordance with the specifications and Mr. Schneck recommended that the bid be awarded to Howard Companies. Bryan Collier made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Howard Asphalt LLC DBA as Howard Companies. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

PETITION TO VACATE ALLEY

Kenny Hale stated that the Board has received a petition to vacate an alley in the Eminence area. Josh Messmer stated that this item is on the agenda to set a date for the public hearing and suggested the July 7th meeting. Don Adams made a motion to approve setting a July 7th date for the public hearing. Motion seconded Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

RESERVE & LIQUIDITY POLICY REPORT

Linda Pruitt stated that she, along with Josh Messmer and Deb Verley, reviewed the policy to make sure the county was compliant. Ms. Pruitt is happy to report that they are compliant in both the reserves and liquidity. Don Adams made a motion to accept the report. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier stated that they are and have always been a very conscientious county. There have been accusations that the county needs to tighten its belt, but they can only tighten so much.

REGROUP AGREEMENT - EMA

Abby Worth, Morgan County EMA Director, stated that the county currently utilizes WENS (Wireless Emergency Notification System) as their emergency notification system and she was able to obtain a contract from Regroup. The current system is \$7,500 annually and allows them to notify the public when there are severe weather threats or other emergency information. Some local water companies use the system for boil water advisories and HR uses it for emergency notifications to employees. Regroup does the same thing, but the system is easier to use and is also \$5,500 per year. They are close to capacity for users through WENS and will need to pay an additional fee to add more. Regroup will allow approximately 76,000, which is almost everyone in the county. Subscribers will not see any interruption. Bryan Collier stated that he learned that the polar vortex has shifted and tornado alley has moved further east to Missouri and Illinois, which increases the number of storms that they are anticipating more storms. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the agreement. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2025-5-19

Josh Messmer stated that the Opioid Task Force submitted a list of recommendations for funding that the Board approved at the previous meeting. There are two items that they would like to add, the purchase of a license to show a documentary series titled “*The Addicts Wake*” to law enforcement, schools and members of the public in conjunction with the Kendrick Foundation. The second item is an ordinance that is the next topic on the agenda. Don Adams made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-5-19 Resolution for Purchase of the Addict’s Wake for Addiction Education. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCE 2025-6

The Board put a process and internal controls in place for ARPA Fund (American Rescue Plan

Act) expenditures at the suggestion of the State Board of Accounts and this ordinance does the same for the Opioid Fund. The Commissioners need to do the contracting and need to sign claims before the Auditor’s Office will process them. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-6 An Ordinance to Establish Procedures Related to the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds and to suspend a second reading. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

INDOT HSIP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Justin Schneck stated that over the past several meetings, he has submitted several contracts between the county and INDOT. INDOT has felt inclined to allocate federal funds ahead of time for the 2027 letting for the HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) Construction Contract. This contract awards funding as follows:

DES	Location	Work Type	Federally Funded Amount	Locally Funded Amount	Funding Split (Fed/County)
2401650	Curve on Robb Hill Road, East of Bridge 60	New Guardrail	\$42,750	\$4,750	90/10
2401651	Robb Hill Road, Mann Rd. and Landersdale Rd., Baltimore Rd. and Tutterow Rd.	High Friction Surface Treatment	\$135,000	\$15,000	
2401652		Signage and Pavement Markings	\$82,800	\$9,200	
2401653		Rumble strips/pavement corrugations	\$113,850	\$12,650	
2401655	Greencastle Rd. and Gasburg Rd.	Intersection Conflict Warning System	\$171,900	\$19,100	

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE 40 EASEMENT AND ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. Schneck stated that Bridge 40 is going to be a new structure to replace the current small structure #1251 on Leonard Road. This structure was shut down last year as an emergency due to the condition the bridge was in. They have since gone through the design process and hydraulic analysis shows that it needs to be upsized to a bridge. In the southwest quadrant of the project, the adjoining property owner has an existing septic mound that is encroaching into the area that they are acquiring as right of way for the project. The encroachment is not severe and it seemed prudent to leave the mound in the right of way instead of spending funds to relocate the mound. Mr. Schneck requested approval of an easement to allow the mound to stay in place and also requested approval of an encroachment agreement absolving the county of all liability if the septic mound were damaged in the future; whether the damage was from a car running off the road, or from the jobsite contractor while building the bridge. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Grant of Easement Agreement. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0. Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the Consent to Encroachment. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ALLISON ESTATES MAINTENANCE BONDS

Mr. Schneck stated that Allison Estates, a newer subdivision off of Ferguson Road, has an expired two-year maintenance bond for the stone base, asphalt binder and concrete curbs of Phase 1; Bond #0814343 in the amount of \$52,037. The items have been inspected and are in good working order. Mr. Schneck recommended that the bond be released. Don Adams made a motion to release the bond. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

NORTH MADISON CROSSING MAINTENANCE BONDS

Mr. Schneck stated that this maintenance bond for North Madison Crossing, Section 2A and 2B; Bond #0814350 in the amount of \$31,465.25 covered the asphalt surface. They have inspected the subdivision and found it to be in good condition and recommended that the bond be released. Don Adams made a motion to release the bond. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE 68 – WATER RELOCATION CHANGE ORDER

Mr. Schneck stated that last December he brought an agreement between Morgan County and Morgan County Rural Water (MCRW), they have a water main that is in conflict with a proposed bridge. Since the water company is within the easement, the relocation is reimbursable by the county. The engineer for MCRW outlined probable costs for engineering and construction. After the agreement was approved, they moved forward with the design of the relocation plan and sent it out for bid. Once that was done, the low bid came in substantially higher than the estimate. The

estimate was \$269,000 and final construction costs were \$318,434. A difference of \$49,434. Mr. Schneck stated that this amount is already in the budget. Mr. Schneck stated that in order to proceed, he will need approval for the following:

- MCRW to contract with C&H/K Excavating to perform the water main work in accordance with their bid.
- To proceed with the work as shown on the construction plans titled “Water Main Relocation Ballinger Road over Goose Creek” dated 4/16/25, as these changes were to make it more efficient than the original agreement.
- Approval to create and execute a change order to increase the county’s share of the project cost from \$251,380.50 to \$297,576.57.
- Authorization for relocation work to begin.

Bryan Collier made a motion to approve the four items as listed above. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

BRIDGE 94 RAILING REPAIR QUOTES

Mr. Schneck stated that railing on Bridge 94 on Hall Road was taken out by a vehicle. Mr. Schneck requested quotes from six different vendors who bid on bridgework. C-Tech Corporation was the only contractor that submitted a quote. The amount of the quote is \$38,250. Mr. Schneck stated that the pricing for the bridge deck patching, 20 sq. ft. at \$500 per sq. ft. is high and they are removing this from the quote to perform in house or obtain a cheaper quote. Don Adams made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Engineer and approve the quote at \$28,250. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Josh Messmer stated that Travelers just submitted finalized numbers for the property and liability insurance renewal. Mr. Messmer noted that the county has been very pleased with Travelers. There has been an increase in property and equipment of approximately 17%, the driver for this has been inflation and building increases; liability has increased by 9%, driven by automobile accidents; worker’s comp increased, mostly because this has been under-reported; cyber security went down by 2%. The total annual premium increase is 11.4%. That puts the annual premium is \$1,324,793.37. Mr. Messmer recommended moving forward with the renewal and shopping it out next year. Don Adams stated that he receives reports from Travelers and is very happy with the job they do.

Don Adams made a motion to approve the renewal and authorize Josh Messmer to sign the renewal documents. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

1976 TIME CAPSULE

Patty Dow, Indiana America 250 Morgan County, which is a group established to plan various programs and initiatives for a year long celebration of the nation’s 250th birthday (July 4, 2026) sent a letter stating that this group would like to be involved in digging up the time capsule that was buried on the Courthouse lawn on July 3, 1976 and scheduled to be opened on July 4, 2026. Due to construction and renovation that is planned to begin at the Courthouse in August or September of 2025, the time capsule will need to be removed before the scheduled date. They are also asking that the contents be displayed in the Judicial Center once it is opened.

Becki Hamilton, Morgan County Genealogy Society, stated that it is very important that the capsule be opened on the scheduled date. The various groups involved understand that the capsule needs to be moved in anticipation of the construction, but would like the opening of the capsule to occur on the scheduled date. Ms. Hamilton stated that in 1976, families could purchase an envelope and put items in the envelope for family members to open in 50 years. The Morgan County History Center and Museum has volunteered to host the unopened capsule for a year until it can be opened. Ms. Hamilton stated that there are also other places in town where it can possibly be kept.

The Board agreed that this would be a good idea. Mr. Collier suggested putting a tracking device on the capsule to ensure its safety and asked if there was a committee or group that was to be in charge of the opening. Vickie Kivett, Morgan County History Center and Museum (MCHC&M), stated that there was a bicentennial committee at the time, and some of those members could still be in the area. Mr. Collier suggested that the MCHC&M take charge of the capsule once it is dug up and take the lead on the opening. Mr. Collier stated that the Board of Commissioners would help to promote the opening.

Don Adams stated that there will be a time capsule that is placed in the Judicial Center and asked that the Genealogy Society and History Center help to decide what items will go into this capsule.

Bryan Collier suggested that the capsule for the Judicial Building could be dedicated in 2026 in conjunction with the nation’s semiquincentennial.

Don Adams made a motion that the 1976 time capsule be removed as necessary, put in the care of the Morgan County History Center and Museum, and opened on July 4, 2026 as scheduled and establish a new time capsule to be placed in Morgan Hall of the Morgan County Judicial Center. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTY

Don Adams stated that things are progressing well with the Judicial Center; one of the items is a mural that will be placed in Morgan Hall. The mural has been designed and DG Graphics will be putting it up for the opening. They will also be putting up historical photographs in the hall. Mr. Adams mentioned his happiness with the water feature in Bicentennial Park and that he appreciates the work being done. He is looking forward to the ribbon cutting on July 2nd.

Vickie Kivett stated that they have had a dedicated crew. From her vantage point at the museum on Saturdays, there have been very few Saturdays that someone is not working on site.

Bryan Collier stated that he would like to thank the Board of Works for the City of Martinsville to have faith in the county, as the Judicial Center is finished, that they gave the county the blessing to start construction in the end of July on the downtown historic Courthouse area. Mr. Collier encouraged everyone to patronize the downtown businesses on the square, especially during their time of need when they start construction and disrupt the normal flow of traffic, which is expected to take approximately four months. Mr. Collier hopes that this phase of the project is done in time for the cookie stroll.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Morgan County Board of Commissioners

Kenny Hale

Attest:

Bryan A. Collier

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Don Adams